MP for Gosport, Lee-on-the-Solent, Stubbington and Hill Head

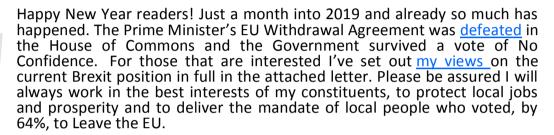








Hampshire MPs meeting with Transport Secretary Chris Grayling.



In light of recent claims about the potential effect of a No Deal Brexit scenario on Portsmouth Port and surrounding roads, the Secretary of State for Transport met with myself and fellow Hampshire MPs to reassure us that the necessary preparations have been made and there is no cause for concern.

Although Brexit has dominated headlines, there have been some fantastic announcements this month which you might have missed. Good news on jobs as unemployment both nationally and locally has halved since 2010, with a record employment rate of 75.8%.

As a Champion of Hestia's 'UK Says No More' campaign I was delighted to see the landmark draft Domestic Abuse Bill published. The Government also launched its Clean Air Strategy and a consultation to extend the single-use plastic bag charge. New financial penalties for fly-tipping have been introduced to help keep our community clean and Pensions Cold Calling has been banned.

The Government launched <u>The Long Term Plan</u> for the NHS earlier this month setting out its priorities for the £25 billion a year extra funding. I met with the Fareham and Gosport Clinical Commissioning Group to discuss local healthcare issues - particularly with regard to GP services in our area which are under great pressure. I caught up with Hampshire Healthwatch in Parliament to discuss their work representing residents voices in local health and care services.

<u>ICan Charity</u> talked to me about their work with children's speech and language therapy. Extra funding was promised to <u>Changing Places facilities</u>. I was shocked to hear how few of these toilets for people with severe disabilities there are currently in hospitals and other public buildings and very much welcome this investment.

We commemorated Holocaust Memorial Week and I <u>signed the Holocaust Educational Trust's Book of Commitment</u>, remembering the victims and honouring the extraordinary survivors. During Cervical Cancer Week I joined Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust #<u>SmearForSmear</u> campaign. I was shocked to hear that 1 in 4 women don't get a regular test; you can find out how to get yours here.



Signing the Holocaust Educational Trust's Book of Commitment.



Supporting the #SmearForSmear Cervical Cancer Campaign.

Back in the Gosport Constituency there have been a number of positive announcements. I was delighted that the appeal in the application for 150 new homes on the land west of Old Street, Stubbington, was dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate. The proposed build would have destroyed vital green spaces, put pressure on local infrastructure and exacerbated our traffic problems.

In other good news, in response to my letter to the Compass Group to query why staff at the Gosport War Memorial had not been fully paid, the company agreed to pay the money these staff are owed.

I joined the children of the Tigers Motorcycle Display Team who have raised over £4K for local charities. I was not only impressed by their fundraising skills, but also their talent as they took turns to jump over me on their motorbikes.



Presenting 4k to local charities with the daring Tigers Motorcycle Display team.



At Crofton Hammond Junior School.

Good education news as 13 local Primary Schools saw an increase in school attainment in recent Key Stage 2 results - huge credit to the hard work and effort of teachers, pupils and parents.

I was delighted to join St. John's Primary School 'Google Legends' Assembly focusing on online safety. As a mother I know the online world is a concern for many parents. With this in mind I will be hosting a free Cyber Safety Event on February 7th, this will offer advice on digital parenting. You can get your ticket

I was delighted to lead a lesson on Parliament and Democracy with Year 6 pupils at Crofton Hammond Junior School. They asked lots of smart questions and it was great to see their interest in current affairs.

Despite the fantastic progress of our schools, there has been increasing pressure on local post-16 education and funding - I met with the Skills Minister, Anne Milton MP to share my concerns.

I also met with the new District Police Commander for Gosport & Fareham, Mark Lewis, to discuss recent policing and crime issues, including the sharp rise in bike thefts which I know is a concern for many residents.

I was delighted that Minister for Defence Procurement, Stuart Andrew MP, accepted my invitation to visit Gosport and open the new Research and Technology centre at STS Defence. I also popped over to Whale Island

to meet the Second Sea Lord Vice Admiral Tony Radakin, to keep up the pressure on decisions regarding the future of Fort Blockhouse and HMS Sultan. Both sites have a key role in local economic prosperity, I remain adamant that HMS Sultan must NOT close and Blockhouse must be disposed of in a way that secures the best possible local outcome. I also discussed both sites with the Naval Base Commander Jim Higham, reiterating the significance of 'Portsmouth Harbour', not just 'Portsmouth' in discussions about our area's proud Naval History and, more importantly, its future prosperity, in which Gosport must remain integral.

Coming up in February, other than my Cyber Safety event, don't forget the new Gosport Friendship and Memory Café is also launching on the first Wednesday of the month in Melrose Gardens.



Meeting the Second Sea Lord, Vice Admiral Tony Radakin.

Best wishes,

Caroline

GET IN TOUCH

Please feel free to contact me on any issue, or to find out when my next surgery is. I'm always happy to arrange tours of the Palace of Westminster for my constituents. Please contact my office at least three months in advance to make sure you get a place - the tours are very popular! Constituency Office: 023 9252 2121

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