

## GC Report March 2019

**Ely by-election:** There was general disappointment at the loss of the council seat in Ely to Plaid Cymru, despite a hard-working candidate and good campaign. It was agreed that the CLP needed to develop a good campaign plan with ideas to come from Mark and Kevin alongside EC officers.

**Brexit Update:** Mark reiterated the Welsh Government's planning around a no-deal Brexit and the need to carefully develop the conversation around a second referendum. Kevin outlined the progress of votes in parliament up to March 12<sup>th</sup> and discussed some of the political and procedural difficulties around a second referendum, alongside the potential for an extension to Article 50.

**Kevin Brennan MP:** Kevin stated that he was extremely grateful to have the privilege to be a Labour MP and thanked the GC for their support in enabling him to be our representative in parliament. He felt that those who had left the party were wrong to do so and reiterated his desire to see members interact with one another in a comradely way to achieve a Labour government. Members agreed with Kevin that this comradely tone was necessary and expressed concern that it was not always the case with some of his parliamentary colleagues. Kevin was also asked about the impact of Universal Credit and his thoughts on the case of Shamima Begum; on the latter, Kevin felt that the UK Government had been wrong to take the action it had around her citizenship and reiterated his desire to see our values return to those of human rights and the rule of law. Kevin further paid tribute to his colleague Paul Flynn, whom he described as a gentle, intelligent and friendly man who dealt in his politics in a decent way, whilst remaining passionate in his defence of the weak against the strong.

**Cllr Patel:** Ramesh reported that the Council had set a budget with a 4.9% rise in council tax to help mitigate the £19 million worth of cuts that they were facing this year. He highlighted the record investment in education and school infrastructure and touched on the problems with Cardiff Bus, with the council subsidising some of the loss-making routes. He highlighted the success of the campaign to maintain the trees on the Suffolk House property which had been supported by many Canton and Riverside members.

**Motions to Welsh Labour Conference:** It was agreed to submit the rule change submitted by Canton Branch as the CLP's conference motion, with the SEA motion on consortia to be re-worked into a contemporary issue and also submitted.

**Women's Forum Report:** Alison had attended a successful UK Women's Conference in Telford attended by 700 delegates. The forum were planning a leaflet around austerity and participating in events to mark International Women's Day. They had agreed that Alison would be the forum's delegate to Welsh Labour Conference and that she would attend the forthcoming Welsh Labour Women's Committee meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

**BAME Report:** Ramesh had attended the Welsh Labour Future Candidates programme and the EC congratulated Ramesh on his recent award from the India Centre.

**Delegates to Welsh Labour Conference:** It was agreed that Sophie Williams, Darren Williams and Christine Newman would be the main delegates with Jac Brown attending as a youth delegate.

**AOB:** The Socialist Health Association were holding an event with Mark Drakeford AM on 30<sup>th</sup> March in the Clayton Hotel at 1pm.