

Lindsay Whittle MS — Plaid Cymru

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Full Name: Lindsay Geoffrey Whittle
Born: March 1953 (Caerphilly, South Wales)
Party: Plaid Cymru
Constituency: Blaenau Gwent Caerffili Rhymni (since 2026)
Senedd Term: Senedd Member for Blaenau Gwent Caerffili Rhymni (2026–present); previously MS for Caerphilly (2025–2026); Regional MS for South Wales East (2011–2016)
Official Senedd Page: <https://senedd.wales/people/lindsay-whittle-ms/>
Email: Lindsay.Whittle-AS@senedd.cymru
Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lindsay_Whittle
X (Twitter): @lindsaywhittle (Plaid Cymru)

Bio

Bio

Detail	Info
Full name	Lindsay Geoffrey Whittle
Born	March 1953
Current office	Plaid Cymru MS for Blaenau Gwent, former leader of Caerphilly Council

Political Career

Local Government

Whittle has one of the longest records of local government service in Wales:

- **First elected** in the 1976 local elections, representing the Penyrheol and Treceenydd ward on Rhymney Valley district council, and was re-elected repeatedly until the council was abolished in 1996.
- **Elected to Mid Glamorgan County Council** in 1977 (lost in 1981; contested again in 1989 and 1993).
- **Caerphilly County Borough Council:** Represented the Penyrheol ward continuously from 1995, elected 7 times.
- **Leader of Caerphilly County Borough Council** (1999–2004 and again 2008–2011).
- **Plaid Cymru group leader** on the council from 2022 until 2025.
- **WLGA spokesperson** on Equalities, Community Safety and Social Justice.
- Resigned his council seat after winning the 2025 Caerphilly by-election (as he could not hold both roles simultaneously).

National Politics (Senedd / Welsh Assembly)

Whittle has stood in every Senedd (formerly Welsh Assembly) election since its formation in 1999:

- **2011–2016:** Elected as a Member of the Welsh Assembly (AM) on the South Wales East regional list. Appointed Plaid Cymru spokesperson for Social Services, Children & Equal Opportunities. Retained the role under Leanne Wood (post-2012 leadership election); became spokesperson for Social Services, Equality & Older People in May 2013. Lost his seat in the 2016 election when Plaid Cymru was reduced from 2 to 1 seats in the region.
- **2025 Caerphilly By-election (October 2025):** After the death of incumbent MS Hefin David (Labour), Whittle was selected as Plaid Cymru's candidate. He won with **15,961 votes (47%)** — a historic result, as this was the **first time Labour had failed to win the seat** since the establishment of the Senedd in 1999. This was Whittle's **14th time contesting the Caerphilly constituency** since 1983.
- **2026 Senedd Election (May 2026):** Elected as an MS for the new **Blaenau Gwent Caerffili Rhymni** constituency, placed second on the Plaid Cymru list behind Delyth Jewell. Plaid Cymru won 3 seats in the constituency (Delyth Jewell, Lindsay Whittle, Niamh Salkeld).

Westminster Elections

Whittle has stood **ten times** for the Westminster Parliament seat of Caerphilly, first standing in the 1983 general election and in every subsequent general election except 2015. His best result was in the **2024 general election**, coming second with 21.2% of the vote. In each election, he lost to the Labour Party, who have held the seat continuously since 1918.

Key Political Positions & Interests

- Housing and local government
 - Combating homelessness (former housing manager)
 - Social services, equalities, and older people
 - NHS improvement (surgical hubs, tackling waiting lists)
 - Education outcomes
 - Childcare scheme (9 months to 4 years)
 - Affordable/social housing and council home waiting lists
 - Welsh independence and devolution
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Notable Quotes

- **"We will not let you down"** — On the 2026 Senedd election results (Caerphilly Observer, 11 May 2026)
 - **"The hard work starts now"** — Following Plaid Cymru's successes in the 2026 Senedd election
 - **"You don't attack the vulnerable"** — On Labour's campaign tactics after the Caerphilly by-election (2025)
 - **"Clearly, people wanted change after 27 years of stale Labour government in Wales"** — Reflecting on the 2026 Senedd election
 - **"A choice for voters between a Plaid government and one led by Reform UK - and it was a question of what sort of society did we want to live in"** — Pre-election column
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Electoral History (Notable Results)

Election	Constituency	Party	Votes	%	Result
2026 Senedd	Blaenau Gwent Caerffili Rhymni	Plaid Cymru	—	—	Elected (3rd PC MS)
2025 By-election	Caerphilly	Plaid Cymru	15,961	47%	Elected (historic Plaid Cymru gain)
2024 General Election	Caerphilly	Plaid Cymru	—	21.2%	Lost (2nd place)
2011 Senedd	South Wales East (Regional)	Plaid Cymru	—	—	Elected (Regional list)
2016 Senedd	Caerphilly	Plaid Cymru	—	—	Lost

Online Presence & Public Sentiment

X (Twitter) / Social Media

- Whittle has been widely discussed in connection with the **2025 Caerphilly by-election** and **2026 Senedd election**.
- Noted for his distinctive **red and green suit** which has become something of a trademark.
- Referenced positively for his speaking style (described as having "some pipes" — a strong orator).
- Plaid Cymru colleague Níamh Salkeld expressed being "really grateful to have been elected alongside the fantastic Delyth Jewell and Lindsay Whittle."
- The phrase "**you don't attack the vulnerable**" (Whittle's rebuke after Caerphilly) has been cited by multiple users criticizing Labour/Starmer.

Reddit Discussion

- **r/Wales (Jan 2026):** A discussion thread titled "Lindsay Whittle lost in Caerphilly 13 times before finally being elected in 2025. Why did Plaid keep him as a candidate for so long?" asked why Plaid persisted with a 72-year-old candidate who had been rejected repeatedly — the user was pleasantly surprised to be proven wrong. Score: 29 upvotes, 32 comments.
- **r/AskTheWorld (Nov 2025):** "What do Welshmen & Non-Welshmen think about Lindsay Whittle?" — Discussion about the new Senedd member. Score: 13 upvotes, 38 comments.
- **r/Wales (Oct 2025):** Caerphilly by-election megathread showed the full result: Whittle won with 15,961 votes vs Reform UK's 12,113 and Labour's 3,713. Score: 356 upvotes, 345 comments.
- **r/BreakingUKNews (Oct 2025):** "Lindsay Whittle - the local boy who stood unsuccessfully in Caerphilly 13 times, then won on the 14th" — linking to the Sky News article.

Media Coverage

- **Caerphilly Observer (11 May 2026):** "'We will not let you down': Lindsay Whittle MS talks Senedd election results" — Whittle's post-election column reflecting on the campaign, the historic result for Plaid Cymru, and his priorities going forward (NHS, housing, childcare).
 - **BBC/Sky News (Oct 2025):** Extensive coverage of the Caerphilly by-election upset, framing Whittle's persistence as a remarkable story of political endurance.
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Terms of Office

Term	Start	End
4th Assembly (South Wales East Regional)	6 May 2011	5 April 2016
6th Senedd (Caerphilly)	24 October 2025	7 April 2026
7th Senedd (Blaenau Gwent Caerffili Rhymni)	8 May 2026	Present

Committee Membership

- **Plenary** — Member

Contact

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Key Sources

- Wikipedia: [Lindsay Whittle](#)
- Senedd Cymru: [Lindsay Whittle MS](#)
- Caerphilly Observer: ["We will not let you down": Lindsay Whittle MS talks Senedd election results](#)
- Sky News: [Who is Lindsay Whittle? The man who stood unsuccessfully in Caerphilly 13 times, then won on the 14th](#)
- Reddit: [r/Wales discussion threads \(2025-2026\)](#)
- Nitter/X search results (May 2026)

Twitter/X Discussion

“ Source: Nitter search, 27 May 2026

No significant discussion found on Nitter/X for this period.

Reddit Discussion

“ Source: Eddrit search (via Docker on Windows PC), 27 May 2026

No significant Reddit discussion found for this period.

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