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Tim Loughton MP's Parliamentary E-Newsletter

Welcome back

Welcome to my first newsletter after the summer recess, during which, contrary to popular belief, most MPs did not spend the majority of their time lying on beaches 'on holiday' or on Parliamentary delegations to South Pacific islands. For my part I had one week's family holiday away in Portugal followed by eight gruelling days filming a documentary for Channel 4 living on jobseeker's allowance and 'sofa surfing' between various flats in tower blocks in inner city Birmingham (see photo right with the film crew). The finished result should be broadcast early in the new year.



Parliament returned on October 12th and was immediately immersed again in the MP's expenses row as the review by Sir Thomas Legg reported on its findings and requested certain members to make retrospective repayments even though they had been cleared by the Fees Office up to five years ago. I am glad to say that the only outstanding issue on my expense was a query over double payment of a boiler maintenance bill. As I have been publishing my expenses for some time, there were never going to be any 'shockers' here in any case. Hopefully this matter can be put behind us as soon as possible, given all the damage that has been done, and we can move ahead with normal business in Parliament, which is what our constituents elected us for. The State Opening of Parliament for the new session, which will be the last before the general election which has to take place before June 2010, is due to take place on Wednesday November 18th.

As usual if there is anything you would like to query in this newsletter or have ideas for what you would like to see added in the future then please let me know.

Tim Loughton MP

Out on the streets

Tim has a new addition to his street surgeries so now no one can miss him! A new customised A board made its debut at the Southwick Street surgery on October 3rd when Tim was out on the streets in Southwick Square with local councillors to meet shoppers. A string of surgeries are planned for the next few Saturday mornings where anyone can turn up with their queries without an appointment as follows:



Saturday 24th Oct. 11 – 1 outside Guildbourne Centre (jointly with Peter Bottomley MP)
Saturday 31st Oct. 10 – 12 The Community House, Dominion Road, Worthing

Meanwhile Tim's normal constituency surgeries are held fortnightly on the following dates and

appointments can be booked through the Worthing office on 01903 235168.

Friday 23rd October at Ropetackle, Shoreham

Saturday 7th November in Sompting

Friday 20th November in Southwick

Friday 4th December at Ropetackle

Friday 18th December in Worthing

Bowled over for the lifeboats

Tim bowled the opening bowl of a special cricket match at Southwick at the end of the season and then promptly had to do it again because it was a wide! The match was organised by Southwick Conservatives in memory of local activist and keep cricket and lifeboat supporter Samsul Bhurki who died earlier this year. A team from Shoreham lifeboats with a few ringers took on a Southwick CC side and narrowly lost but not before over £700



had been raised for the new lifeboat appeal. There are now plans to make this into an annual fundraising event for local charities. Many thanks to Adam Walter, Chairman of the Southwick CC, and David Cassan, lifeboat organiser.

Last weekend Tim was again out supporting the lifeboat by acting as auctioneer at a charity ball in aid of the appeal which has now raised more than £450,000 of the £1 million needed. For details of how to support the appeal for a new Shoreham lifeboat now that the building of the new lifeboat station is well underway, see www.rnli.org.uk/shorehamappeal.

Still buzzing

One of Tim's most fascinating trips over the summer recess was to visit the Laboratory for Apiculture and Social Insects at Sussex University where Professor Francis Ratnieks is one of the country's leading experts on bee health.

At the laboratory, Tim learned about the importance of the honey bee to our environment, and how critical funding for research is needed to help discover why these amazing animals are in decline. Tim has supported this initiative in parliament, where he has campaigned for increased money for research.



Vale protest continues

Angry Findon Valley residents have kept up their protests against the determination of West Sussex County Council Children's Services department to go ahead with the Children & Family centre on the already overcrowded school site despite over 250 letters in protest and only 6 in favour, and alternative sites not being properly researched. The building work started mid way through August and is continuing well in to term time with pupils having to work around heavy plant machinery and large lorry deliveries. They have also been told that cycling to school has been suspended until further notice. The residents and parents are not taking the decision lying down and the Select Committee for Children's services at County hall has agreed to look into the debacle.



Snap

Tim is delighted to have been nominated as president of Southwick Camera Club and was able to visit exhibitions by some of the Club members over the summer to see some of the local talent at first hand and how good the competition is with his entries to the Annual Parliamentary photo exhibition. For more details, see www.southwickcameraclub.co.uk

Parks and Minds

As a former Shadow Minister for mental Health Tim has been supporting local mental health projects over the summer and together with Peter Bottomley attended the 'Parks and Minds' project run by Worthing MIND, which has seen a makeover for part of Denton Gardens in Worthing. Tim was also delighted to be able to launch the Men's Service at the As You Are Centre in Southwick, which aims to provide workshops and therapy sessions to combat the stress and mental strain induced by the economic downturn, which could lead to higher rates of depression and suicide in men. Tim has helped the centre secure a £10,000 grant from the BIG Lottery Fund. For more details on both projects, see www.asyouarecentre.co.uk



Sunshine for Shoreham

Tim carried out the official opening of the new Sunshine Nursery in Tarmount Lane which is now occupying the former police station and then CVS building.



It could be you

Tim joined Mick and Chriss Smith as well as representatives from Spurgeons and Worthing Homes together with parents and children at the official party at Mick's Garage Community House in Dominion Road Worthing to celebrate the £450,000 lottery grant which has secured the funding of the fantastic project for the next 5 years. Tim and Broadwater councillors Kevin Skepper and Don Allen will be holding a drop in surgery for local residents at Mick's garage from 10-12 on Saturday October 31st.



Regional quango

Under sufferance Tim joined around 35 other MPs at the inaugural meeting of the South East Regional grand Committee meeting held in Reading on September 14th. Conservatives voted against setting up this latest talking shop and only went along to make sure we could not be accused of trying to boycott it, as other regional meetings had been inquorate and had to be abandoned. In the event, the question time to the Minister for the South East, Jonathan Shaw and the subsequent debate on identifying economic growth sectors in the South East and ensuring

their maximal growth, was not exactly unmissable and let's hope these talking shops are short lived!

Plenty of public meetings

Tim has organised 3 meetings with residents in the last month in Lancing alone. He brokered a meeting between councillors and residents of Penhill Road concerned about speeding traffic and difficulties with parking. The highways department at the county council are now instituting a further traffic study and looking at ways of enforcing parking restrictions although there is no easy answer which ultimately lies with density of housing problems.

Residents of Upper Boundstone Lane have been up in arms about the new plans submitted for the rebuilding of Boundstone (now the Sir Robert Woodard Academy) particularly regarding traffic access problems and the emergence of a new entrance to the school. So many people turned up to raise their concerns with Tim and local County Councillors Angie Mills and Dave Simmons that the meeting had to be held in a back garden in Upper Boundstone Lane. The school has now dropped plans to add a new entrance in Abbey Road and will be holding a full public meeting to address other questions about the footprint of the school and traffic at the school on November 3rd at 7.30.

Meanwhile in another part of Lancing residents around Finches Close asked Tim and local councillors Pat Beresford and Ann Terry to come and hear their concerns about the building work for new houses replacing the old St Giles residential home off Elm Grove. Tim has contacted the builders Crest Nicholson who are trying to keep noise and dust pollution down whilst further information is being sought from the Planning Department about restrictions on the original plans and why residents were not consulted properly.

Worthing churches on a mission

Tim praised the dedication and unsung contribution of Christian based projects in and around Worthing when he spoke at the recent mission community festival at St. Paul's church, which has been recently renovated and reopened. Over a Friday and Saturday earlier this month, a range of activities, exhibitions and workshops were put on by Worthing Christians, making a thoroughly enjoyable and engaging programme. Many thanks to organisers Lisa Hector and Mike Tyler (pictured).



Fishersgate Open Day

There was a fantastic turnout for the Fishersgate Family Fun Day on a very sunny September Saturday organised by Adur District Council, West Sussex County Council and Worthing Homes. Tim attended the event, which featured live music, and many free fun activities, and enjoyed listening to the views of residents as part of a wider consultation of the sustainable community strategy, Waves Ahead, being developed by Adur and Worthing Councils. If you are interested in getting involved in community projects in Fishersgate, e-mail Elaine Ross of Fishersgate Together at ftogether@wsqfl.org.uk.



Congratulations to the Friends of Broadwater Cemetery

Tim has joined members of the constituency in congratulating Major Tom Wye and the Friends of Broadwater Cemetery, (of which Tim is the President), for securing a £31,300 lottery grant which will be used to renovate the area, restore memorials and provide visitor information to the site, in which many items of historical interest may be found. The cemetery has been neglected in recent years, and vandalism had taken its toll, but thanks to the money, improvements will soon be made.

Another award for Shoreham Toll Bridge

Tim was on hand at County Hall to present the West Sussex Design and Sustainability Awards in September, where one such accolade went to the Shoreham Toll Bridge. The excellent restoration project was cited as the reason for the award being given, and is the latest recognition for the local engineering success story. Many congratulations must go to Cllr. Lisa McKinny for all her hard work on the project.

Goodbye to Seamill Park Crescent's mast

After a campaign which has gone on for more than 5 years the mobile phone operator has at last dismantled its mast on the council depot site behind Seamill Park Crescent in East Worthing. Tim and local councillors had been on at O2 for years to relocate the mast which towers over a number of gardens in the road and the company had repeatedly made undertakings to dismantle the mast and share use with a new site far away from houses in the water works off Western Road. Better late than never!

Campaign to Save the ASP

A campaign has been launched to rescue a 20 year-old local respite care charity, the Adur Special Needs Project, which only has enough money to keep open until December. If it does not receive at least £20,000 by the end of the year, the vital service to up to 50 children will not be able to run, and many users with severe disabilities and challenging behaviour will struggle to find any comparable service in the area. Tim has long supported this fantastic organisation, and will be auctioneer at their upcoming charity auction. Adur District Council has also helped get the project off to a great start, with an £8,000 grant, but this vital community service needs continued support. Tim will be taking part in a sponsored walk on Saturday 30th October to raise money for the organisation. For more information, see www.adurspecialneedsproject.com.

The New St Barnabas

As a patron of St Barnabas hospice Tim was given a tour round the site for the new state of the art hospice being built off Titnore Lane and where work is well on schedule to be completed by June next year for an opening later in the autumn. Of the near £13m estimated cost there is still a further £3m to raise and all offers of help with fundraising will; be gratefully accepted. Tim also went on to meet staff at the Chestnut Tree House Hospice outside Arundel (where he is pictured with Chief executive Hugh Lawson and Linda Perry from the Hospice) and signed up for their monthly lottery scheme. For further details see www.chestnut-tree-house.org.uk.

Recycling Figures

Adur and Worthing Residents have given a joint recycling and refuse service the thumbs up, according to a survey carried out by their respective councils earlier in the year. Recycling rates have now reached just under 40% (an increase of almost 15% on recycling levels before the new wheelie bins were introduced) and litter on the streets has been reduced by 11,000 tonnes. 95% of surveyed residents in Adur and Worthing rated the recycling service as excellent or good.

Busy for Business

Tim attended two business exhibitions in September. He first joined Peter Bottemley MP at the Worthing and Adur Chamber of Commerce and Industry Business 2 Business Exhibition at the Charmandean Centre, where Channel 4's 'Secret Millionaire' Gill Fielding made a speech. He then attended the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) Power of Promotion and Business Development Exhibition, which presented a series of seminars designed to help small and start up businesses, and gave out awards at the end.

Lollipop Person of the Year Competition

Is your school shown across the road in exceptional style? If so, vote for your lollipop person, in the annual Kwik Fit Insurance Lollipop person of the year award, now launched in the constituency. Tim will be visiting primary schools across the constituency to drum up support for those hard working men and women who make road crossing much safer for us all! Nominations can be in any form, and can be whole school, class or individual efforts. For more information, see www.bestlollipop.co.uk.



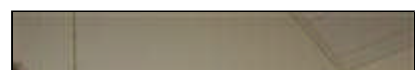
Signal Box Visit

Tim and Peter Bottomley visited Lancing Signal Box in September, which controls all train movements along the coastal line around Shoreham and Worthing to see at first hand the operational problems, and particularly take up the problem of traffic hold ups at the many level crossings in the area. Senior management at Railtrack have been looking at the problem which has been made worse by new timetables adding extra trains to the line. This is a rather insoluble problem which Railtrack are working on and the MPs urged them to make a stronger case to the Department of Transport for investment in alternatives to level crossings.



Canine Partners Visit

Tim got the opportunity to visit the Canine Partners charity in



Heyshott, which aims to transform the lives of disabled people by enabling them to lead more independent lives through providing trained assistance dogs. Over the past, Tim has helped to raise the profile of this charity, and has worked with constituents who have canine partners. This is a fantastic, progressive charity that makes a real difference to people's lives. For more information, see www.caninepartners.co.uk.

RSPCA Award for Worthing

Tim has been invited to join Worthing Borough Council in celebrating their achievement of an RSPCA silver stray dog footprint award, as part of the Community Animal Welfare Footprints award scheme, at the RSPCA's parliamentary reception later this month. Tim wishes to extend his congratulations to the Worthing Council, who have been rewarded for providing an outstanding level of animal care.

Anger and Disappointment at No Award for Hero

Tim has voiced his disappointment at the MoD's decision not to give Henry Allingham a posthumous award for his extraordinary courage and remarkable achievement. Tim led the campaign to get Britain's most famous First World War veteran recognized, and attended Allingham's funeral. Tim also remarked that the MoD should have recognized Allingham's 'unique contribution' to our country with an award. The MoD have commented that it is not usual practice to give such an award posthumously.



Adur's pot of gold gets a boost

Tim welcomed the news that Adur District Council's 'pot of gold' fund of £100,000 has received an extra £20,000 for smaller projects. The money is to be spent on community projects that improve the appearance of the district and of equipment within the district. Voluntary organizations, charities, community groups, residents associations or individual residents themselves can put forward suggestions as to how the money should be spent. The closing date for bids is 13th November, and public voting starts on 21st December. For more details call 01903 221109 or email sarah.garbutt@worthing.gov.uk.

West Sussex Parents' Forum

In August Tim met a group of parents living in West Sussex, all of whom have children with disabilities or special needs. The group works alongside West Sussex County Council and other professionals to improve services for families in West Sussex with children who have additional needs. Tim was able to learn more about the work they do and the challenges they face. The Forum is supported by the West Sussex Children's Trust. For more details, see www.westsussexparentsforum.co.uk.

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