

Vaughan Gething AM/AC

Assembly Member for Cardiff South & Penarth

Aelod Cynulliad dros Dde Caerdydd a Phenarth



Monthly Report

I have been contacted by a range of constituents over a number of weeks over the dredging of mud from Hinkley Point for disposal at Cardiff Grounds. It is understandable that some people are instinctively opposed to any activity that could be associated with nuclear power including moving any materials from near a nuclear power plant. However a number of residents who have contacted me are not in that position. They are however concerned over the safety and environmental impact and the lack of regular, robust communication of the evidence about the decision to permit the dredging and depositing.

The main concerns about the disposal of dredged material to the Cardiff Grounds disposal site are around the adequacy of sampling and the assessment carried out on the material to be disposed of. Constituents have also raised concerns about the depth of sediment testing, confusion and lack of transparency around the data and sampling carried out, as well as its robustness. I understand the concerns being raised as many of my constituents have not heard the view of Natural Resources Wales on the science and evidence relied upon for their decision to permit the dredging and depositing.

I have written to both the Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) on a number of occasions. I have been repeatedly assured that the application was thoroughly and appropriately assessed, in line with all legal requirements. Radiological assessments of sediment samples have been carried out by independent experts at the

Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Agricultural Science (CEFAS) and prior to the start of dredging at Hinkley Point. CEFAS also carried out a radiation dose analysis from deeper sediment samples taken in 2009.

All tests have concluded that the sediment to be disposed at Cardiff Grounds poses no risk to people or the marine environment and the material is safe to be disposed at sea. It is important to state that the labelling of the mud as toxic or nuclear is not supported by scientific evidence. No license has been given to dispose of nuclear waste.

The dredged mud has to be moved within the same river environment. I would caution against arguing that the mud should stay in England. It is worth recalling that waste from Wylfa in Anglesey is disposed of in England.

I am frustrated and disappointed that NRW have not been more proactive in communicating with the public. The vacuum in comment has been filled in such a way that has raised further concern. There is, however, a helpful Q&A on the NRW website. The handling of this matter has not helped to maintain public confidence in the decision making process or that public and environmental health concerns are uppermost in NRW's mind. I have recently received a response from NRW, which I am happy to share with constituents. The response is on my Facebook page, alternatively if you would like a hard copy then please get in contact with my office at Vaughan.Gething@assembly.wales.

A Celebration of Diversity in Rugby

It was a pleasure to sponsor an event for the Welsh Rugby Union at the Senedd to celebrate the



contribution of black players to the game. Heartfelt

and inspirational speeches from Gareth Davies, Chair of the WRU, Carolyn Hitt, Terry Michael and Cllr Saeed Ebrahim highlighted the progress we have made in rugby today as well as the recognition that we have denied ourselves world beating talent in the past.

World's Biggest Coffee Morning

I recently attended Macmillan's World Biggest Coffee Morning at the Senedd. I also had the pleasure of holding a coffee morn-



ing in my constituency office. It was lovely to see

so many residents pop in. Thank you to everyone who donated.

Which? New Office Opening

Last week I was delighted to attend and



welcome Which? to the constituency with Stephen Doughty MP. Which? are fantastic champi-

ons for consumers, offering a wide range of services from testing products to money advice. It is a testament to the fantastic service that they provide that there are over 1.5million members and supporters. I wish them every success and look forward to visiting them again in the near future.

Heroes of the Sea

As part of Black History Month I hosted an event at the Pierhead for the Horn Development Agency (HAD)

to present their Heroes of the Sea project. For the last 18 months staff and volunteers at HAD have researched the history of the Arab and Somali merchant sea-



men, who lost their lives during WWI and WWII as a direct result of enemy action. It is a interesting project that has resulted in a database of over 600 names. More information can be found at: www.arabicheroesofthesea.com.

New Intern

It has been a pleasure to welcome Anisha to my team for the next 3 months as part of the Internship programme my office is running.

Contact Me

Write: National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay, CF99 1NA

Tel: 0300 200 7150

Email: vaughan.gething@assembly.wales

Facebook: Vaughan Gething -Assembly