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## Tim Loughton MP's Parliamentary E-Newsletter

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### Welcome to my E-Newsletter

Dear Constituent

Firstly can I wish you all a happy new year, and as prosperous a one as the credit crunch conditions may allow! Parliament returned after the Christmas recess on January 12th but I am glad to say that I was in the office well before that to confront the post Christmas swollen postbag. I have included in this first e-newsletter of 2009 a number of items from before and after Christmas. As Shadow Minister for Children & Young People I am sorry to say that much of my time at Westminster continues to be taken up with child protection issues with baby murders in Doncaster and Huddersfield taking over the headlines from baby P in Haringey and I fear there will still be more to come. I have also just signed off my new Annual Report which is with the printers and I hope hard copy will be delivered to every door in the constituency throughout February. I will make sure that a copy is attached to the next newsletter and it will also be downloadable from my website from February. As always if you have any suggestions you would like to raise for future editions please do let me know.



Best wishes

Tim Loughton

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### MPs Expenses and Freedom of Information

This week MPs will debate whether their expenses will be exempt from the Freedom of Information Act. Commenting, Tim said:

'I have been publishing my expenses for the last couple of years in my Annual Report and on my website. I think that the Government's announcement out of the blue last week that the publication of MPs expenses is to be changed at this late stage is highly regressive and obviously gives an unfair impression to people that there is something to hide. For those of us who have done our best to promote parliamentary transparency and communication with our constituents it is particularly galling. I therefore intend to be in the House to vote against these measures on Thursday and I have also signed an Early Day Motion opposing these proposals.'

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### Worthing on Ice

Tim will be at the official opening of the Worthing Ice Rink at Steyne Gardens on Saturday 31st January. This will kick off a whole month of the open-air ice rink being open to members of the public all day every day. The charges will be £6 per hour for adults and £4 per hour for children including skates. There is a capacity of 120 people. In addition other stalls are planned in Steyne Gardens to add to the party atmosphere. Tim is urging everyone to make good use of the facility and has congratulated the council for responding to his suggestion a year ago having seen the

success in the open-air ice rinks at key locations around London over Christmas and which has also been strongly supported by Worthing's Youth cabinet. If the pilot is successful, it could lead to a permanent feature in Worthing in the future.

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#### **Grove Lodge Survey Results: thumbs down for new lights**

A huge number of constituents responded to Tim's TellTim survey on Grove Lodge roundabout. At present the results show that 62.8% of people think that the traffic lights at Grove Lodge have made traffic flow on the A27 **worse** than it was before, and 74.2% think that they have made flow on the north and south approach roads worse than before. 57.1% of respondents thought that the traffic lights should only operate at peak hours and that this should be trialled for an experimental period. A good many people have also left helpful suggestions which Tim has passed on to the Highways Agency who are completing their review of the changes. Tim will make sure this is properly reported back to residents. If you would like to see the survey, please visit [www.telltim.co.uk](http://www.telltim.co.uk).



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#### **Update on Marine Bill**

Commenting on the new Marine Bill, Tim said: 'Governments have a poor record on the marine environment and we have consistently called for a Marine Bill to be published. We have been duly disappointed by the delay, dithering and the low priority the Government has given marine issues so far. It is essential the Bill includes provisions to identify multi-purpose marine protected areas, which the Government has so far failed to do. A flexible and targeted protection of marine areas is preferable to setting 30 per cent of marine areas as no-take zones. Some areas need greater levels of protection than others. However, in certain circumstances, it may be possible to continue using less environmentally damaging fishing practices, such as those involving the use of lines rather than trawling. This means taking important appropriate steps to conserve the particular aspect of that marine area, but not placing unnecessary restrictions on other activities which have no impact on that particular conservation effort. We also need to improve scientific data so that we can take appropriate action to conserve our marine life.' As yet there no parliamentary timetable for the Marine Bill has been announced.

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#### **David Chapman Retires from CAB**

Tim and Peter Bottomley joined the Mayor, the National Chairman of CAB and other local residents at David Chapman's retirement party at the Town Hall early in the New Year. David is retiring after seven years running the Worthing Citizen's Advice Bureau and many more years working for the CAB in Worthing and elsewhere. He has steered the CAB through many difficult years, not least financially and led a strong team faced with a sharply increasing workload, particularly relating to debt matters in the current recession. We wish David well for a long and happy retirement. If you need to contact the CAB they can be reached on 01903532662 (Worthing), 01273453756 (Shoreham), 01903755585 (Lancing).



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#### **Response to NSPCC Statement on Baby P**

Tim has received several letters about the NSPCC's statement on Baby P. The text of his response

can be viewed on his website <http://www.timloughton.com/news/news2009Jan13n1.asp>.

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### **Worthing Philharmonic Choir**

Tim is honoured to have been made President of the Worthing Philharmonic Choir. He hopes that as many people as possible will attend their performance of the Mozart Requiem on 10 April at 7.30pm in the Assembly Hall, Stoke Abbott Road, Worthing BN111HQ. For tickets please call the box office on 01903206206. Visit their website at [www.worthingphilharmonicchoir.org.uk](http://www.worthingphilharmonicchoir.org.uk).



### **Congratulations to Charles Partridge MBE**

Congratulations to Charles Partridge who appears to be the only constituent of Tim's to be mentioned in the New Year's honours list. Charles who is part of the long-established Shoreham Partridge family has been awarded the MBE for public service, for which many congratulations.

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### **Parley Presentation at Worthing Hospital**

On Thursday 4 December in the play room of Worthing Hospital's Children's Ward Tim made a speech explaining how local charity PARLEY had raised money for a new state of the art electric cot which they were donating to the Hospital. Tim then introduced Father Christmas to the children who explained that he had had to come early to deliver a present so large it wouldn't fit down any chimneys. Santa then wheeled in the new cot wrapped in silver paper with a huge bow containing all the extra presents inside ... including a digital television and a Nintendo Wii kindly donated by Peter Saywell of local firm Saywell International. Visit [www.parleyonline.co.uk](http://www.parleyonline.co.uk).



### **Equitable Life Compensation Announcement**

Tim has welcomed the Government's admission of regulatory failings and their announcement that they will compensate the victims of the Equitable Life fiasco. The Government has asked a senior judge, Sir John Chadwick, to draw up a scheme for making payments to policyholders. However, despite admitting responsibility, the Government has torn up the Ombudsman's timetable for compensation and there is no guarantee when policyholders will receive any payments for the losses they have suffered. After years of delays and government attempts to withhold compensation, policyholders now face a long wait for payment. Tim commented, 'It is surprising that by suggesting that payments are means tested, the Government has ignored the conclusion of the government-dominated Public Administration Select Committee in their report on Equitable Life that 'the payment of compensation is not a matter of charity, but a requirement of justice to redress a wrong. We now need to see the scheme that Sir John Chadwick proposes. I will continue to push the Government in Parliament, using all means at our disposal, for a speedy conclusion to this fiasco and more details on the scheme.'

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### **Tim Backs Warm Front Campaign**

The Warm Front fair organised by Tim at Lancing Parish Hall before Christmas was a great success attracting over 100 local people to get expert advice on whether they qualified for grants to make energy improvements to their homes and for other benefits. A number of people left the event with information that should make them better off and a number of follow up cases are



being taken up by Warm Front, the Benefits Advisory Service and the CAB who were all in attendance. In addition local councillors Ann Bridges, Fred Lewis, Tony Nicklen and Robert Dunn were kept busy on their stand by local residents attending their drop-in surgery. Based on the success of the Lancing event it is hoped to repeat a similar exercise in Fishersgate later in the year.

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### Local Train Petition

Responding to timetable changes by Southern Railway constituent Paul Lovell has set up a petition to register disgust at rising prices and reduced services. If you would like to sign it you can find it at <http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/southern/>. Tim has written to Southern Railways requesting a meeting for local residents raising their concerns over rising prices and timetable changes which have reduced the service along the coast.

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### Holocaust Memorial Day Book of Commitment

To mark Holocaust Memorial Day, Tim has signed a Book of Commitment in the House of Commons to honour those who perished in the Holocaust. On and around Holocaust Memorial Day, schools, local communities and faith groups from across the UK will join together to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. Tim commented, "Holocaust Memorial Day marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and it should also serve as an opportunity to remember and reflect on the horrors of the Holocaust and other genocides. Racism and hate are still very much present in our society and together we have a duty to unite our communities and "Stand Up to Hatred". It is essential to continue to educate youngsters about the Holocaust and encourage them to work together towards a better future".



### West Street Nursery Site Sompting

Following the mass objections by residents as part of the Save Our Sompting campaign together with Tim and local councillors, proposals to re-develop the old nursery and surrounding land for 36 houses has now been withdrawn. The proposals met with a wall of protest given the threat of the new houses dominating this old part of the village in what is a conservation area and within the strategic gap. Tim lodged his own protest with the council and the developers have now withdrawn the application although it is likely that they will seek to submit a new proposal later in the new year. Well done to all those who left into action at short notice and came to the public meeting organised by Tim at the Marquis of Granby. Round one to the residents but it looks as though there is a long way to go yet.

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### Surgery Dates

Tim pictured here with the Southwick councillor team at the drop-in surgery at The Southwick Community centre on January 10th. Appointments for surgeries on the following dates can be made by calling the Worthing office on **01903 235168**

- 23 January, Lancing
- 6 February, Sompting
- 20 February, Worthing



- 6 March, Shoreham
- 20 March, Lancing

**There will be another drop-in surgery in Southwick Community Centre on Saturday February 14th from 11.30 and a chance to meet the local councillors for coffee before that.**

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