



# Tim Loughton's Parliamentary Newsletter

Your local MP updates you on his Parliamentary and Constituency Activities

Welcome to the eleventh edition of my monthly newsletter...

July 2006

Dear Constituents,

**Our local hospitals are under threat.** Facing a deficit of around £100m the Surrey & Sussex Strategic Health Authority have put every hospital under the spotlight to make savings. That includes Worthing and Southlands hospitals which face losing departments such as Accident & Emergency, paediatrics and obstetrics, or outright closure.

St Richard's Hospital in Chichester is also in the frame. If they lost their A&E too imagine travelling into Brighton or to Portsmouth in an emergency. Worthing is the largest town in Sussex. As a result of the Government's house building targets it is a fast growing town – our hospitals should be growing too not shrinking or disappearing altogether. Make no mistake, the proposals contained in the SHA's discussion document 'Fit for the Future' has little to do with modernising the NHS and everything to do with financial expediency.

That is why as your MP I am not taking these threats lying down. I am also determined that we should not play the SHA's game of 'divide and rule' setting one hospital against another. That is why I have linked up with the other MPs on the West Sussex coastal strip – Peter Bottomley (West Worthing); Nick Gibb (Bognor & Littlehampton); Nick Herbert (Arundel South Downs) and Andrew Tyrie (Chichester).

Together we have been petitioning the Government to give a fair share of health funding to Sussex as we continue to suffer from the funding formula that works out how much money we should get compared to other parts of the country largely based on age and deprivation. Yet it does not properly reflect the large elderly population in Sussex who understandably have greater calls on the health service.

We have been meeting the Strategic Health Authority who will make the final decision on cuts; the Primary Care Trust; hospital managers, consultants, nurses, League of Friends etc. We have been raising these issues in Parliament, in our constituencies and in the media and will continue to do so. We have been working with the local councils, across all the parties, and both Adur and Worthing councils have held emergency meetings to give the campaign to save our hospitals their support.

**To coordinate all this we have set up the Keep Worthing And Southlands Hospitals campaign (KWASH) and we have a website [www.kwash.org.uk](http://www.kwash.org.uk)** We have an online petition which has so far attracted over 8000 signatures and a hard copy version which has been signed by even more people. My office has been deluged with letters. With this e-mail is a copy of the petition and of the posters that we are distributing with the help of the Herald who have been backing the campaign. Please download them and distribute them to your friends, family and neighbours. If you can offer any help to our campaign then please let us know through the KWASH website. Lots more information is available there.

The Strategic Health Authority plan to launch a consultation exercise in the autumn but we fear that by that stage decisions will have been made behind closed doors and this will be a token exercise. **That is why it is vital to show the strength of local feeling now. For that purpose Worthing Borough Council have arranged a public meeting and march to be chaired by the mayor and attended by all 4 local MPs and representatives from the hospitals etc. Further details of the meeting and march are on the next page, please do make every effort to come along and show your support.** As events develop I will also be looking to organise a similar event in Adur as Southlands Hospital is very much in the spotlight facing possible closure altogether. Do get in touch if you need more details or can help the campaign and best wishes for the summer.

Yours,



Tim and Shoreham councillors collect signatures for the KWASH petition at Shoreham Farmers Market

**SAVE OUR HOSPITALS MARCH AND PUBLIC MEETING –WEDNESDAY 2nd AUGUST**

The march to the Pavilion Theatre on Worthing promenade starting at 6pm should assemble – Behind the Aquarena coming from the East or

Bottom of George V Avenue coming from the West,

**Bring banners, dress brightly, create a noise.**

The public meeting will be held from 7pm at Worthing Pavilion Theatre on Worthing promenade



*Tim with the friends of Southlands Hospital with KWASH petitions and posters*



*Tim is joined by Peter Bottomley MP and the Chairman of Worthing Hospital Friends Ron Noakes outside Worthing Hospital.*

**Vandalism at Lancing Ring**

Tim has been talking to lancing councillors about the latest vandalism to hit Lancing Ring where a wooden fence has been burnt and damage carried out to the area. There are also worries about vandalism to some of the facilities around the Lancing Manor Ground. Tim also visited Lancing Bowling Club with local councillor and Leisure Committee Chairman Keith Dollemore, to look at ways of improving disabled access. Adur Council and the police are looking into this.

**Mast triumphs**

Mobile mast companies have been on the run in Adur after Adur Council resoundingly rejected 2 applications at its Planning meeting on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Tim joined residents around Rectory Farm Road in Sompting to object to an application by Hutchinson 3G to place a new mast on a factory site right next to homes after inadequate consultation. He also wrote to the Council along

with a great many residents and the plans were thrown out.

At the same time an application for a new mast at the Saltings roundabout in Shoreham was rejected after the Beach Residents secured a petition signed by over 600 residents and supported by Tim. 'This is a triumph for people power over inappropriately sited masts' said Tim after the meeting.

**Tim runs a mile at Fishersgate School**

As you can see from the picture, in mid July Tim and his family ran the Sports Relief Mile at Fishersgate First School to raise money for charity to help underprivileged children in both the UK and in developing worlds.

Later in the month Tim paid a further visit to Fishersgate School with Eastbrook ward councillor Jim Funnell to wish pupils and parents a good summer holiday and discuss with staff and governors the latest news regarding proposals to close the school as part of the Adur school's reorganisation.

Tim and Jim gave their support to the parents and governors who were continuing to fight the school closure until the final decision is made by the Schools Committee on Friday 22nd September. They also praised the way that the campaign had been run and the enormous community spirit that had come to the fore in the face of the threatened closure.



*Picture of Tim running the mile with his wife Liza and the Deputy Head of Fishersgate School, reproduced with kind permission of the Shoreham Herald*

### Parliamentary Recess arrangements

The House of Commons summer recess started on July 26<sup>th</sup> and Parliament reassembles on October 9<sup>th</sup> after the party conference season. The State Opening of parliament for the new session is planned for November 15<sup>th</sup>.

Tim's Westminster office will be staffed over the summer and we will be responding to calls, letters and e-mails. Alternatively the constituency office at Haverfield House, 4 Union Place (01903 235168) in Worthing will be open on most week days.

There will be no August edition of Tim's newsletter but we will be online again before Parliament reassembles. It is likely however that there will continue to be bulletins about the KWASH hospital campaign and if you are on this newsletter distribution list you will automatically receive them unless you ask not to.

Tim's next surgeries are as follows:

Friday 28th July in Southwick, Friday 11th August in Worthing

(Ring 01903 235168 to book an appointment)

### Getting cross with Broadwater C of E School

Tim joined scores of parents, pupils and buggies outside Broadwater School in Rectory Farm Road on July 21<sup>st</sup> to campaign for a crossing to improve safety for young children using the school. The site is on a blind corner and the road is increasingly used as a rat run for cars and lorries avoiding congestion around Broadwater Green. School parent Louise Peters organised a petition of over 400 signatures which is being sent to County Hall and Tim offered to write to County Councillor Tex Pemberton responsible for highways in support. The campaign is also supported by deputy Leader of Worthing Council Ann Barlow who is also a parent at the school and was there to lend a hand on the day.



*Tim with parents and pupils at Broadwater C of E school*

### East Worthing Post Office

Residents of East Worthing have been suffering since the post office closed down the post office in Lyndhurst road last January. Tim has met representatives of the post office to secure **assurances that they have every intention of opening a new post office in the same area** just as soon as they can find suitable premises with someone prepared to come in and run it. So far no firm approaches have been made but the post office are actively seeking a new agent to operate it.

Tim arranged for area post office managers Melanie Corfield and Geoff May to come down to a meeting at the East Worthing Community Centre on July 21<sup>st</sup> to update residents first hand and offer to keep them in touch. They accepted a petition of over 600 signatures organised by local resident Finola Brophy of the East Worthing Post Office Action Group and Resident Group officers Colin and Dot Gregg.

It was explained that as soon as someone was found with a new suitable site it would still take 3 months to get a new post office up and running but they were doing everything they could to expedite this.



*Tim with the petition organisers*

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