



# Tim Loughton's Parliamentary Newsletter – Issue One, August 2005

Your local MP updates you on his Parliamentary and Constituency Activities

## Welcome to the first edition of my now regular newsletter...

### Dear Constituent,

Welcome to my first e-mail newsletter. I hope you find it useful. If you do, then let me know how you would like it improved, what else you would like to see included and whether you know of anyone else who would like to receive it. If not, then let me know and we can remove you from the circulation list.

I was delighted to have been re-elected as your MP for the third time at the General Election in May. However, I am only too aware that the turnout at the poll, although in line with the national average, remains worryingly low at under 62%. I am therefore keen to take whatever steps I can to involve more people in the local democratic process and inform my constituents as fully as possible about the work I do on your behalf and how you can influence it.

I already maintain a website ([www.timloughton.com](http://www.timloughton.com)) which contains a variety of information on what I have been up to at Westminster and in the constituency. I produce an Annual Report which is delivered to every house in East Worthing & Shoreham at the beginning of the year. And of course I hold fortnightly surgeries and regularly organise public meetings. This newsletter is therefore complementary to those activities and I hope it will encourage greater two way dialogues with constituents on issues they are most concerned about.

I propose to make this electronic newsletter a regular feature. This first edition comes just after the end of the Parliamentary term and I give a round-up of some of the legislation going through Parliament since the election. The House of Commons returns on October 10<sup>th</sup> but of course it will be business as usual dealing with constituents' issues over the summer break and my Westminster and Worthing offices will be staffed throughout.

Please feel free to give me your honest views and keep in touch.



### Tim 'relaxes' after the annual Parliamentary tug of war

### Tim highlights local hospital's funding crisis

Tim has ended this Parliamentary session with a speech aimed at bettering the lives of those living in and around his West Sussex constituency.

In a debate aimed at driving forward Government action to save the services offered by the Royal West Sussex NHS Trust, Tim commented that the Government must not allow an excellent performing hospital to go to the wall simply because it has done the Government's bidding.

West Sussex's St Richard's hospital is forecast to have an accumulated deficit of £51 million by the end of this financial year. This is despite the fact that St Richard's is consistently rated excellent for clinical outcome, patient satisfaction and staff behaviour. This funding crisis was partially created by the Government's insistence that the full implementation of a new tariff system be delayed. If this tariff system had been properly implemented, the hospital would have raised an extra £10 million in this financial year alone.

Tim made clear to the Government his belief that as many of the measures that had contributed to St Richard's financial deficit were beyond the control of the hospital trust, the Government must do all in their power to save such an excellent hospital.

To read the full text of Tim Loughton's speech on St Richard's hospital visit: [http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmhansrd/cm050706/halltext/50706h01.htm#50706h01\\_spmi0](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmhansrd/cm050706/halltext/50706h01.htm#50706h01_spmi0)

The eighteenth annual June tug of war between the House of Commons and the House of Lords was won by the Commons for the fifth time in the last five years! The victorious Commons' team included Tim, who played the all important role of team anchor, James Gray MP and Graham Brady MP.

The tug of war raised £130,000 for the cancer charity Macmillan Cancer Relief. Macmillan, which offers a range of innovative cancer services and is at the heart of improving cancer care throughout the UK were once again thrilled to receive such a great amount of money.

Tim remarked that he was delighted to have taken part in the event because it was a fantastic way to raise awareness of those who suffer from cancer and raise money for Macmillan who dedicate their time and expertise to looking after cancer sufferers. He put the Commons' victory down to their great strength, team unity and their marvellous shoe grip!

**How to get in touch with Tim**

Tim Loughton is your MP and is here to listen to your views and explain the issues on national matters. He may also be able to assist you with any problems you may be having locally. He is here to serve you regardless of your political affiliation.

**Write to Tim Loughton at:**

Tim Loughton MP  
House of Commons  
London, SW1A 0AA

Email: [loughtont@parliament.uk](mailto:loughtont@parliament.uk)

Website: [www.timloughton.com](http://www.timloughton.com)

**Or at:**

East Worthing & Shoreham Conservative Association

4 Union Place, Worthing,

West Sussex, BN11 1LG

If you have a problem you think your MP would be able to assist you with and would like to talk to him in confidence, please feel free to book an appointment at his fortnightly surgeries. Surgeries are usually held on Friday evenings or Saturday mornings at five accessible locations across the constituency. Please call **01903 235168** to book an appointment.

**TIM'S TOP TIPS FOR RECYCLING!**

Tim may have been handling rubbish but he certainly wasn't talking it when he accompanied the Adur recycling truck and its crew on their recycling round. Here are Tim's tips on how you can make the job of the recycling crew much easier:

- remember to clean out your cartons and cans as thoroughly as possible
- remember to get your blue boxes out early as the rounds start from 7am.
- try to provide some cover against heavy rain as it's not easy dealing with soggy papers
- remember to put your blue boxes as close to the pavement as possible and not half way up the garden path
- sort the different items as clearly as possible
- avoid filling carrier bags with bottles or other items all together hidden amongst newspapers for example
- ideally, if you have space for 3 boxes keep one for glass, one for plastic/cans and one for paper



**West Sussex MPs at No.10**

At the end of July, Tim joined fellow West Sussex Conservative MPs Nicholas Soames, Nick Herbert and Francis Maude to deliver a petition, collected by the West Sussex Gazette, to the Prime Minister. The petition urges the Government to reconsider the level of housing development in Sussex without undertaking serious infrastructure improvements. West Sussex is due to take at least an extra 46,000 houses over the next 15 years and we are running out of brown field space. But worse still roads in the County are congested, not least the A27 around Adur, Worthing and Arundel, and we have many oversubscribed schools and doctors' surgeries etc.

It has recently been calculated that we need to spend £36.1 billion by 2026 on the infrastructure in the south-east just to bring it up to scratch to with the present housing levels.

Tim has been campaigning against some of the more inappropriate residential developments along the edge of the Downs, such as the 90 houses proposed for the top of Beeches Avenue by Lyons Farm, to prevent us losing anymore green spaces in the name of 'progress'.



**Mast Menace**

Yet again, mobile phone masts are causing problems locally. Tim is continuing to support the campaign against the TETRA mast at the Woodside Road football ground in Worthing. This site is one of the most inappropriate places to base such a mast as it is so close to a densely populated residential area.

Tim has supported the residents of Shoreham who mounted a well organised protest against a mast on the corner of a residential road on the Upper Shoreham Road/Downside junction. The application was rejected by Adur Council's Planning Committee but is likely to go to appeal. Tim has asked T-Mobile, who are responsible for the mast, to explain what other more appropriate sites they have considered and why they failed so badly to consult on their proposals. An action group (SCRAM – Shoreham Community Residents Against Masts) has been formed to fight the plans under the chairmanship of Downside resident Rod Hotton.

Meanwhile over 200 residents of Offington and Broadwater in Worthing have signed a petition against the plans by O2 to site a third generation mobile phone mast just north of the Grove Lodge roundabout on the A27. The company had again failed to consult local people properly. They even wrote to give advance warning to Peter Bottomley (the next door MP) but not Tim Loughton, and wrote to the councillors of the wrong Worthing ward. Tim summoned representatives from the company to see him and a representative of the residents' campaign to see him in Worthing. As a result, O2 agreed to hold a drop - in meeting at the Broadwater Parish Rooms at the beginning of August for residents to ask questions and O2 have also withdrawn the original application pending further consultation. Tim has also raised further specific questions with O2 and will be keeping Broadwater residents informed.

**Tim applauds figures showing fathers to be spending more time than ever with their children**

In a recent House of Commons speech, Tim spoke about the way in which fathers are more eager than ever to play a central role in the daily lives of children. He commented that parents in general now spend four times as long on child care as they did 40 years ago and fathers now spend eight times as long with their children as they did then.

Tim also spoke about the problems of social fragmentation that a lack of involvement by fathers in their children's life can cause. Children without fathers are more likely to live in poverty and deprivation and have trouble at school. Of those convicted of a criminal offence by the age of thirty-two, fifty-nine per cent are the sons of a convicted parent.



Later on in the debate, Tim challenged the Government to address the imbalance between maternity and paternity leave in the work force. He said that children's services needed to be directed towards fathers as well as mothers if the improvements in the time fathers spend with their children is going to continue.

To read a full text of Tim's speech, visit [http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmhansrd/cm050705/halltext/50705h02.htm#50705h02\\_spnw19](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmhansrd/cm050705/halltext/50705h02.htm#50705h02_spnw19)

**A Guide to the progress of current Parliamentary Legislation**

Presented and Debated	Committee Stage	Remaining Stages
<p><b>Charities Bill:</b> <i>Updating charity law.</i></p> <p><b>Criminal Defence Service:</b> <i>Target legal aid more effectively.</i></p> <p><b>London Olympics Bid:</b> <i>To make provision for the 2012 Olympics.</i></p> <p><b>European Union:</b> <i>To make provision for the Implementation of the 2004 Treaty of Rome.</i></p> <p><b>National Lottery:</b> <i>Increase public input into lottery money distributions.</i></p> <p><b>Violent Crime Reduction Bill:</b> <i>Aims to reduce anti-social behaviour and amend sexual offences</i></p>	<p><b>Identity cards:</b> <i>Introducing ID cards into the UK. Tim voted against.</i></p> <p><b>Immigration, Asylum and Nationality:</b> <i>Aims to make progress tighter, fairer and more flexible.</i></p> <p><b>Natural Environment and Rural Communities:</b> <i>Aims to create a new body to guard our natural heritage.</i></p> <p><b>Racial and Religious Hatred:</b> <i>Controversial measures to impose limits on religious criticism. Tim voted against.</i></p> <p><b>Road Safety:</b> <i>aims to reduce the number of road deaths.</i></p>	<p><b>Consumer Credit Bill:</b> <i>Aims to offer further protection to consumers.</i></p> <p><b>How does a Bill become law?</b></p> <p>Before it becomes an Act of Parliament, a Bill has to proceed through a series of stages aimed at amending and improving it. After a Bill has been presented and debated in either the House of Lords or the House of Commons, and if it is passed, it will then undergo stages of amendment and scrutiny in committee by Members of Parliament before returning to the floor of the House for the report stage. There is then a third reading of the Bill where further amendments can be made. After this it will travel to the other House and receive similar scrutiny. If it is passed in this House as well it will seek Royal Assent and then become an Act.</p>

*As shadow minister for health and children, Tim will play a lead role in the progress of both the **Children and Adoption Bill** and the draft **Mental Health Bill**. **The Children and Adoption Bill** deals with contact arrangements between non-resident parents and children. It also seeks to tighten the law on adoption of overseas children. The Conservative Party has reservations about the effect of the contact arrangements proposed. The draft **Mental Health Bill** was first produced in June 2002. It has been heavily opposed by the Mental Health Lobby and the Conservative Party. Tim was a member of the Scrutiny Joint Committee set up to scrutinise the proposed content of the Bill. The Scrutiny Joint Committee published major concerns on aspects of the draft Bill. Tim will continue to press the Government to make the fundamental changes to the coming Mental Health Bill before they present it to Parliament in its final form.*

**MS Centre**

Many people have written to Tim about the threat to the MS Treatment Centre in Southwick posed by substantial increases in fees proposed by the Government's Healthcare Commission. The centre is run as a charity, relying solely on charitable donations and fund raising and these charges will seriously impact finances, along with 38 other similar MS centres around the country.

Tim raised the issue in Parliament and a delegation to see Health Minister Jane Kennedy has resulted in a review of the criteria for charging establishments like the Southwick MS Centre which provide an essential service for hundreds of local people not available on the NHS. Fingers crossed for good news soon.

*Tim at the MS Treatment Centre in Southwick*



**Tim Makes Poverty History at St Mary's Church Shoreham**

Tim showed his support for the extension of bilateral debt relief when he manned the Make Poverty History/Fair Trade stand at St. Mary's Church in Shoreham. At Westminster he continues to campaign for more resources to go directly to priority areas in developing countries, such as HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria, the provision of safe drinking water and better sanitation facilities. Tim also believes passionately that trade should be freer and fairer and that if it was it would have a very positive impact on poverty.



### Friends of Ropetackle

Tim has been working with local residents and organisations over the last 4 years on the plans for the new arts and education community facility which is being built on the Ropetackle site in Shoreham. He chairs the Ropetackle Centre Trust which is a charitable company limited by guarantee and due to take on management of the centre, hopefully opening next year. It will be a state of the art facility offering flexible performance space for cinema, drama, cabaret, private receptions, business seminars and exhibitions together with a café/bar.

In June at a public meeting the Friends of the Ropetackle Centre was launched and already over 100 local people have sent in cheques for £10 or more to become founder friends. A second presentation to businesses launched the business friends of Ropetackle for those companies who may want to use the facility commercially. If you are interested in getting involved the contact the Ropetackle Centre Trust, c/o 2 Tarmount Lane, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex, BN43 6DA.



### Bringing a house to life

At the end of the summer school term Tim joined teachers and parents to watch a very imaginative theatre production at the historic St Mary's House in Bramber. All the actors and actresses were pupils from Thornberry School, Whitestyles School and Boundstone Community College. Based on an episode of Doctor Who the house and gardens were used to re-enact historic scenes from the Crusades, the flight of King Charles II, the visit of Elizabeth I and the plays of Oscar Wilde. All of these historical events have connections with St Mary's. The Crusades scene involved a particularly hilarious series of renditions from the chivalrous knights – Knight Rider, Nighty Knight, Knight of the long knives, Gladys Knight and the Knight in shining armour!

Tim commented: "The production was fascinating and made a really imaginative use of an important part of local history that has been involved in important national events over many centuries. The pupils really enjoyed it and excelled themselves and it strikes me that we should be encouraging our schools to undertake more of these innovative projects to engage their pupils with the local surroundings, history and literature."

### School children sing their thanks

In early July, Tim, Peter Bottomley MP and Cllr Tom Wye watched children at Lyndhurst County First School perform songs on their new school stage. The children were repeating a performance they had given to their parents the previous evening.



### Tim says NO to ID cards

Like the many of the constituents who wrote in expressing their concerns over identity cards, Tim was strongly against the Government's ID card Bill and thus voted against it in the Commons.

There are a number of serious flaws in the views held by those wishing to introduce ID cards to this country:

- 1) ID cards have not been shown to reduce terrorism in other countries and thus it is wrong to hail them as method of preventing terrorism. Indeed, of the twenty-five countries most adversely effected by terrorism since 1986, eighty per cent have had ID cards.
- 2) ID cards will not protect our freedoms, rather they will disturb the balance between the individual and the state; their introduction would raise profound constitutional problems.
- 3) The technology gap between governments and organised crime has narrowed to such an extent that even the most highly secure cards are available as blanks weeks after their introduction. ID cards would be no different.
- 4) A London School of economics investigation found that the true cost of ID cards was likely to be £18 billion, this is three times more than the official Government estimate and likely to rise further.

### Worthing MPs visit Worthing Mosque

The terrible events in London in July have shocked us all. Our hearts go out to the families of the victims and our praise to the police and emergency services who are doing so much to track down the evil perpetrators of these crimes. It is up to all of us to be vigilant and report anything suspicious to the police. It is also vital that whilst strengthening the tools available to deal with terrorism we do not sacrifice the liberty of our own people to go about our business as normally as possible. The terrorists will not succeed in changing the way we live our lives, but Governments can depending on the way they respond to terrorist activity.

Over recent years Peter Bottomley and Tim have built up a close relationship with the members of the mosque in Worthing. They visited again soon after the 7/7 attacks to listen to Muslim concerns and reinforce the message that we are all in this together and the Muslim community needs to do its bit to hunt down the terrorists who have carried out their crimes supposedly in the name of Islam.

Tim and Peter were invited to the Worthing and district Islamic centre at the invitation of the chairman, Ali Abdul Rahman together with Sussex Police. The importance of a united common resilience in the face of terrorist attacks was agreed by everyone and during the prayers, the Imams declared that all true Muslims were peaceful.



£1350 of the money used to pay for the Lyndhurst's new school stage was raised when Tim and Peter joined Worthing Conservatives on their annual charity walk along the length of East and West Worthing constituencies.