

Caroline Dinenage

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Issue 1

Your local MP reporting back from Westminster



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

Dear Resident,

It's great to get in touch with you again after a busy six months in Westminster. As your new MP, I've been hard at work to ensure that you have a voice in Parliament. In this new monthly newsletter I hope to keep you updated on what I've been up to.

In July my family moved into our new home in Gosport, and my 2 sons have started at a new school and have already made loads of new friends. Gosport is a wonderful place to live and bring up a family, and it's such an honour to represent it.

I am passionate about fighting for your interests in Parliament. I've spoken in key debates on subjects including defence and policing and I am always ready to stand up for the issues which matter most to the people of Gosport, Lee-on-the-Solent, Stubbington & Hill Head. At home, I'm glad to report that we have had some success in securing the future of HMS Sultan. You can read more about my campaigns later in this newsletter.

This has been a year of some super successes. I'm so grateful to everyone who supported my election campaign and worked so hard to make all this possible. It's also fantastic that the Conservatives won control of Gosport Council for the first time in many years, achieving one of the best results in the country. Since being elected I was honoured to have been chosen by the Foreign Secretary's Office to be a member of the Parliamentary Delegation to NATO which meets twice a year.

Unfortunately it has also been a year of great sadness. We were devastated by the sudden, tragic loss of our Association Secretary, Sarah Hunt. She was a wonderful colleague and friend and will be so greatly missed by all who were lucky enough to know her.

On a national level, we continue to face many challenges and lots of hard work, but as we look to the New Year I believe there is also great deal to look forward to.

Feel free to get in touch with me - I'd love to hear from you about any issues or ideas you have. Finally, I'd just like to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year!

Caroline



For the latest news visit www.caroline4gosport.co.uk

CONSTITUENCY UPDATE

It's been an exciting and challenging year for our constituency and I'm happy to report about all the progress that has been made.

Daedalus

One of my main election pledges was to secure the best possible future for the Daedalus site. In October I chaired a mini summit where I was able to get all the key stakeholders around a table, including Eric Pickles' PPS from the Communities & Local Government team. I have formed a Daedalus Action Group which will meet regularly to ensure progress is made. The site will be handed over from SEEDA to a Local Economic Partnership next year. I will work closely with the LEP to ensure the plan to develop a marine and aviation based business park becomes a reality. This could create in the region of 6000 local jobs.

HMS Sultan

I fought from the very start to protect HMS Sultan. The Navy is a vital part of Gosport's community and history, and I spoke in the Commons and lobbied the Prime Minister and the Defence Secretary to secure its future in our area. I was delighted that the Training School will be saved for now, but will continue to take every opportunity to fight for the future of the Navy in this area.

Adult Education Outreach Centre

I was delighted to play a part in the opening of the new Adult Education Department within the Nimrod Centre at Rowner. It's fantastic to be able to support ventures that help our local community and support people who may have been long-term unemployed to gain the skills and confidence they need to get back into work.

Blake Maternity Hospital

I've secured a direct commitment from the Secretary of State for Health to look into threats to the future of Blake Maternity Hospital. This midwife-led centre is a vital resource for the local area, especially because of Gosport's peninsula location. I will continue to fight to ensure it reopens and stays open in the long-term.

Maritime Rescue

In the summer I welcomed Transport Minister, Mike Penning MP, to Lee-on-the-Solent to visit the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. We toured their facilities and flew in a Search & Rescue Helicopter. I was relieved that in this week's announcements about the restructuring of the Coastguard Lee-on-the-Solent will become one of 2 nationwide Maritime Operation Centres (the other is in Aberdeen). This will see the creation of more local jobs.

THE WESTMINSTER REPORT

As your new representative, I've had a hectic six months ensuring your voice is heard in Westminster. I like to try to contribute in debates and ask questions in the 'House' as often as I can.

Recently, I took part in the **debate on the Police Reform and Social Responsibility**, and urged the House to support the clause that makes rowdy bars and clubs pay towards their own policing. I also argued in favour of reducing bureaucracy. The police do a difficult job and need our support – they shouldn't be snowed under piles of red tape or made to shoulder the cost of late night drinking!

Defence is always a key priority for me. I won a vital concession for the military in the **Defence debate** in September, by arguing that the Forces 'Rest and Recreation' period should begin when our servicemen arrive back home rather than when they leave the front line.

CONSTITUENCY WORK

I receive a huge amount of emails, calls and letters every week – I have built up a super little team in Westminster and Gosport who help me respond to people as fully and as quickly as possible. I spend every Friday and most Thursdays working in the constituency and have a weekly surgery which has proved to be incredibly popular! I have started the long process of visiting all the schools and colleges in the constituency – and they visit me too – recently some students from St Vincent and Bay House have been up to Westminster and I hope to get more young visitors in the future!

GET IN TOUCH

Feel free to contact me on any issue, or to find out when my next surgery is.

Constituency Office: 023 9252 2121

Westminster Office: 0207 219 7078

Email: caroline.dinenage@parliament.uk

Website: www.caroline4gosport.co.uk

Address: House of Commons,
Westminster,
London, SW1A 0AA.

