Welsh Headlines — 10 Nov 2026

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? Top Story: Welsh Government accepts all 31 language recommendations — and is told it needs "more meat on the bones"

The Welsh Government has accepted all 31 recommendations of the second phase report of the Commission for Welsh-speaking Communities, which examined how to protect the language in areas with medium and lower densities of Welsh speakers. All were accepted in full or in principle, and the response will feed into a new strategy for the Welsh language.

Education and Welsh Language Minister Anna Brychan said Welsh "is a language for the whole of Wales. It belongs to all of us, regardless of who we are, where we live or however much Welsh we speak." The aim, she said, was to take the language "to people where they already are… in local clubs and activities, on the playing field, through culture, at work and online" — turning broad public support into everyday use. She marked publication at Cymric Netball Club in Cardiff, whose coach Megan Price said members who "had not used it very much since leaving school" had gained confidence there.

The welcome was heavily qualified. Meirion Prys Jones, former chief executive of the Welsh Language Board, said he was "very pleased to see the government responding positively" but disappointed at the lack of detail on "prioritising which elements of the recommendations they will give attention to". More important, he said, there were no answers on who would deliver them: "It

is completely obvious that the civil service cannot implement these recommendations, they don't have the time or the expertise." Welsh within Welsh-speaking communities "is deteriorating consistently", he warned — the response needed "more meat on the bones".

Cymdeithas yr Iaith said the government had a responsibility "to show it accepts the scale of the crisis" and demanded increased spending on Welsh in next week's budget, including investment in a Welsh Digital Enterprise to raise the language's presence on digital platforms. Ministers said they will run a National Survey of Welsh Language Use over the next two years and consult later this year on a new Welsh language strategy, a National Framework for Welsh-medium Education and Welsh Language Learning, and a Code to Describe Welsh Language Ability. The commission, set up in 2022, has still to publish a final report on Welsh beyond Wales.

?? Senedd & politics

A £130m cost-of-living package will put £100 into the energy bills of every household in council tax bands A to D this winter. The payment also goes to households receiving Council Tax Reduction whatever band they are in, and councils get a further £8m to extend it to people in hardship who fall outside those groups. A separate £5m fund pays £250 to Council Tax Reduction households on income grounds who rely on heating oil or LPG, and bus operators get £7m through an existing grant to absorb fuel costs and protect routes and fares.

Deputy First Minister Sioned Williams said the package offered "immediate relief for households this winter", but added: "While we are taking firm action wherever we can, we need the UK Government to play its part." She said Wales and Scotland had jointly called for the benefit cap to be removed, Local Housing Allowance raised and social tariffs introduced. The *Claim What's Yours* campaign will be expanded — Citizens Advice advisers helped callers identify an extra £6.5m in entitlements last time, when 44,620 people made contact. Ministers also expect 19 of Wales' 22 councils to offer 12.5 hours a week of funded childcare to all two-year-olds by the end of this month, with the rest following by spring 2027.

A UK minister has said the "potential is high" for parts of criminal justice to be devolved to Wales. Justice Secretary Alex Norris, visiting HMP Cardiff on Monday, said talks with the Cardiff administration were "further ahead" on youth justice but "there's more to come", and that conversations on policing were under way with the Home Office, the Welsh government and No.10. "The thing for us is making sure the right powers are at the right levels," he said. Policing and prisons are key demands of the Plaid Cymru government; First Minister Rhun ap Iorwerth raised them with the Prime Minister at the National Economic Council last month, and Andy Burnham has said he is "open" to devolving policing.

The path is contested. Former Labour leader Lord Kinnock has argued the upheaval would have "more downsides than upsides", Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood flatly rejected policing devolution in January, and in March the UK government agreed only a bigger youth justice role. Norris also acknowledged "challenges in prisons across England and Wales" after Parc in Bridgend was criticised in 2025 over drugs and deaths, and noted Wales still has no women's prison — a

planned Swansea residential centre, due in 2024, has not progressed.

The Wales Green Party will choose a new leader after Anthony Slaughter completes his three permitted terms. Slaughter, leader since 2018 and one of the party's first two MSs after May's election, is required by party rules to step down; his fellow MS Paul Rock has ruled himself out, so the next leader will come from outside the Senedd. Monmouthshire councillor Ian Chandler — a cabinet member for social care and safeguarding in a coalition with Labour — is standing, saying he wants to build the party into a "real electoral force". The ballot is expected later this month and in early December. Slaughter revealed in September that he had been diagnosed with cancer and was facing a "scheduled and serious operation"; the party said his recovery was going well.

Reform's Remembrance Day video has drawn a bitter row. Cristiana Emsley, MS for Fflint Wrecsam, was one of several Reform MSs reading Laurence Binyon's *For the Fallen*. Jeff Jones, the former Labour leader of Bridgend council, accused the Romanian-born MS of "whitewashing her past", saying: "Romania, of course, provided the second-biggest Axis army on the Eastern Front after Nazi Germany. They massacred 260,000 Jews. She is whitewashing her past. It's bonkers."

?? Housing, communities & councils

Community groups could get first refusal on pubs, shops, halls and land that come up for sale under a Welsh Government consultation launched in the Senedd today. Siân Gwenllian, the Cabinet Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning, is proposing a Community Right to Buy: groups could nominate assets for registration on the basis of the social, cultural or economic benefit they provide, including community centres, parks and green spaces, and places that once served the community where there is a realistic prospect of restoring that use. If a registered property's owner decides to sell, an eligible group would get first refusal and a protected period to draw up plans and raise money — but registration would not force a sale. "Where an asset matters to a community, local people should have a genuine chance to secure its future and the benefits it brings for generations to come," she said. The consultation closes on 4 January 2027.

Swansea councillors have voted to delay setting aside £17m for debt repayments so the money is available at short notice for costs the public has not been told about. Finance director Ben Smith told full council that "exceptional risks and costs" could fall on the authority and that these were "exempt and legally privileged at this point in time", saying he wanted "maximum flexibility for things that may come to pass in the next month or two". Liberal Democrat councillor Peter Black said he had not been told what the money might be needed for and felt he was being asked to "make a decision in the dark". Council leader Rob Stewart said a "technical note" would go to members in December. The council paid off £117m of debt in August — just under a fifth of its total — and £22m has recently been freed from a reserve.

? Education

Cardiff University's vice-chancellor has been criticised for saying university leaders would be "running their fingers down the list of every programme" and doing "some house cleaning". Professor Wendy Larner told a *Times Higher Education* conference at the University of Bath that the sector "can't afford" a "scaled-up Oxbridge model" any more, and that this lay behind Cardiff's restructuring and cuts since early 2025. She said she had asked a team of college leaders to review "every single module" to assess where cuts could be made. An academic who contacted Nation.Cymru anonymously called it "an extraordinary way to speak about staff". Staff have already warned that cutting the baseline allocation of university-funded research time from 600 to 315 hours a year threatens Cardiff's Russell Group standing.

Young people in Wales reach voting age without enough political education to use their new rights, a Welsh Government-commissioned review has found. Researchers examining the extension of Senedd votes to 16- and 17-year-olds found most participants judged their political education insufficient, some calling it non-existent — several recalled only a brief assembly telling them they could vote, and others discovered their eligibility after the registration deadline. The review, published on 5 November and carried out by Thinks Insight & Strategy as part of a statutory review of the Senedd and Elections (Wales) Act 2020, found support for the extension but warned that eligibility alone does not produce meaningful participation.

"Urgency" is needed on school safeguarding, the children's commissioner has said, a year after the review into paedophile head teacher Neil Foden. Only three of the 13 recommendations made after Foden — jailed for 17 years in 2024 for 19 charges of sexual abuse involving four girls — have been completed. Rocio Cifuentes said: "I'm disappointed with the pace of progress on the whole safeguarding governance landscape." The November 2025 review by Jan Pickles found more than 50 missed opportunities to stop Foden and made 27 recommendations across agencies; the Welsh government said "no work had been paused" and progress was being made.

? Environment & farming

More than 25,000 people have signed a petition urging the Welsh Government to rule out any badger cull as part of its bovine TB programme. The Badger Trust, which organised it, is holding a meeting in the Senedd this afternoon. Chief executive Nigel Palmer said TB policy had been a "success in Wales compared with England, where over 250,000 badgers were killed, yet TB has not been reduced to the same level as Wales, which has not culled badgers". With almost 95% of Welsh herds officially TB-free — close to the lowest level in two decades — the charity says the focus should be on cattle: better testing, vaccination and movement restrictions. Wales aims to be TB-free by 2041. Rural resilience minister Llŷr Gruffydd said "we need to reform how we deal with TB in Wales", arguing that success would also bring a financial benefit given the cost of culling and compensation.

Five hundred tonnes of boulders dredged out of a Pembrokeshire river have been put back to restore habitat. Contractors returned the rock to a 650-metre stretch of the Afon Wern, a tributary of the protected Cleddau system, after Natural Resources Wales surveys found boulders

abandoned on the banks by earlier dredging. The stones vary the speed and direction of water, scouring pools, sheltering fish and trapping the gravel they spawn in. A notch was cut into a disused concrete weir to let fish through — even small weirs block eels and lampreys and delay salmon and sea trout — and a new channel lets water spill onto the floodplain in heavy rain. "This restoration work will benefit numerous species including salmon, trout, bullhead, eel, lamprey and otter," said NRW's Peter Jones.

Anti-war campaigners will rally in Aberporth against what they call growing militarism in Wales. Mid Wales Against Arms is protesting at Westminster's threat to bypass the Senedd and establish a Defence Technical Excellence College, part of the £50m Wales Defence Growth Deal. Wales Office minister Anna McMorrin told the Commons last week the UK government "stands ready to step in" if the Plaid Cymru government does not commit to the college. The deal also envisages expanded air corridors across central Wales for military drone testing and greater private access to sites such as Aberporth. The rally is on Saturday 21 November.

? Health & society

A Gwynedd shopkeeper has described how a toothache nearly killed him, leaving him with sepsis and a rare heart infection. Danny Ellis, who runs the Spar in Betws-y-Coed and the Gwalia bakery in Pwllheli, was given repeated courses of antibiotics as pain came and went over several weeks, while losing strength and developing red marks. By Father's Day his wife Ceri found him on the couch with bruises on his body; at the GP surgery on 23 June he was rushed by ambulance to Ysbyty Gwynedd, where a scan found a hole in his mitral valve, sepsis and fluid on his lungs. "The marks on my hands had turned from red to black — the sepsis was killing me," he said. He was diagnosed with endocarditis and needed heart surgery. "It's a miracle that I'm still here."

A Pembrokeshire mother says her severely autistic son could be trapped indoors when a dedicated parking bay outside their home becomes a shared blue badge space. Claire Gray, a full-time carer to Jack, says the on-street bay has "literally opened the world to him" — there are only 16 dedicated on-street disabled bays in the county, usable solely by the permit holder. In November 2025 the council's scrutiny committee was advised that parking restrictions must by law apply to groups rather than individuals, and agreed to provide bays any eligible blue badge holder can use. That would mean no guaranteed space at home, and possibly moving the car every three hours between 9am and 5pm. "We're going to be stuck in the house again, we're going to be prisoners in the house," she said.

A teenage motorcyclist who died after falling into the sea off the Great Orme suffered severe head, chest and abdominal injuries, an inquest has heard. Filip Szwarnog-Stepien, 19, of Bodnant Road, Llandudno, died after a crash on 29 October; the hearing at Denbighshire coroner's court was told his body was airlifted to Ysbyty Gwynedd in Bangor.

? Sport

Harry Wilson believes Wales can upset Norway again to keep their Nations League top-tier status. Wales beat Erling Haaland's side 2-1 in Cardiff last month, but the two teams currently fill the bottom two places in Group A4 and face relegation play-offs or automatic demotion to League B. Saturday's return is in Oslo.

Dewi Lake admits Wales will struggle against Australia and New Zealand if they repeat parts of the Japan performance. Wales took a bonus-point 28-21 win over Eddie Jones' Brave Blossoms in Cardiff on Saturday, but the captain said the squad "let ourselves down" in spells with the All Blacks next at 14:10 on Saturday.

Newport County have issued an urgent message to supporters after "incidents of unacceptable supporter behaviour", including allegations of racist and homophobic comments. The League Two club said many matters had been referred to football and regulatory authorities and warned of "potential risk of disciplinary action and financial sanctions" if they continue.

? Culture

Ioan Gruffudd has warned fans about "explicit and disturbing" AI-generated content impersonating him, after a woman believed she had been in a year-long affair with him. The actor said the woman approached him at a convention and showed him hundreds of AI images and videos sent by someone claiming to be him, after being contacted through a Facebook page devoted to the drama *Elsbeth* and moved onto Telegram. "I will never give out my cell number to anyone that I don't personally know," he said, urging anyone targeted to report it to police. "I have done the same."

Sir Elton John says he was "leaping around the kitchen" when he first heard *Babydoll*. The Cardiff-born singer Jamie Miller, whose single gave Wales its first UK number one in 15 years in October, was told by Elton he has a "huge future" ahead.

? Travel & transport

Sarn Park services near Bridgend has been rated among Britain's best, with 99% of visitors satisfied. The Welcome Break site on the M4 was one of eight to hit that score in Transport Focus's survey of 37,000 road users across 123 motorway service areas; Welcome Break Rotherham came first overall and Watford Gap Northbound last. Roadchef, which runs Magor and Pont Abraham in Wales, operated four of the five lowest-rated sites.

?? Weather

A Met Office yellow warning of fog covers Wales until 10:00 GMT this morning, issued at 08:45 yesterday and running from 18:00 on Monday, with slower journeys, possible bus and train delays and a chance of flight delays or cancellations across Wales, the Midlands, southern and eastern England and Yorkshire.

Cardiff has a cloudy start with patches of fog, staying cloudy with rain developing from the south-west this afternoon, high 9°C. Tonight stays cloudy and wet, the rain easing by dawn; Wednesday is cloudy with early rain clearing to a dry day, 10/4. Thursday is dry and sunny but cold in a northerly wind, 8/-1; Friday dry with cloud and sunny spells; Saturday cloudier with the odd spot of rain.

Method: SearXNG for leads (index-heavy mix, no usable article URLs); indexes and article bodies fetched via the Playwright service on MacBach (.100:8090) — BBC Wales, BBC Wales Politics, BBC Cymru Fyw, the BBC Welsh Parliament topic page, BBC Sport, Nation.Cymru (news, home, sport, culture), the GOV.WALES main news index, the Guardian Wales RSS feed and BBC Weather including the UK warnings page. SearXNG's results were front pages and aggregators only, so the sweep went straight to the indexes. WalesOnline and ITV Wales article pages are walled or failing through the service and were skipped, as were Nitter, Phice, Flaresolverr and Reddit. Items already carried in the 06–09 November Welsh roundups (free school milk, the quarry-blasting motion due tomorrow, the COP31 charities call, drought status, the stroke rehab audit, Public Health Wales and Buried, the birth cohort study, Jess Fishlock's retirement, Rees-Zammit, the non-league goalkeeper, the Monmouth pub auction, Big Pit Santa, Mei Gwynedd and Jamie Miller's chart-topper) are not repeated; the Foden story is here only for the safeguarding-progress finding, and the badger petition and community right to buy are new.

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