# Political Disillusionment and Local Issues Mount Pressure on Welsh Conservatives



### Conservative Prospects Dim in Wales Amid Local Concerns

Frustrations are mounting among Welsh residents as they grapple with political disillusionment and a range of local issues. On market day in Newcastle Emlyn, farmers voiced discontent over the Welsh government's refusal to cull badgers, the divisive 20mph speed limit, and the planned increase in the size of the Senedd from 60 to 96 members. Former Tory supporters like Viv Edwards and Paul Taylor expressed skepticism about all political parties.

The sentiment poses a challenge for Simon Hart, Conservative candidate for Caerfyrddin, and the Tories across Wales. In the 2019 election, the Welsh Conservatives secured 14 out of 40 seats, but current polling suggests they may be reduced to just one.

Local issues compound the challenge. Pollution in the River Teifi has driven away wildlife, with residents like Gemma expressing concern. Health services are also under strain, with long waiting times at facilities like Glangwili General Hospital. Pam Jones campaigned to keep a local doctor’s surgery open but it now operates only four mornings a week without a GP.

Ann Davies, Plaid Cymru's candidate for Caerfyrddin, highlighted additional concerns, including proposed power lines through the Towy Valley. Residents are also grappling with broader issues like the cost of living crisis. Leaders from Plaid Cymru and Labour have also criticized recent Conservative proposals for mandatory national service for 18-year-olds, arguing it reallocates funds from crucial community investments.

As the general election in July approaches, the political landscape in Wales remains fluid, with many residents uncertain about their voting direction amidst dissatisfaction with current governance.