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## Tim Loughton MP's Parliamentary E-Newsletter

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### Dear Constituents,

Welcome to my first E-newsletter of the new session of Parliament. After the frenzy over the election that never was back at the beginning of October I am looking forward to getting on with the proper legislative business of Parliament and have outlined below the Bills announced in the Queen's speech at the State Opening of Parliament on November 6th.

The latest information on MPs salary and expenses were published on October 24th. I have made details of them are available on my [website](#). Please do [visit it](#) - I hope it will help people see exactly what taxpayers are paying MPs to do.

I do hope you find this newsletter of interest - my apologies for the length of it - it is the first one we're sending out during this new session of Parliament so it is rather fuller than usual. Please do feel free to send me any suggestions for what else you'd like to see included in the next edition.

Yours,

Tim Loughton  
MP for East Worthing and Shoreham

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### **KWASH Campaign urges people to respond to consultation**

The battle to save Worthing and Southlands Hospitals continues and we are nearing the end of the West Sussex Primary Care Trust's Fit for the Future consultation.

**The consultation officially closes at 9am on the 14th of November. Please make sure you have responded to the consultation - you can email the PCT on [fitforthefuture@westsussexpct.nhs.uk](mailto:fitforthefuture@westsussexpct.nhs.uk) This is your last chance to influence the outcome of the consultation - if you want to save your local hospitals make sure you make your voice heard.**



[Keep Worthing and Southlands Hospitals](#) will be holding an all night vigil at Worthing Hospital beginning in the evening of the 13th. Campaigners will then push the famous KWASH hospital bed from the hospital to the headquarters of the West Sussex Primary Care Trust where a petition containing over 100,000 signatures will be handed over to PCT chief executive John Wilderspin.

In the last month the PCT held its last public meeting at the Pavilion Theatre. Campaigners marched through the streets ahead of the meeting in another impressive show of support for the campaign. The questions at the meeting clearly showed the strength of local feeling and once

again emphasised to health bosses that people do not want their excellent local hospitals to be downgraded.

This was a message also rammed home to the Secretary of State for Health Alan Johnson and Prime Minister Gordon Brown as campaigners took to the streets in Westminster, again pushing the famous KWASH hospital bed.

Campaigners pushed the bed down Millbank in Westminster, past Big Ben and the House of Commons. They then protested outside the Department of Health headquarters in Whitehall and in front of the gates to 10 Downing Street as seen in the picture opposite.

A certificate showing the number of petition signatures collected was handed in to both the Secretary of State and the Prime Minister.

Tim is encouraging as many people as possible to still respond to the consultation. He said: "Make sure you get your response in before 9am on November 14th. Every letter, every view really does count. The time to make the difference is now. Please make sure you don't leave it to others. Write, phone or email and make your voice heard."

Against this background, there are signs that the PCT is now listening to what the clinicians at Worthing and Southlands have been saying all along – that the clinicians have other proposals to put forward, ones that are in the best interests of patients. For the last few weeks discussion have been taking place that will potentially see a fuller range of emergency services kept at both Worthing and Chichester. Those discussions are ongoing and are welcome.

All the way through this battle campaigners have urged the PCT to open this genuine dialogue with the clinicians and at last it has happened. New proposals will be put to the PCT but finally there is a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel.

For more information please visit [www.kwash.org.uk](http://www.kwash.org.uk)

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## **Bills Announced in the Queen's Speech**

Gordon Brown has today set out his Parliamentary programme for the next year. A summary of the legislation outlined in the Queen's Speech is detailed below.

In his capacity as Shadow Minister for Children, Tim will lead for the Conservatives on the Children and Young Persons Bill which is likely to come to the Commons in January 08.

**Apprenticeships Bill** - will give 16 to 18-year-olds an entitlement to an apprenticeship.

**Banking Bill** – will make changes to the banking system and framework in place for relations between the Government and banks.

**Channel Tunnel Rail Link Bill** – will redefine the position of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link

**Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill** – will set up the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission to replace the Child Support Agency.

**Children and Young Persons Bill** – will aim to improve standards for children in care.

**Citizenship and Immigration Bill** – will look at recommendations of review of citizenship by former Attorney General Lord Goldsmith.

**Climate Change Bill** - will create a legal framework to reduce the UK's carbon dioxide emissions.

**Constitutional Renewal Bill** – will readdress the power balance between the Government and Parliament.

**Counter-Terrorism Bill** – will aim to enable post-charge questioning of those charged with terrorism.

**Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill** – will make changes to the sentencing framework and the law on pornography and self-defence.

**Crossrail Bill** – will give necessary powers to build Crossrail.

**Cultural Property Bill** – will make changes to the law on cultural artefacts collected during war.

**Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts Bill** - will allow the government to use money held in bank and building society accounts which have not been used for 15 years.

**EC Finance Bill** - will amend the European Communities Act 1972

**Education and Skills Bill** – will ensure all children up to the age of 18 are in education or training.

**Employment Bill** – will make it easier to enforce employment law.

**Energy Bill** - will aim to increase incentives for renewable energy generation

**EU Reform Treaty Bill** - will bring into law, without a referendum, the EU Reform Treaty

**Health and Social Care Bill** - will establish the Care Quality Commission

**Heritage Protection Draft Bill** – will put forward a unified heritage protection system.

**Housing and Regeneration Bill** - will merge the Housing Corporation and English Partnerships.

**Human Tissues and Embryos Bill** – will regulate the use of all human embryos outside the body.

**Local Transport Bill** – will aim to give local authorities more control over local transport.

**Marine Bill** - will put forward a new system of planning for marine and offshore developments.

**Marine Navigation and Port Safety Bill** – will give more power to lighthouse authorities.

**National Insurance Contributions Bill** - will make changes to the upper earnings limit (UEL) for national insurance contributions.

**Pensions Bill** – will reform access to pensions schemes.

**Planning Reform Bill** – will make changes to the planning system for large developments and small home changes.

**Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Bill** – will make changes to regulations placed on businesses by local authorities.

**Sale of Student Loans Bill** – will privatise the student loan debt book.

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### **Tim: “Keep Warm this Winter in East Worthing and Shoreham”**

Tim is celebrating the work the Warm Front scheme does in his constituency to help the most vulnerable in the community to keep warm and stay healthy.



Warm Front, which combats fuel poverty by installing central heating and heat saving insulation work into the homes of vulnerable people, has so far assisted 3118 households in East Worthing and Shoreham - a total spend of £2,473,335.55 in the area. For example, 931 households have benefited from a brand new central heating system or repair to their current central heating system and 1942 have benefited from energy saving insulation measures since they have operated the scheme (1 June 2000 to 30 June 2007).

Tim commented: “The Warm Front scheme provides heating and insulation to the homes of some of my most vulnerable constituents. Affordable heat is a basic need that all should be able to benefit from, as a warm home is a healthy, happy home.”

To qualify, householders need to own their own home or rent from a private landlord, and they also need to be in receipt of an income or disability related benefit. **Local residents can contact the Warm Front team on 0800 316 6014 to apply for a grant.**

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### **Sustainable Communities Bill passes into law**

Tim is delighted that the Sustainable Communities Bill – which was presented to Parliament by the Conservative Party - has now received Royal Assent and will become law. A large number of constituents had lobbied Tim to support the Bill’s progress. The Act aims to reverse the decline of local communities and will require the Government to work with local authorities to publish and implement action plans which would reinvigorate local services and local economic activity.

Between 1997-2003, 200 police stations have closed down and 50 specialist stores such as butchers and fish-mongers have closed every week and between 1992 – 2004 a massive 4,000 bank branches have closed down. However, between 1997-2004, 162 green belt developments have been approved - populations and developments are increasing and yet the infrastructure available to support them is declining.

This Act will also give greater powers to local councils by reducing the reach of Whitehall, unelected quangos and the new regional bodies. Tim welcomed the new laws and said: "I believe local people know best about local priorities – this Bill is a big step down the road towards localism and will give Adur and Worthing Councils greater control over their own budgets and the environmental impact of their policies."

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### **Vote for a New Footbridge**

Tim is supporting the charity Sustrans in their campaign to win money for a new footbridge in Shoreham. Sustrans works towards promoting sustainable ways to travel, such as walking and cycling, which are good for the environment and for people's health. The charity is behind the campaigns Safe Routes to Schools and Bike It and campaign to ensure that pedestrians and cyclists have quick and easy access to local services.



In December Sustrans Connect2 project will be competing against three other charitable projects to win a Big Lottery Fund grant of £50 million. If Sustrans are successful, part of this £50 million will go towards a new footbridge in Shoreham which would enable children to cycle to school safely. Indeed children really want to be able to cycle to school – 31% would if they could but only 1% of them do.

The winner of the Lottery grant will be decided by a public vote. You can find out more by visiting [www.thepeoples50million.org.uk](http://www.thepeoples50million.org.uk). Online voting begins on 26th November and telephone voting will take place over the weekend of 7th-9th December. Sustrans are running a service to remind you to vote – to be sent a reminder you will either need to text 'Connect2' to 80010 or call Sustrans on 0845 058 13 73.

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### **Tim backs calls for a referendum on EU treaty**

In 2005 the Government promised to hold a referendum on the proposed EU Constitution and yet now they have backtracked and are refusing to let the voters have their say on whether the new EU treaty should be passed. This despite the fact that only 10 out of 250 proposals in the "new" treaty are different from the proposals in the original EU Constitution - 96% of the text is the same as the Constitution.

Tim has joined the cross party ***I Want a Referendum*** campaign which aims to press the Government to keep its promise to hold a referendum on the revived Constitutional Treaty. Over 25,000 people have already signed the petition calling for a referendum. If you want to sign the petition yourself you can find out more at [www.iwantareferendum.com](http://www.iwantareferendum.com)

Tim commented: "This treaty is merely the constitution under a different name – I would urge all my constituents join me in calling for a referendum."

The **Tell Tim** website will soon feature a video podcast on the issue, along with a survey through which constituents will be able to make their views known.

Tim created [www.telltim.co.uk](http://www.telltim.co.uk) in order to keep in touch with his constituents' views on topical local and national issues. The [current survey](#) is on the campaign to Keep Worthing and Southlands Hospitals (KWASH).

### **Tim attends Worthing Youth Council environmental video launch**

In mid October, Tim attended the first public viewing of the innovative DVD produced by Worthing Youth Council to engage young people in environmental issues. The DVD is called Use It Don't Abuse It, and its production was made possible after Tim secured a £10,000 grant for the project from Norwich Union. This grant was matched by a grant by the youth volunteering charity V.

The event was chaired by Youth Mayor Peter Fullilove and those present had the first opportunity watch Use It Don't Abuse It, plot of which involves four teenagers who learn to take responsibility for environmental issues. The DVD was produced written, acted, filmed and scripted entirely by young people involved in Worthing Youth Council and Worthing Youth Theatre.



Worthing Youth Council also helped to create a work pack for teachers which will accompany the DVDs when it is sent out to Middle Schools in Worthing. Also as part of the project, the Youth Council have held litter picking events throughout Worthing which have been attended by a large number of 16-25 year olds.

Tim commented: "I hope this fantastic DVD will inspire the young people in my constituency to play their part in saving the environment – both within the local community and campaigning to have environmental issues taken seriously at a national level."

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### **Tim: "We must stop the closure of our local post offices"**

There are currently fewer than 8,000 rural post offices in the UK and the Government are determined to close 2,500 more by the end of 2008. Since 1997 a quarter of the Post Office network has already closed and East Worthing and Shoreham have lost nine of their branches.

Starting in November this year there will be a six week consultation to decide what will happen to the Post Offices in Adur and Worthing. Tim will be making clear his views that "Post Office services in East Worthing and Shoreham have already been cut to the bone and further cuts are complete madness.

Tim has also commented that "We have a large elderly population and Post Offices are particularly valuable to them. If the Government go ahead with these changes they will not only be undermining a vital lifeline but they will also be handing a death sentence to small shops that rely on post offices to bring business to their parade of shops."

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### **Tim urges children to stay safe on the roads**

Tim is supporting a scheme which gives out pedestrian reflectors (cat's eyes) to school children and encourages them to stay safe and seen on the roads as winter is drawing in. The scheme, Cats' Eyes for Kids, is in its seventh year and is run by Nationwide Building Society. All children in Year One will be given an



individual reflector to wear when they are out and about.

Research from Finland, where pedestrian reflectors have been used successfully for more than 30 years, show that children there are eight times safer with a reflector than without.

Under the scheme over 1 million reflectors and teaching resource packs will be distributed directly to new intake pupils through individual primary schools during October and November. A child pedestrian is visible at 30 metres with low beam headlights, whereas a child pedestrian wearing a reflector is visible at 150 metres with low beam headlights.

For more information please visit [www.nationwide.co.uk](http://www.nationwide.co.uk)

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### **Tim supports Police in row over Cannabis Café**

Tim has been working closely with the Police to try and close down the Cannabis Café operating off Freshbrook Road in Lancing. As with the previous cannabis cafes there is a 'minefield' of legal requirements to go through when dealing with these establishments but Tim was pleased to learn about the recent high profile raid by the Police and hopes that further action will be taken soon so that local residents no longer have to suffer this blot on the local landscape.

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### **Tim in Parliament**

In early October Tim led on a Westminster Hall debate for the Conservatives and called for better support for children with speech, language and communication difficulties. To read the full text of his speech please click [here](#).



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### **News on Lancing Community Association**

Congratulations to the North Lancing Community Association on its first anniversary which it celebrated at a party at St James' Church Hall in Lancing last Friday 26th October. Their excellent website can be accessed at [www.northlancing.com](http://www.northlancing.com)

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### **Tim opens annexe to Worthing MS Treatment Centre**

Tim has been a long supporter of the work carried out by Worthing's MS treatment centre and at the end of September he had the privilege of opening an annexe to their treatment centre which means that even more people will be able to benefit from their impressive work.



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### **Another Midnight Football Success**

The last of the four pilot Midnight Football sessions organised by Tim has now taken place. Over this Summer and early Autumn Tim and the local community encouraged all boys and girls aged between 13-17 years who like playing sport to come along and play Midnight Football and basketball at Southwick Leisure Centre.

It was a great opportunity for young people, who might otherwise be hanging round on the streets late at night, to get together over the weekend in a safe environment and do what many of them enjoy the most – play sport!

Tim will now be meeting those involved in running the initiative to discuss the viability of making a regular event for local kids.

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### **Tim measures his carbon footprint**

In October Tim launched the start of One World Week and had his carbon footprint measured. The charity One World Week was founded by the World Development Movement in the late 1970s and aims to encourage people to take care of the environment and the earth's resources.

Here he is pictured with Ashely Ralston, chairman of Shoreham Churches Together's One World Week Committee who organised the event. (Picture reproduced with the kind permission of the Shoreham Herald [www.shorehamherald.co.uk](http://www.shorehamherald.co.uk))



Tim also continues to receive a great deal of correspondence on the proposed Climate Change Bill. Tim has welcomed the introduction of the Climate Change Bill and will be working towards making the final Bill a stronger and more demanding piece of legislation that will ensure Britain is at the forefront of the global conversion to a de-carbonised economy while also ensuring our commitment to adaptation and mitigation measures for the developing world.

Tim has said of the Bill: "Unless we ensure that man-made carbon emissions peak by 2015 and reduce steadily thereafter, we will be by then unable to prevent dangerous levels global warming. The world cannot now avoid at least 1.5 degrees temperature increase due to the pollution already in our atmosphere and the worst effects of this change, as your postcard correctly notes, will be felt in the developing world."

Tim commented: "We all need to be aware of the impact we are having on the environment so we can take steps to reduce the harm we are doing to the planet's natural resources."

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### **Surgery Details**

Tim's forthcoming surgery dates are as follows:

16th November in Shoreham  
30th November in Worthing  
7th December in Southwick

To book an appointment please ring Tim's constituency office on 01903 235168

On Saturday 10th November Tim is holding a drop in surgery in East Worthing Community centre in Selden with local councillors from 10am-midday. On the same day local Sompting councillors will holding a drop in surgery in Lancing Housing Base which is on North Road from 11am-1pm.

Last Saturday 3rd November Tim joined local Southwick Councillors Julie Searle, Janet Mockridge and Jim Funell for a special street surgery in Southwick Square.

During the surgery Tim and the local Councillors launched a petition to save the No9 bus service which is under threat. At present, the service runs every hour from Littlehampton to Southwick Square. As from December 9th Stagecoach is threatening to terminate the service at Holmbush. The 'Save Our Bus Service' petition has been drawn up by Cllr Julie Searle and is supported by all six Southwick councillors. To sign the petition please [email](#) Cllr Seale.

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