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## Tim Loughton MP's Parliamentary E-Newsletter

### Welcome to my E-Newsletter

Welcome to my last e-newsletter of the year and can I take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy (and on present reckoning white) Christmas and prosperous New Year. Next year is likely to be a very busy one politically as the Prime Minister will have to call a General Election before June and there are local elections due on May 6th. However I will continue to send out my newsletters with impartial information for as long as possible in 2010 before we all go into election campaign mode.



My Westminster office will be closed between Christmas Eve and Monday 4th January 2010, as will the constituency office in Worthing, but messages on the Westminster answer phone on 020 72194471 will be periodically monitored in case of emergencies. My next surgery will be held on January 4th in Lancing and Parliament returns from the Christmas recess on January 5th. Surgery dates for the New Year are given below and there will also be a street surgery with Southwick councillors in Southwick Square on Saturday January 30th.

Happy Christmas!

Tim Loughton MP

### Surgery Dates

Tim will be holding surgeries at the following times. To make an appointment call the Worthing office on 01903235168:

- 4 January, Lancing
- 22 January, Southwick
- 30 January, 10am-12pm, Southwick Square - street surgery
- 5 Worthing, Worthing

### Cissbury Ring

There has been a lot of concern over Worthing Council's plans to lease out farmland around Cissbury Ring following the death of the farmer who has farmed this area of the Downs over many years. The Council originally agreed to dispose of the land with strict covenants which would have prevented any development on the land which is in any case only suitable for agricultural use and is enjoyed by many local walkers. Following vociferous protests, even though the policy had been agreed a year ago without any opposition, Cabinet member responsible Councillor Steve Waight agreed to review the decision. As a result the Council have now announced a moratorium on any outright sales of



Council land which includes development sites in town as well. Instead the Council are now in negotiations with local farmers, Nature England and the National Trust about new short-term lease arrangements which will see the land continue in agricultural use and maintain access for the public. Tim has met local farmers, spoken to councillors and visited the site which he described as 'one of Worthing's jewels in the crown and one of the most beautiful corners of my constituency valued by many.' He reported back to the Findon Valley Resident's Association autumn meeting on 4 December that he was confident that not only would the land remain in Council ownership but that its agricultural use would be improved and access to the public enhanced.

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### **Adur Community Grants**

Community groups, charities and organisations can apply now for a share of the £60,000 Adur Council community grant scheme. The council has arranged a funding workshop at the Community Centre in Pond Road, Shoreham on 11 January from 10am to 4pm. The closing date for applications is 31 January 2010 and application forms can either be downloaded from the website [www.adurdc.gov.uk](http://www.adurdc.gov.uk) or acquired from the wellbeing team on 01273 263311 . In addition 'Adur's Pot of Gold' will be allocating £120,000 to local projects to improve the district at a special meeting open to the public on the 13 January. Adur councillors have shortlisted worthy applications and local residents will be able to vote on their favourites on the evening and do their Simon Cowell bit. Adur council will be using the latest in technology on the night just like on the TV when it's time to ask the audience. Further details from Sarah Garbutt on [sarah.garbutt@worthing.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.garbutt@worthing.gov.uk).

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### **Lifeboat Appeal**

The recent ball in aid of the Shoreham Lifeboat appeal raised in excess of £18,500 putting funds raised so far close to half of the £1million which we need to raise locally. The lifeboat crew have been out training in a version of the Tamar class lifeboat which is due to be based at Shoreham harbour when the new lifeboat station is completed in 2010. If you want to help the appeal look at [www.shorehamlifeboat.co.uk/appeal](http://www.shorehamlifeboat.co.uk/appeal) or contact appeals manager Tracey Harris on 01825 761466 or [tharris@rnli.org.uk](mailto:tharris@rnli.org.uk).



### **Young Enterprise**

This is the UK's largest business and enterprise education charity with more than 5500 schools, colleges and universities participating, and offers a range of programmes for young people aged 4-25 to offer them business experience and skills. Gavison School in Worthing has been a major beneficiary and recognised at national awards. Tim recently met the local manager for the scheme, Georgina Angele, and they are looking for more business volunteers to come forward to take part in this very worthwhile scheme. More details on [www.young-enterprise.org.uk](http://www.young-enterprise.org.uk).

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### **Concessionary Bus Fares**

Tim has always welcomed the scheme giving concessionary bus travel to local pensioners . The problem is that the scheme is supposed to be funded in full by central Government but due to the way the complicated funding formula is worked out council taxpayers in both Adur and Worthing have had to stump up over £800,000 in the last year alone. After pressure from Tim, Peter Bottomley and local councillors, the Department of Transport have agreed to review the funding

formula with a view to maintaining the concessionary fares but with our local councils getting a fairer share of the funding cake to pay for it. Watch this space.

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### **Wickers Gymnastics Club**

In November Tim joined Adur Council Chairman Councillor Brenda Collard to open the new Wickers Gymnastic Club facility on the Lancing Business Park . The Club was started 21 years ago by Katy Hodgson and offers a wide range of gymnastic activities for over 300 boys and girls to a high standard. Further details from Unit 4 Chartwell Business Centre, Lancing.



### **UKYP at Westminster**

On Friday 30th October, over 300 young people from around the country took over the House of Commons chamber. This was the first time anyone other than MPs have debated in the Commons and sat on the green benches. The motion to allow it had only been passed by MPs after a lengthy debate in which Tim, a long-time supporter of the UK Youth Parliament and of Youth Mayors, had led the case in favour. Amongst those taking was Worthing UKIP representative Brooke Goatcher, 12, who attends Davison High School, and three other pupils from West Sussex.

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### **Lottery Grants Going Begging**

The Big Lottery is keen to give out more money in the Adur and Worthing areas. The Awards for All grant programme is particularly popular for providing small grant funding of up to £10,000 for projects which improve communities. Further details are available at [www.awardsforall.org.uk/england/index.html](http://www.awardsforall.org.uk/england/index.html).

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### **Eco Summit Art Exhibition**

The EYE project (Eco, Young & Engaged) launched its new exhibition of environmentally friendly sculptures at the town's art gallery last month. The exhibition, which is open to the public and runs until March 6th, is a collection of sculptures and other works of art produced by students at local schools who are part of the EYE project set up by Tim. All the exhibits are made from recycled materials and range from a large windmill made out of old metal cans by Downsbrook School and a fish from St Andrew's where the scales are represented by pieces of aluminium cans. The schools taking part include St Andrew's, Downsbrook Middle, Worthing High School, Thomas A Beckett Middle, St Nicolas & St Mary and Eastbrook Primary.



### **St Giles Meeting**

Tim has organised two meetings now with local residents and councillors unhappy with the new housing development being built on the old St Giles site off Elm Grove in south Lancing. In November Tim arranged for representatives from the builder Crest Nicholson to brief local residents and answer their questions and an open invitation has been issued for anyone to be taken around the building site at first hand. The developers are also looking into constructing a shielding fence earlier than planned and Tim has taken up various security concerns with the

Council planners.

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### **Worthing Ice Rink - back by popular demand**

After its very successful debut this year the open air ice rink in



Steyne Gardens is returning and promises to be bigger and better than ever. The temporary ice rink is due to launch on Saturday 30 January and will be open every day throughout February so book your tickets early through Worthing Town Centre Initiative at [www.worthingicerink.co.uk](http://www.worthingicerink.co.uk) or (from 4 January) on 01903 222 934 .

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### **Cannabis Café Verdicts**

Following the closure of the notorious Cannabis Cafe in Freshbrook Road, Lancing the trial took place of various individuals connected to the establishment with the main perpetrators being found guilty. Sentencing is expected in January and in the meantime the site is now up for sale with plans to build homes on it which should make sure that it is not used as a cannabis cafe again. Well done to all the residents for their perseverance in closing down this blot on the landscape and to the police for all their hard work.

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### **Battle of the Vale**

Building work has continued at the new Family & Children's Centre planned for the site of the Vale School in Findon Valley despite the enormous number of objections by local residents and disruption caused to parking and traffic access as well as the pupils themselves. On December 9th Tim gave a presentation to the Children's Select Committee at County Hall accompanied by County Councillor Clem Stevens and Findon Valley residents and activists Maggie and Barry Winter (pictured right). Tim described



at length the disgraceful lack of consultation on the proposals and the way that the concerns of residents had been completely ignored. This had done great damage to the reputation of both the Council and the School in the eyes of Findon Valley residents and important lessons needed to be learned about the way the whole process had taken place. The Committee took these concerns on board and have asked for a review of the whole process for selection of sites for children's centres. They also agreed that the longstanding problem of traffic disruption around the Vale School even before the centre was planned needed to be looked at urgently and Tim will be keeping the pressure up for this together with the local councillors and the Findon Valley Residents Association members.

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### **Adur Special Needs**

Since the worrying news that the future of the fantastic Adur Special Needs Project was threatened by a shortage of funds, the community has been rallying round and Adur, West Sussex and Brighton Councils have all pitched in too. Tim joined around 50 hardy walkers in November

who braved monsoon conditions to hold a sponsored walk from Worthing Town Centre to Brooklands. At the end of November ASP held an auction of donated paintings at Shoreham Airport with Tim acting as auctioneer. Again the event was accompanied by appalling weather and the turnout was disappointing but despite this the evening still raised over £3,500 for the charity and a further event is planned to sell the remaining pictures which did not find a buyer on the night.

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### **Warm Homes Campaign**

Tim was on hand at the Warm Homes fair held at Worthing Town Hall on December 11th where National Energy Action and other organisations were available to give out energy and money saving advice. It is estimated that at least 10 people die in the East Worthing & Shoreham constituency each year as a result of fuel poverty out of a total of 34,200 nationally, mostly affecting pensioners. Adur and Worthing are both below average in the take-up of warm home grants. You can get free advice anytime including how to move to a cheaper energy tariff with your existing supplier by ringing the Home Heat Helpline on 0800 336699 .



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### **Blue Badge Fraudsters**

Worthing Council needs your help to stop Blue Badge fraud. If you see a vehicle displaying a Blue Badge under false pretences please report it to Worthing Council either by calling 08456800189 and pressing 1 and then 6, or by emailing [report.onparking@nslservices.co.uk](mailto:report.onparking@nslservices.co.uk) or by visiting [www.worthing.gov.uk/worthings-services/parking/disabledparkingandbluebadges](http://www.worthing.gov.uk/worthings-services/parking/disabledparkingandbluebadges) or by reporting any observations in person to the Parking Shop in Chapel Road or any Civil Enforcement Officer.

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