



Tim Loughton's Parliamentary Newsletter

Your local MP updates you on his Parliamentary and Constituency Activities

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

June 2006

Dear Constituents,

I hope you are well and have been enjoying the relatively sunny weekends we have been experiencing during the last month. I have been out and about in Adur and East Worthing as usual; on Thursday of this week I went to Kings Manor school to congratulate Year 9 pupils on their performance during the year and next week I am visiting Oakfield Middle School in Lancing.

I have also been out on my one my regular police patrols with the West Sussex police force. I was accompanied by Southwick councillors Julie Searle and Jim Funnel and we were briefed about recent anti-social behaviour incidents in both Shoreham and Lancing which have been causing concern.

Back in London in my capacity as Shadow Children's Minister I visited the Family Courts in order to learn more about the manner in which court proceedings, determine parental access to children after divorce, operate.

Many of you will know my Personal Assistant Kathryn Edwards (at least as a voice on the telephone!). June has been a particularly a happy month for her as she has married her fiancée Julian and become Mrs Kathryn Griffith. I hope you will join me in sending her our best wishes for her married life. Kathryn will return to work from her honeymoon at the end of this month.

On a much sadder note I am very sorry to have to report the death of Southwick County Councillor Ken Eade who has lost his fight with cancer. Ken was also a District Council member for Hillside ward and he will be remembered for the dedication with which he served the Southwick community. Our thoughts are with his widow Carol Eade.

Yours,



Tim is pictured with the actress Jane Asher and other Autism campaigners at the launch of a report to improve education provision for those suffering from Autism.

Delegation to Iran

Earlier in June Tim was selected to join a high ranking delegation of parliamentarians to Iran organised through the Inter parliamentary Union. The trip came at a very sensitive time for relations between Iran and the west and Tim was able to raise a number of topical issues with Iranian parliamentarians and ministers about their country's development of nuclear power, human rights and the situation in Palestine. Tim has written an article about the visit in the House magazine and a full transcript can be seen on his website www.timloughton.com

Tim's next surgeries are as follows:

Special street surgeries where Tim will be accompanied by local councillors will be held on the morning of Saturday 15th July in Southwick Square 10am-midday and at the Shoreham Farmer's Market on 8th July 10am-midday. Regular surgeries will be held in Shoreham on 15th July midday-2pm and Southwick on 28th July 5pm-7pm.

(Ring 01903 235168 to book an appointment)

Tim fights closure of Worthing Hospital A & E Department

Following the news that the vital accident and emergency facilities at Worthing Hospital may be under threat as part of the Surrey and Sussex Strategic Health Authority's round of health service re-organisations, Tim has pledged to fight any cuts in the strongest possible terms.

He is encouraging all constituents who are opposed to cuts to write in and share their concerns in a bid to help stop any changes being taken forward.

Tim said: "The NHS in Surrey and Sussex is in a very poor financial state, and the authorities are preparing to cut some services in order to save the money that the government says they must. Worthing is the largest town in Sussex and as such should keep a full hospital service, including accident and emergency.

"Along with Worthing West MP Peter Bottomley I am putting pressure on the strategic health authority and asking questions in parliament to get to the bottom of what they are trying to do, but we need your help as well. So please get in touch with me either by writing me a letter or sending me an email and add your voice to those calling for no cuts to services at Worthing.

"It is likely that there will be a formal public consultation later in the year, and it is important that we are clear with the authorities just how bitterly opposed to cuts the local community is."

Tim runs Westminster Mile

Tim and his Parliamentary colleagues put their best foot forward when they joined Comic Relief's Sport Relief and ran a mile by St James Park to encourage people to sign up to the nationwide mile long run being held on 15th July.

Tim ran the mile in 7 minutes and 14 seconds and was congratulated on finishing by the athletic legend Robert Bannister.



The inappropriately sited Rectory Farm Road Mast Proposal

On the last Thursday of this month Tim organised a meeting of residents concerned by the proposed new mobile phone mast on Rectory Farm Road and has he has also had a meeting with 3G the mobile phone company behind the suggested mast site.

Fireman Tim

At the beginning of the month Tim visited Shoreham Fire Station with local councillors. They met the station manager and local firemen to discuss the proposals for development of the service on a local level.

Tim was also interested to learn about a fire-station led programme aiming to engage with problematic teenagers.



Tim wants improved wheelchair provision for children

70,000 children across the UK use a wheelchair but the current state of wheel-chair provision means that by the time they receive their wheelchair and the other mobility equipment which they require many of them have already outgrown the appliances they are offered.

In recognition that this has a dramatic impact on these children's future life chances, enjoyment of their childhood

and family life in general Tim has joined the charities Whizz-Kidz and Barnardos to put pressure on the Government to give greater priority within departmental spending to ensuring that all disabled children have access to appropriate wheelchairs.

To read the Parliamentary Motion Tim has signed on this subject please visit [Wheelchair Provision for Children](#)

Adur Festival

This year Tim had the honour of opening the Southwick Society exhibition of local pictures entitled 'Views of Southwick'. The display was at Manor Cottage and was part of the Adur Art Festival.

Hamble Rec Skateboard Ramp

Sompting residents will be aware of problems with anti-social behaviour centred on the skateboard ramp in Hamble Rec. A small number of youths have been intimidating younger children and causing damage to neighbouring stables and being abusive to residents. Tim has been involved in discussions involving the Council, local police, residents and the owners of the stables for some time but the situation is still causing concern. On Saturday June 24th Tim chaired an open meeting at the skateboard ramp organised by Councillor Mel Shaw of Sompting parish Council and around 30 local residents came along and gave their views. The results will be discussed by the parish council and a further larger public meeting to arranged to discuss various options. Representatives of Sompting estates who own the land adjacent to the skateboard ramp were present and announced plans to hold an open day for residents in September to come along and see the work of the estate and plans for conservation work on the reed beds they have recently acquired for example. We will keep everyone posted.



Tim at the ramp with local residents



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Tim opening the annual Sompting Festival which ran from 2nd—4th June this year.
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Tim with the West Sussex Youth Cabinet at County Hall where children hold high profile debates on political issues and show that young people can be active citizens.



Tim shows Boundstone School pupils, who won an award for their school paper, around Parliament



Parliamentary Business

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Bill

The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Bill (SVG) has been introduced by the Government in response to the recommendations of the Bichard Inquiry. It will introduce a new vetting scheme to prevent unsuitable people working with children and vulnerable adults and it will also give new powers to the Police and Social Services to share information about vetting schemes and children at risk of abuse.

Tim is representing the Conservative front bench on this Bill and has been calling for the Government to bring in new regulations in this area for years. As the Bill progresses through Parliament he will continue to scrutinise the Government's proposals to ensure that children are kept safe from paedophiles.

Children and Adoption Bill

As you'll know from previous newsletters, Tim has been leading opposition to the Children and Adoption Bill since it arrived in Parliament in 2005. Tim and his colleagues proposed amendments which would have reduced the number of acrimonious cases which resort to the courts and would have created a legal presumption of co-parenting which would mean that the law stated that children's best interests would be served by having substantial contact with both parents even after divorce.

Unfortunately the Government did not accept Conservative amendments and the original Bill will go on to become law.

This newsletter is published by Tim Loughton MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA. To contact Tim you can email him at loughtont@parliament.uk or fax him on 020 7219 0461. If you have a problem you think Tim could help you with and you would like to meet him to discuss it please ring 01903 235 168 to book at appointment at one of his fortnightly surgeries. Please visit www.timloughton.com for more information about Tim.