



Chris Bryant

**A STRONG
VOICE FOR**

RHONDDA AND OGMORE

PARLIAMENT MONTHLY

CHRIS BRYANT MP FOR THE RHONDDA AND OGMORE

MARCH 2026

REBUILDING OUR STEEL INDUSTRY FOR THE FUTURE

It was great to be on the news this week talking about the future of the UK steel industry — and why it matters so much for communities like ours here in South Wales.

Steel has always been part of our identity. It's provided good, skilled jobs for generations and helped build the homes, infrastructure and industries we rely on every day. But for too long, our steel industry has been undercut by artificially cheap imports from overseas, making it harder for British producers to compete. That's now changing!

The UK Labour Government has set out a major new Steel Strategy to back British production, protect jobs and secure the long-term future of the industry. This includes tough new measures to restrict unfairly cheap imports and a clear commitment to increase the amount of steel we make here at home. At the moment, the UK produces around 30% of the steel it needs. Labour's plan is to increase that to 50% — creating more jobs, strengthening our economy and ensuring we have the capacity we need for the future.

And this isn't just about steel plants. It's about the wider economy too. Steel underpins everything from housebuilding and transport to clean energy projects and advanced manufacturing. If we want to grow our economy and build a more secure future, we need a strong domestic steel industry. For communities across South Wales, this is hugely important. It means protecting existing jobs, creating new opportunities, and ensuring places like Port Talbot continue to play a central role in Britain's industrial future.

After years where our industries were left exposed, we are now seeing what a difference it makes when two Labour governments... in Cardiff and Westminster... work together to deliver for Wales.

We can't undo years of decline overnight, but we are taking the right steps to rebuild and secure the future. You can watch my interview and hear more about the plans here:

WWW.FB.WATCH/FXJSEUGA01





HELPING OUR COMMUNITIES GET WHAT THEY'RE ENTITLED TO

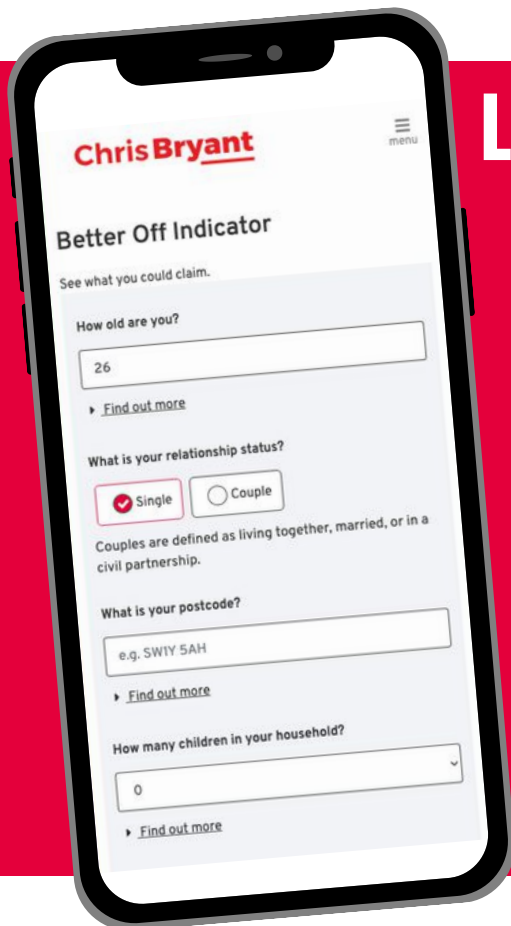


This April, I'll be running a major campaign across Rhondda and Ogmore to make sure people are getting the financial support they're entitled to.

Too many families, pensioners and working people are missing out on help that's already there — whether that's Pension Credit, help with energy bills, or support through Universal Credit. At a time when the cost of living is still a real pressure, that simply isn't right.

This campaign is about fairness and dignity. If you qualify for support, you should receive it — no ifs, no buts. Throughout April, I'll be working with local partners like Citizens Advice, councils and community groups to raise awareness, signpost support, and hold drop-in sessions across our communities. This isn't about encouraging dependency — it's about making sure working families, carers and older residents have the income they're entitled to, and putting more money back into our local economy.

Labour is focused on putting money in people's pockets and supporting communities through the cost-of-living pressures. This campaign is about making sure that support reaches people here in Rhondda and Ogmore. If you're unsure what you might be entitled to, I'd encourage you to take a couple of minutes to check — it could make a real difference.



LAUNCHED A BRAND-NEW BETTER OFF CALCULATOR

Many people across Rhondda and Ogmore are missing out on support they're entitled to — from help with bills to extra income for families and pensioners.

That's why I've launched a new Better Off Calculator on my website. It's quick, easy and completely confidential — in just a couple of minutes, you can check what support you could receive.



◀ TRY IT TODAY!

WWW.CHRISBRYANT.ORG.UK/BETTER-OFF-CALCULATOR

HELPING PEOPLE IN THE RHONDDA AND OGMORE

4,278

CASEWORK EMAILS

2,024

CASES

2,218

TELEPHONE CALLS

SINCE NOVEMBER 2025 - MARCH 2026

RHONDDA AND OGMORE PLAN - YOUR VOICE SHAPING OUR FUTURE UPDATE

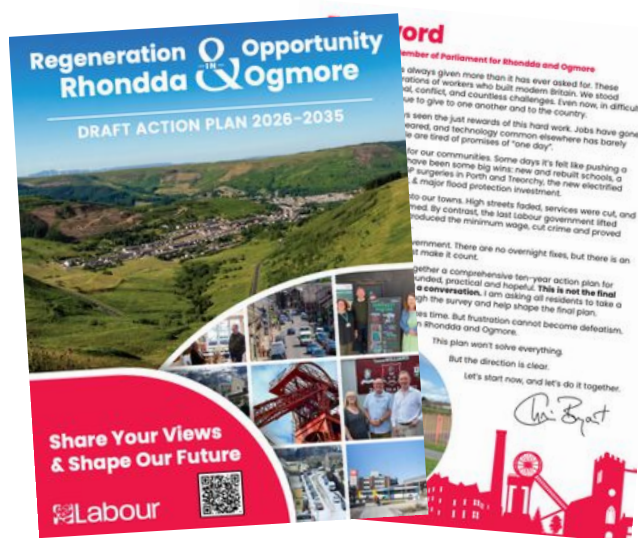
A huge thank you to everyone who has taken the time to share their views on the Rhondda and Ogmores Plan.

Over 12,000 copies have been delivered and I've heard directly from residents through surveys, meetings, and conversations right across our communities. That feedback is now being used to update the plan - because this must be shaped by you.

What I've heard is clear. People want better jobs and fair pay, more reliable transport, and stronger health services. The cost of living remains the biggest pressure on families, and there's a strong feeling that we need to get the basics right - from cleaner streets to better maintained roads and public spaces. That's why the updated plan will place a stronger focus on improving bus services, supporting our town centres, investing in community spaces, and tackling issues like litter and fly-tipping.

Alongside this, I'll be launching campaigns this year - one to make sure people are getting the benefits and support they're entitled to, and another to help clean up our communities and restore local pride. This is about practical action and real delivery. With two Labour governments working together, we're starting to see the investment and progress our communities deserve but there's more to do.

If you've not read the Rhondda and Ogmores Plan, you can do so here.



250+ RESIDENTS ENGAGED THROUGH:

- SURVEYS
- BUSINESS ROUNDTABLES
- DOORSTEP CONVERSATIONS
- YOUTH AND COMMUNITY GROUP SESSIONS

TOP PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED:

- BETTER JOBS AND FAIR PAY
- IMPROVED TRANSPORT AND CONNECTIVITY
- HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

12,000+ COPIES OF THE PLAN DELIVERED ACROSS RHONDDA AND OGMORE

WWW.CHRISBRYANT.ORG.UK/RHONDDAOGMOREREPLAN

STANDING UP FOR OUR HEALTH VISITORS

It was good to welcome a group of local health visitors to my office recently to discuss some of the challenges they are currently facing.

Health visitors play an important role in supporting families and young children in our communities, often providing early advice and support when it is needed most.



Following our discussion, I will be writing to Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board to ask that they review their current position and continue constructive engagement with staff and their representatives. Health visitors make a valuable contribution to the well-being of families across our communities, and it is important that their concerns are properly considered.



UPCOMING ADVICE SURGERIES IN BETTWS AND WILLIAM TRIGG

If you need help or advice, my team will be holding my next constituency surgeries at Bettws Life Centre and William Trigg Community Centre.

These sessions are a chance to speak directly with me or my team about any issues you may be facing – whether that's problems with housing, benefits, pensions, or dealing with government departments. We also regularly help with things like passport applications, immigration cases and local concerns. No issue is too small – and while we can't promise miracles, we will always do our best to support you and point you in the right direction.

To book an appointment, please contact my office or use the link below.

WWW.CHRISBRYANT.ORG.UK/SURGERIES



CHRIS BRYANT MP

TUESDAY 7TH APRIL
BETTWS
LIFE CENTRE



BLAENGARW
THURSDAY 16TH APRIL

CHRIS BRYANT MP

ADVICE SURGERIES

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY - CALL THE OFFICE TODAY

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£20 MILLION FOR THE RHONDDA FACH

PRIDE IN PLACE
LED BY YOU – BACKED BY UK GOVERNMENT



APPLY TODAY

I'm really pleased to share that the Rhondda Fach has secured £20 million through the Pride in Place programme – a major investment in our communities and our future. This funding is about more than just money – it's about giving local people a real say in how we improve the places we live, work and grow up in. From tackling long-standing issues to creating new opportunities, this is a chance to make a lasting difference across the Rhondda Fach.

The next step is putting that into action. A new community board will be set up to decide how the funding is spent, ensuring it reflects what matters most to local residents. We are now looking for an experienced and dedicated independent Chair to lead that board. This is a fantastic opportunity for someone who cares about the Rhondda Fach to help guide this investment and make sure it delivers real change on the ground.

I've heard from many people locally about the importance of improving our town centres, supporting young people, and making our communities cleaner, safer and more vibrant. This funding gives us the chance to start delivering on those priorities together. Expressions of interest for the Chair role close on Friday 3rd April, so if you're interested – or know someone who might be – please do take a look and apply using the link above.

This is about putting our community in the driving seat and making sure the Rhondda Fach gets the investment and attention it deserves

VISIT TO PARC EIRIN HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN TONYREFAIL



It was great to visit the new Parc Eirin housing development in Tonyrefail and see first hand the progress being made. I've represented Rhondda and Ogmore long enough to know that real change doesn't just happen by talking about it – it comes from digging in, getting things built, and delivering for local people.

Parc Eirin is a fantastic example of that in action. These are high quality, low carbon homes designed to be energy efficient, cheaper to run and better for the environment. With air source heat pumps, solar panels and a site wide heat network, this development is showing how we can build the homes we need while cutting carbon at the same time!

This is exactly the kind of practical clean energy project that puts Wales at the heart of the UK's mission to become a clean power superpower – creating opportunity locally while building a greener future.

A big thank you to the team for showing me around and for the work you're doing to deliver modern, sustainable homes right here in Tonyrefail.



BOOSTING TRADE, CREATING JOBS AT HOME

Recently, I had a very positive meeting with my Nigerian counterpart, Jumoke Oduwole, as we look at how we can strengthen the UK-Nigeria trading relationship.

Trade between our two countries is already worth over £8 billion a year but there is real potential to go further. By deepening these partnerships, we can open up new opportunities for British businesses, attract investment, and support good-quality jobs here in the UK.

That matters for communities like ours. Economic growth isn't just about figures on a page it's about creating opportunities for local businesses, supporting jobs, and putting more money into people's pockets.

This is part of a wider approach from the Labour Government working to grow the economy, back British industry, and ensure the benefits are felt in communities across Wales. As we've seen, when governments work together with a clear plan, we can create the conditions for jobs, investment and long-term prosperity.

We can't undo years of economic instability overnight, but by building strong international partnerships and focusing on growth, we are taking the right steps towards a more secure and prosperous future for our communities.



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