



Caroline Dinenage

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



Happy New Year to you! After a great Christmas and New Year with my family at home in Gosport, we ushered in 2016 by joining the crowds at Stokes Bay for the traditional GAFIRS New Year's Day charity swim. We were watching not swimming, of course, ... maybe next year!

Back to work and an unexpected announcement: the waterfront site at Daedalus was selected for the Government's new Direct Commissioning house-building pilot. This scheme opens up land that already has outline planning permission to a wider range of small and medium builders. In this case it will deliver 200 homes that big developers have been unwilling to take on due to the upfront infrastructure investment required and complications of the listed buildings on the site.

I share constituents' concerns about pressures on local infrastructure so I arranged to meet with the Minister for Housing to discuss the plans. Gosport Borough Council bosses joined me to seek reassurance that the investment will deliver infrastructure to support wider commercial development and job creation at the Daedalus waterfront site.

Last month I met with the Chancellor to reemphasise the need for road improvements in our local area. I will continue to support Hampshire County Council and the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership in this way so that when they make their bid for the remaining Stubbington Bypass funding, they will have the best possible chance of success.

Other meetings this month included a discussion with the First Sea Lord about key sites in our constituency such as HMS Sultan, HMS Collingwood and Fort Blockhouse. I was pleased that the 1SL continues to see Gosport as critically important to the future of the Royal Navy, particularly as a centre for naval training.

Wessex Partnerships updated me on their five year Economic Action Plan for the Gosport waterfront and town centre. I fed in my thoughts on how future projects could improve shopping, living and employment opportunities in our area.

The Gosport Business and Employment Fair 2016 was a great success. This annual event gives local jobseekers the chance to network with local employers and receive careers support from training organisations and local advisory networks. This year there were over 50 exhibitors including first-timers, like Babcock and Britten Norman. There was a great turn out of jobseekers and with over 400 job and apprenticeship vacancies advertised, I'm sure there were some happy outcomes!

In other business news, I visited Blackball Media at Haslar Marine Business Park. This fantastic company, which started in MD James' conservatory, is now a national leader in automotive media, employing around 30 people, publishing Car Dealer Magazine and hosting thriving events such as the Car Dealer Exposition.



*With the Mayor and Mayoress at the
Gosport Business & Employment Fair*



At Blackball Media with MD James



*Speaking at the launch of the
Solent Leadership Academy*

I was delighted to attend the launch of the Solent Leadership Academy, a new joint venture by Fareport Training and Fareham College at the Daedalus Business Innovation Centre. They will work with employers to deliver in-work training and Level 5 Higher Apprenticeships for up to 200 managers, furnishing them with high quality leadership skills to improve business performance.

I thoroughly enjoyed joining the celebrations at Bay House School for their shiny new sports hall. Having worked with the school to help bring the new facility to fruition, I was very pleased to see the Sports Hall being put to good use hosting the final of a 5-side football tournament. The trophies were presented by former Pompey and England star, Darren Anderton.

In other good news for local schools, Siskin Juniors was named one of the top 100 performing junior schools in the country. This is a fantastic achievement owing to the hard work and dedication of Siskin's excellent staff – it is always a pleasure to visit.

I discussed our concerns about the implications of the Local Government Finance Settlement for Gosport Borough Council and Hampshire County Council with both the Minister for Local Government and the Secretary of State this month. I also joined other Hampshire MPs to meet with Southern Health bosses to seek assurances about patient care following recent high-profile issues.

The leader of Fareham Borough Council, Cllr Woodward, and I conferred about sea defences at Hill Head and the Daedalus Enterprise Zone. I also met with local Councillors to discuss National Grid's proposals for the IFA2 electrical interconnector.

Gosport's Michael Lane is the Conservative prospective Police and Crime Commissioner candidate for Hampshire. It was good to catch up with him to hear his ideas and priorities for improving policing, crime and disorder if he is elected in May.

I met with the Minister for Disabilities in Parliament to feed back about the Disability Confident event I held last year at St Vincent college. It was designed to give local businesses an understanding of the benefits of employing disabled jobseekers and highlight the support available for them to do so. I was pleased to inform the Minister about the positive engagement of some of the big local employers who attended.

We heard the excellent news this month that the Historical Diving Society has received £10,000 towards the restoration of the Stokes Bay No 2 Battery. This museum is flourishing thanks to a team of dedicated and tenacious local volunteers.

I always love seeing the Gosport constituency represented in Westminster, so I was delighted that my team organised a free tour of Parliament for 25 local people this month. The tour was very oversubscribed so we are arranging another for the summer.

On a more sombre note, the 27th of January marked Holocaust Memorial Day. To honour the victims and survivors of this terrible tragedy, I signed the Holocaust Educational Trust's Book of Commemoration. A few years ago I was honoured to take a group of local sixth form students to Auschwitz - we must never forget and always persevere to educate young people about this dark period of history.

Looking forward to February, on Friday the 5th, I am hosting one of my regular open surgeries at Gosport Discovery Centre from 2pm. There is no need to book in advance so do pop by if you have anything you would like to discuss.

Best wishes

Caroline



With Gosport's Michael Lane, the prospective Conservative PCC candidate for Hampshire



With the Minister for Disabilities, Justin Tomlinson MP



Signing the HET's Book of Commitment

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 and Big Ben 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!

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