



Tim Loughton MP's Parliamentary E-Newsletter

Welcome to my E-Newsletter

Welcome to my last newsletter before the General Election which has now been called for May 6th the same day as local council elections in both Adur and Worthing. You therefore have two votes and I hope you use them, whoever you choose to vote for. Despite everything that has happened to politicians over the last year or so, change only happens by engaging in the political process and opting out by not voting is not an option.

I will be standing again on May 6th as the Conservative candidate and whatever happens I am very grateful for all the support I have received over the last 13 years as MP for East Worthing & Shoreham and for the very positive feedback to my e-newsletter over the last couple of years.

After Parliament is dissolved at the end of this week this Parliamentary email address will be deactivated and all correspondence should be directed to my constituency office in Worthing where I will be using the email address vote4tim@timloughton.com. My website address www.timloughton.com will remain active. There will be no formal constituency surgeries during this period but again any urgent correspondence should be directed to Haverfield House.

Haverfield House

4 Union Place

Worthing

West Sussex

BN11 1LG Tel: 01903 235168

Best wishes,

Tim Loughton, MP for East Worthing and Shoreham

Splash FM Awards - Congratulations Skip



Yet more plaudits for Shoreham Lifeboat skipper Peter Huxtable who was awarded the SPLASH FM 'Lifetime Achievement Award' at the recent awards ceremony at the Dome Cinema, but not before he had to leave in a hurry for a lifeboat call out only to make it back with just minutes to spare to pick up his gong. Peter has been coxswain of the Shoreham Harbour lifeboat for 19 years and has helped to save hundreds of lives. He's been awarded two RNLI Vellums for rescuing the crews of stricken vessels, as well as the MBE in 2005 for services to the RNLI. This modest, unassuming man has also woessly for the past two years to raise money and promote the £1 million appeal to help build a new lifeboat station for Shoreham. Peter has been the coxswain of the Shoreham Lifeboat for the last 19 years and has helped to save hundreds of lives, and was awarded the MBE in 2005. Peter has also worked tirelessly over the last couple of years to help raise the 31m needed as the local contribution to re new lifeboat station which is now taking shape. It's still not too late to donate on www.rnli.org.uk/how_to_support_us/appeals/Shoreham.

Libel Law Reform

Many people have written to Tim about the Libel Law Reform Campaign. They have made some powerful points about the need to protect the freedom of expression of scientists, academics and scholars. However, Tim thinks it is important not to overlook the importance of ensuring access to justice for those who are defamed in the media and that it is vital to try and strike a balance between guaranteeing this access to justice for constituents, and protecting of freedom of speech. As Tim has explained to those who have written to him, if the Conservatives win the election they have committed themselves to setting up a series of formal and wide ranging reviews into this issue.

Immortalise Someone at Coronation Green



As part of the new footbridge project in Shoreham, Sustrans are planning to install a special portrait bench as a feature on Coronation Green. Adur Council would like the people featured on the bench to be chosen by local residents. Cabinet member for regeneration, Jim Funnell said: "Tell us who think should be immortalised and remembered this way and why. It can be anyone who you think has contributed to Adur, a local hero/heroine, either in the public arena or in the community. It can be someone with a historical or famous link to the area, past or present." The 2-Dlife size figures will be cut out of sheet steel, which will weather naturally over time.

Please send an image, either a photograph, drawing or idea and the reasons behind the choice. Entries must be received by 30 April 2010. Send your nomination to Pamela Driscoll at the Civic Centre, Ham Road in Shoreham BN43 6PR.

Digital Economy Bill

Lots of constituents have expressed concerns about the Digital Economy Bill. Tim feels that the measures within the Bill designed to block access to websites promoting illegal downloading and tackle illegal peer-to-peer file sharing set up a relatively weak regime that could, following repeated warnings and due process, lead to people having their internet connection temporarily suspended. It will not, as many have suggested, lead to people being disconnected without an appeal and even if people are disconnected they will be able to sign up to another ISP immediately without penalty. Blocking these measures in their entirety would have risked hundreds of thousands of jobs in the TV, film, music and sports industries. However Tim regrets that the Government did not find Parliamentary time to discuss this in committee as this would have assuaged understandable widespread concern over these measures.

Sussex Young Musicians



On Saturday 6 March Tim visited a concert held to showcase the talent of the Sussex Young Musicians at the Shoreham Methodist Church where they performed fantastically and raised £200 for charity.

Where Else But England Award

Enjoy England are running a vote on the most unique experience in England. In Worthing it is the Worthing Birdman. Voting is now live at www.enjoyengland.com/whereelse and the award will be presented at this month's Enjoy England Awards for Excellence in Brighton. A number of events were nominated by visitors to their website and this one has now gone through as our regional finalist to the final vote on the Visit England website. Worthing is currently in second place and voting ends on April 23rd - so hurry up and support your town <http://bit.ly/9BiPzu>.

Travellers Evicted from Worthing Beauty Spot



The travellers who were camped out at Storrington Rise car park, at the foot of Cissbury Ring, left the site just hours before they were due to be evicted. Worthing Borough Council appeared at Worthing Magistrates Court on 24 March 2010 where the magistrates heard evidence from Mrs Michaela Sauerteig and granted an order to evict the travellers. Since the travellers appeared on 11 February Worthing Borough Council had been trying to have them removed. This process was delayed because one of the travellers called for a judicial review of the council decision. There were three hearings in the High Court, where several issues were raised, but on each occasion the Court agreed the Council had acted lawfully and there were no reasons the travellers should be

tolerated. Worthing Borough Council balanced the needs of the travellers against the needs of the public, the loss of public amenity and the right to protect its property. This does raise the question of why constituents and local people using this beauty spot can be so inconvenienced by a small group of travellers and then have to foot the bill for evicting them. The law needs to change.

The Improved #106 Compass Bus

The 106 service now has a new revised route between North and South Lancing serving the Town Centre, Post Office and the Station. You can see the details here <http://bit.ly/9yErMM>.

Council Partnership Scoops Award



Adur and Worthing councils have scooped a prestigious award for their groundbreaking partnership from Improvement and Efficiency South East (IESE). The two council leaders, Neil Parkin and Paul Yallop and Chief Executive, Ian Lowrie were presented with the progress through innovation award last Thursday (5/3/10). The award is for delivering significant results through new ways of working and is recognition for the project, the first in the country to have one workforce working for two councils. This example is now being followed up and down the country as councils look at ways to save money and provide quality services. The Adur and Worthing partnership is set to make savings of £2.2 million pounds in this financial year and expects to make a total of

£6.4 million pounds in savings by 2012/13. The savings have been made without losing any front line services and by finding more efficient ways of working. (Photo, from left to right - award sponsor BAM Construction's Commercial Director, Stephen Gregory presents award to Adur Leader, Neil Parkin, Chief Executive, Ian Lowrie and Worthing Leader Paul Yallop).

West Sussex Youth Cabinet Elections Results 2010

Records were smashed for the ninth year in a row, with the largest turn out ever in the West Sussex Youth Parliament and UK Youth Parliament Elections. All young people between 11 and 19 were eligible to take part, voting electronically between 1st and 15th March, for 205 candidates standing for 48 seats in 24 localities. 35789 votes were cast, demonstrating young people's enthusiasm to be part of the democratic process and exceeding last year's record of 24582 votes. Over one in four young people in West Sussex were motivated to vote and make use of their democratic rights. The results are a countywide elected group who will meet to give young people a voice and work alongside decision makers to activate change in issues affecting their lives. The group is elected from a diverse range of backgrounds, from 82% of secondary and middle schools in West Sussex. Candidates were also drawn from youth centres, private schools, special schools, voluntary organisations, colleges and Pupil Referral Units. Last year Tim organised a reception at the House of Commons for those schools with the biggest turn out of students and hopes to again this year.

Lancing Brooks



Tim was invited by the Environment Agency to see the work on the sluice gates at the Lancing Brook Outfall adjacent to the Adur Rec to the west of Norfolk Bridge. More than £850,000 has been invested in upgrading the outlet which take surplus water from surrounding fields and prevents high tides backing up and flooding hundreds of houses in the area. Surface water has been a particular problem on the east side of lancing and Tim has been involved in a number of sites. Tim was shown around the site by Environment Agency manager James Humphrys.

School Safety Zones

Tim and Broadwater ward councillors in Worthing have been supporting the creation of school safety zones especially in Sackville Road around St Andrew's and Springfield schools. The zones reduce speed limits and introduce safety features for pupils travelling to school and are greatly welcomed by children and parents alike. After the huge shortfall in the in the highways budget caused by pothole damage after the recent snow, the County Council originally decided to delay work to transfer limited funds to the urgent repairs. However, after lobbying from Tim and Councillor Kevin Skepper, the schemes have been reinstated for the current financial year and will be completed over coming months.

Tim Addresses Victoria Climbié Foundation Memorial



On 25 February Tim, in his capacity as Shadow Minister for Children and Young People, gave the keynote speech at a memorial event in Portcullis House, Westminster, to mark the tenth anniversary of Victoria Climbié's death. Victoria was killed by her aunt and stepfather at the age of eight - had she now lived she would have been 18. You can see details of the Foundation's work at <http://www.victoria-climbié.org.uk/>.

Wildlife Aid

Tim was invited to the Wildlife Aid rescue farm near Leatherhead in his position as Shadow Minister for Children last week. He was given a tour by Simon Cowell (not *the* Simon Cowell) who founded the charity in 1980 since when they have saved the lives of over 150,000 sick, injured and orphaned wild animals and birds. Whilst Tim was there a young tawny owl was brought in for emergency surgery after being involved in a smash with a car. The farm looks after thousands of animals and birds each year and Simon was particularly keen to tell Tim about the need for better education in or schools to teach children about the importance of natural habitats and respecting wildlife. Closer to home, the AGM of WADARS (Worthing and District Animal Rescue Service), of which Tim is president, is due to take place at The Ardington Hotel, Steyne Gardens, April 29th at 7.15pm. All supporters of the charity are welcome. <http://www.wildlifeaid.org.uk/>.

David Bows Out



Tim popped into Chesswood School in Worthing last Thursday to bid farewell and a happy retirement to David Newnham after 18 years as head at the Middle school. Also there was parent Jib Hagan who started up the CARE charity with David at Chesswood School and which has sent hundreds of used computers to schools in Ghana for students to use and help teach them about protecting the environment. Jib had arranged a live video link-up with a school in Ghana for the students there to pass on their good wishes repeating the exercise at the last Eco Summit which Tim organised in 2009 at the then Boundstone College.

Meanwhile another long serving headmaster retiring from the Vale School in Findon Valley, Tony Lovatt, ended his years of dedicated service with more than he bargained for when the school hit national headlines after a police chase resulted in armed robbers seeking refuge in the school grounds. The performance of the police, staff and children was exemplary and the culprits were brought to book without anyone being harmed, so well done to Tony for keeping a cool head right up to the last. Good wishes to him too in retirement.

Shoreham Beach Cutoff?

Tim attended a well supported AGM of the Shoreham Beach Residents Association at the end of February where the main topics of concern were arrangements for demolishing the old footbridge before the new model is opened, as well as ongoing problems for children getting into the over-subscribed Shoreham Beach School. The AGM had hoped to hear a presentation from the experts responsible for the bridge but that had to be postponed to a later date and Tim has offered to organise a fresh public meeting with the local councillors on the subject. So far tenders for the design of the bridge are due in from around 4 firms by June and after that the winning design will be chosen and it will be clearer whether there will be a 'no bridge' period and for how long and what contingency arrangements are to be put in place. We will keep residents informed. Subsequently Tim held a special drop in surgery at the Emerald Quay social club for the first time, jointly with the Beach Resident district councillors and County Councillor Robert Dunn. This was very successful and should become a regular fixture.

Parley Easter Egg Roll



Worthing charity Parley (www.parleyonline.co.uk) held an Easter egg roll for youngsters on Easter Saturday at the East Worthing Community Centre organised by Parley founder Victoria Paine and supporters. Tim attended as Parley's patron and helped judge the egg decorating contest and roll a few eggs himself, helped by children's

character Dora the Explorer. Parley has organised a free prize draw for families who have children born with medical conditions and four lucky winners will enjoy a week's stay in a French gites courtesy of holiday company Pagel. Tim has also donated tickets for the crossing on Eurotunnel and details are available on the website.

Sustainable Communities Bill

Good news for the private member's bill proposed by Conservative MP Alistair Burt who is seeking to amend the Sustainable Communities Act which is strongly supported by Tim. Parliamentary time has been found hopefully to squeeze this bill through before Parliament is dissolved which would strengthen the Act by giving clearer powers to local communities to petitioning the council and putting into action grass roots ideas. The very successful Pot Of Gold exercise by Adur where £120,000 of capital spending was decided by local residents directly is one example of how 'people power' like this can be taken forward.

Mental Health



As a former Shadow Minister for Mental Health Tim has signed up to the Rethink pledge to highlight the importance issue of mental illness. As 1 in 4 people living in our area will experience a mental health problem at some point in their lives, and 1 in 50 a mental illness like schizophrenia or bipolar disorder, mental illness

really does matter to people locally. According to the World Health Organisation, mental illness is the biggest cause of disability, bigger than heart disease and cancer. You can see the details of the campaign here www.rethink.org/how_we_can_help/campaigning_for_change/index.html.

Home Heat Helpline

Following the recent spell of cold weather and with temperatures predicted to remain low, many of you may be thinking about how best to work and manage your energy costs. You can call the Home Heat Helpline 0800336699, a freephone service set up to help people access the information and services they need to manage their fuel bills and reduce their energy consumption.

Worthing Philharmonic Choir do Verdi

Patron of the Worthing Philharmonic Choir Tim enjoyed the Good Friday performance of Verdi's Requiem jointly with the Worthing Choral Society at the Assembly Rooms Worthing. The excellent evening was also the 'swan song' for resident conductor Donovan Brown who finishes a highly successful time with the choir and we wish him well. His place is to be taken by Steve Drummer, currently conductor of the Worthing Philharmonic Orchestra.

Shoreham College



Tim was invited to perform the official opening of the new Curtis Smith Centre at Shoreham College in Kingston Buci comprising a new wing of classrooms and computer facilities. The wing is named after former house master Hugh Curtis who retired in 1979 and old Shorehammer and generous benefactor Cecil Smith. Tim was accompanied by his father Reverend Michael Loughton who was an old boy at the former Shoreham Grammar School and stepmother whose father Emile Bruder was headmaster until 1965 when the old school in Pond Road closed before moving to its present site as Shoreham College.

New Dog Controls for Worthing

Worthing Borough Council is currently reviewing and revising all of its existing dog control byelaws with a view to replacing them later this year with a new set of Dog Control Orders. These Orders will make it an offence to fail to remove dog faeces from land open to the public; permit a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded; not to keep a dog on a lead in a prescribed area or when directed to do so by an authorised officer; take more than a specific number of dogs onto public land. People can report incidents of dog fouling by calling 01903221064. You can voice your opinion on these suggestions to the council's Dog Warden, Russ Akehurst at russell.akehurst@worthing.gov.uk.

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