GC Report: September 2019

**Present:** 40 members

**Mark Drakeford AM:** Mark had had a busy summer campaigning across the constituency, particularly visiting the new housing estates in North West Cardiff. In his capacity as First Minister he discussed his attendance at different agricultural shows and the potential impact of a No-Deal Brexit on rural Wales. He discussed the recall of the Assembly to debate the Brexit crisis and outlined details of his July meeting with the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson. He had also had a series of conversations with the UK Shadow Cabinet throughout the summer and discussed their strategy with regard to the Brexit crisis.

**Kevin Brennan MP:** Kevin recounted the timetable of events that had taken place in the days preceding the GC meeting and focussed on the party’s efforts, alongside the other opposition parties, to prevent a No-Deal Brexit. Kevin particularly outlined efforts to secure a backbench Bill to require the PM to return to the EU to request an extension to the Brexit deadline; the party would not agree to a General Election until No-Deal Brexit had been taken off the table. He also discussed the role of the PM’s adviser Dominic Cummings and the lack of trust currently pervading Westminster.

Kevin and Mark answered and discussed follow-up questions on the likelihood of various constitutional options, the role of the party in promoting UK constitutional reform and the prospect of a caretaker government. Their hard work was noted by the GC.

**Campaigns Report:** Selwyn reported on local efforts during the summer including sessions in Fairwater, Ely, Caerau, Canton and Riverside. The CLP campaign committee would be meeting on Friday 13th September. Anne Thomas encouraged members to consider phone canvassing as part of campaigning efforts.

**Cllr Iona Gordon:** Iona outlined two forthcoming elections (one in Whitchurch and Tongwynlais and one in Llanishen) alongside the developments at the Ely Paper Mill site and money from Welsh Government to progress the Council’s active travel plans.

**Women’s Forum Report:** The next Women’s Forum would take place on 14th September. The EC had agreed to support Claudia Boes to attend Welsh Labour Women’s Conference in November and the forum were planning a specific leaflet to use during election campaigning. Claudia would also be attending the Welsh Labour Women’s Committee.

**BAME Report:** Ramesh reported on a successful event organised by Cllr Singh for the Sikh community, alongside forthcoming Black History Month events.

**EC Report:** Fundraising Coordinator Mandy had planned two events, the first a ‘Desert Island Discs’ event with Kevin Brennan on 26th October and the second a festive bazaar on 23rd November.

**AOB:** Sue Leader made members aware of a forthcoming event on Universal Credit hosted by Unite Community on 14th September, and Ramesh Patel encouraged members to donate to the Light Up Campaign in Canton and Riverside.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.