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Tim Loughton MP's Parliamentary E-Newsletter

Dear Constituents,

Welcome to my latest e-newsletter which is rather fuller than usual. It has been a busy last month in the constituency away from all the continued furore over MPs expenses. Whilst at Westminster we have just elected a new speaker in the form of John Bercow (I voted for Sir George Young before you ask). On the expenses front I am very grateful for all the very supportive emails I have received not least in response to the last newsletter when I endeavoured to give a full account of my expenses in addition to the information that I have posted on my website for the last few years. Together with Peter Bottomley I held a very lively special street surgery on the expenses issue outside the Guildbourne Centre on May 30th. Around 60 to 70 people came and kept us busy for more than 2 hours and I thought it was a very worthwhile exercise. In fact I rather enjoyed it and have always wanted to more of this sort of thing but people were not interested then!

Inevitably I suppose a few cynics claimed that we held a street surgery to avoid taking some of the issues head-on in front of a public meeting. However, I did say I wanted to do both but wanted to hold a street surgery straight away after the issue blew up. We are now planning to hold a public meeting on **Saturday July 18th at Davisons School, East Worthing, at 2pm**. Anybody is welcome to come along and ask us any question about our expenses but I hope that we can also channel this new found interest in politics for negative reasons into a constructive debate about how we can do our politics better and how people can become more engaged on an ongoing basis. To that end I have also just published a new video podcast on my www.telltim.co.uk website with a survey asking your views on the expenses issue and how we improve engagement with Parliament. Please take time to listen to the video and give me your feedback on this and any other issue you think I should be involved with as always.

Best wishes,

Tim Loughton

MP for East Worthing and Shoreham

Election Results 2009

Thank you to everybody who voted in the County Council and European elections on June 4th despite all the furore over MPs expenses. In the County Council elections in the East Worthing & Shoreham constituency no seats changed hands. The new councillors are as follows and I have provided a link to the full results on the County Council website if you want more details: <http://www2.westsussex.gov.uk/ds/elections/resultsofpoll.pdf>.

Southwick Cllr Janet Mockridge (Conservative) and congratulations to her for becoming Deputy Cabinet member for Finance

Kingston Buci Cllr Paul Graysmark (Conservative)

Shoreham Cllr Brian Coomber (Conservative)

Lancing Cllr Angie Mills (Conservative)

Sompting & N Lancing Cllr Dave Simmons (Conservative)

East Worthing Cllr Irene Richards (Lib Dem)

Broadwater Cllr Alan Rice (Lib Dem)

Cissbury Cllr Clem Stevens (Conservative)

In addition, in the South East region for the European elections the following MEPs were elected:

Conservative - 4 SEATS (CHANGE: 0)

Daniel Hannan

Richard Ashworth

Nirj Deva

James Elles

UK Independence Party - 2 SEATS (CHANGE: 0)

Nigel Farage

Marta Andreasen

Liberal Democrats - 2 SEATS (CHANGE: 0)

Sharon Bowles

Catherine Bearder

Green Party - 1 SEATS (CHANGE: 0)

Caroline Lucas

Labour - 1 SEATS (CHANGE: 0)

Peter Skinner

Local Newsagent Lobby

Tim has pledged to fight for the future of newsagents in East Worthing and Shoreham and signed up to support a lobby at Parliament earlier this month. His commitment came after it was revealed that traditional newsagents are being forced to shut up shop at a rate of more than one every day. Developments in the news distribution industry have left most newsagents with no choice over who supplies them. Shop owners fear that the lack of competition will leave them with no alternative supplier and vulnerable to increased costs. Last week almost 800 newsagents delivered a petition to the Office of Fair Trading demanding urgent action to protect competition in the news distribution industry. Commenting Tim said:



'Traditional newsagents are the backbone of our community. They deliver a vital service and are a friendly face that many people rely on every day. It is shocking and unacceptable that so many newsagents face an uphill struggle to survive. I am happy to pledge my support to newsagents in East Worthing and Shoreham and across the UK.'

Congratulations to Charles Partridge MBE

Congratulations to Charles Partridge Shoreham resident and e-newsletter subscriber who last Wednesday went to Buckingham Palace to collect his MBE from Princess Anne for services to his profession as a chartered surveyor.



Youth Cabinet Awards

Tim invited West Sussex Youth Cabinet members and pupils and staff from schools which participated in recent elections to the House of Commons to collect awards on Monday June 22nd. As Shadow Minister for Children & Young People Tim spoke about what the youth cabinet have done and how important it was for young people to engage with politicians and in community issues. To encourage as many pupils between 11-18 to vote in the Youth

Cabinet elections schools were promised awards if the turnout exceeded 50% amongst their students. Eleven schools from across the County succeeded including St Andrew's, Boundstone, Kings Manor and Thomas a Beckett Middle from Tim's own constituency. Thomas a Beckett achieved an amazing 96.4% turnout amongst its pupils and won the top gold award (pictured above).



The event was organised as part of the Democracy Awards by Dahlia Belloui and Pandora Ellis from the West Sussex Youth Cabinet service and Tim stressed the importance of involving young people in such programmes and wished that all turnouts at elections could be as good as at Thomas a Beckett!

Adur Lions Fayre

There was a wild west flavour to the Adur East Lions Fayre held in Buckingham Park on Sunday June 21st. After dismal weather for the event for the last two years there was a lot of catching - up with the fundraising to do and the perfect sunny weather certainly helped. Tim opened the show with Adur Council Chairman Brenda Collard, and the pair were then whisked off in a stage coach for a tour of the grounds in red stetsons and brandishing revolvers before handing out awards at the very popular donkey derby.



Plastic Bag Free Day

Tim joined staff from the Environment Agency and local pupils from the EYE (Eco, Young and Engaged) Project to distribute environmentally friendly jute bags to shoppers in exchange for



their plastic carrier bags and signing a pledge card to commit to using less plastic. Three designs were used out of hundreds of entries submitted in a competition amongst West Sussex schools where Tim judged the winning entries. The day was a huge success with over 2000 bags being handed out to eager shoppers outside the Guildbourne Centre in Worthing and at Ropetackle in Shoreham. In addition there was a display at the Environment Agency stand in Worthing where shoppers deposited their plastic bags which were then crocheted into reusable shopping bags which are then sold. As a backdrop to the event students from Boundstone Community College also performed their hilarious environmentally friendly play including characters Green Dave and Evil Bin Bag Belinda at the Ropetackle Centre.

Conservative Group on Adoption

As Shadow Minister for Children Tim has been chairing a working party on Adoption Policy & Practices in the UK with experts from adoption agencies, local councils and adoptive parents. The group is particularly looking at reasons for the continuing low numbers of adoptions in the UK, problems with adoptions involving ethnic minority children, the slowness of the system and how we support adoptive families better. Tim is aware of a number of constituents who have adopted or who are trying to adopt and would welcome any suggestions and observations you may have before the study is completed later in the summer.

Environmentally Friendly Sculpture

During the Adur Arts Festival EYE Project schools also displayed sculptures from local schools made out of recycled materials. They included an ingenious windmill made out of old fizzy drink cans by pupils at Downsbrook School and a series of T shirts with quirky designs from pupils at St Nicolas & St Mary's primary school, a tin fish from St Andrew's and a large tree from Thomas a Beckett Middle School. These and other sculptures are due to feature in an exhibition at the Worthing Art Gallery later on in the year for a wider audience to see.



Vale School Meeting

On 27 May 7th Tim attended a packed meeting at the Vale School in Findon Valley to hear about proposals for a new Children & Family Centre in the school site. The centre is one of over 50 being developed across the county by West Sussex but has raised strong concerns from residents around the school in the light of the severe congestion which is already evident around the school. Representatives from the County Council and school gave details of the project but residents were angry that limited consultation had taken place and the plans appeared to be being 'bulldozed' through.



Tim has been working with ward councillors Reg Green and Elizabeth Sparkes, and County Councillor Clem Stevens and members of the Findon Valley Residents Association and have particularly challenged the County Council over what research had been done to show that this was the best place for the new centre and that it would be sustainable there. Along with most residents Tim is a supporter of children's centres but it is important they are built in the right place and many people have queried why other sites such as the Lime Tree Surgery in the Valley have not been considered instead. Tim chaired a further public meeting at the Findon Valley Free Church on Friday June 26th with over 140 residents and school parents attending together with officers from the County Council, councillors, Headmaster Tony Lovat and Dr Mannings from the Lime Tree surgery.

The mood of the meeting was overwhelmingly against siting the centre at the school and that other locations should be looked at, even outside the Valley. Tony Lovat offered to review the situation with his staff and governors and Tim strongly urged that the proposal should be deferred for further research into alternatives when it comes before the County Council Planning Committee on June 30th. There were also strong reservations about the accuracy of some of the information in the original planning application in particular the number of staff cars which already use the school site and the number of likely additional car movements.

Lancing Farm Project

Lancing College is one of the few schools that have a working farm on its estate. Tim went along to the Open Farm Sunday to launch the occasion on the 7th of June as part of a national scheme where members of the public could come and see round the farm. The opening was organised by LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming), Lancing College and Derek Cleaver the farm manager and a farmer with forty years of experience under his belt. The farm is set on 40 acres of the estate in a area of the countryside with outstanding natural beauty. There are a number of types of animals including Chickens, 50 Lambs, Sheep, Pigs, Ducks, Rabbits, Goats and even Alpacas. The Lancing College Farm Project also gives the students a unique insight to the lives of animals also in gives an amazing opportunity to take subjects such as geography, biology and business out of the classroom.

Sussex Day in Parliament

Tim organised 9 of the Sussex MPs to meet up on the House of Commons Terrace to raise a glass in celebration of Sussex Day on June 16th. Tim and West Worthing colleague Peter Bottomley also brought along a West Sussex flag to toast the occasion.



Thomas a Beckett Bike Day

Tim joined scores of cyclists at Thomas a Beckett Middle School on June 18th for a 'Biker's breakfast' as part of National Bike Week. The school helped to encourage more children to cycle to school rather than travel by car by laying on breakfasts for the whole of the week and it is hoped that many more of the pupils will keep biking on a regular basis. Earlier in the month Tim turned out for the annual Parliamentary Bike Ride between Speaker's Corner in Hyde Park and the House

of Commons again to promote the health and environmental benefits of cycling.

Worthing Philharmonic Choir

On the 20th June Tim joined the Worthing Philharmonic Choir to hear an excellent recital by the choir and soloists singing Rossini's Petite Messe Solennelle. The choir was expertly conducted as usual by Donavon Brown with excellent piano accompaniment by guest pianist Kelvin Lim. On September 13th the choir will be performing their version of 'Last Night of the Proms' at the Assembly Hall in Worthing. Further details on www.worthingphilharmonicchoir.org.uk.

Young Carers' Festival

Tim made his 7th visit to the Young Carers' Festival at Fairthorne Manor near Southampton run jointly by the Children's Society and YMCA. This is a fantastic event which brings together more than 1500 young carers from around the country for a weekend of fun and temporary relief from their often onerous caring responsibilities for disabled parents or other family members. Tim has long campaigned in Parliament for better recognition and support for young carers who save the state a massive amount of



money and sacrifice many of the opportunities enjoyed by other teenagers growing up. This was the tenth anniversary of the event being set up by Jenny Frank from the Children's Society who this year was awarded the MBE in recognition of her work with young carers. Tim was honoured to be presented with a framed montage in recognition of his support for young carers and his regular attendance at this event. If you are a young carer in Adur or Worthing struggling to cope or have had some excellent support then Tim would like to hear from you.

Drumhead Service

There was a packed weekend of events across Worthing as the town did its bit for Armed Forces Day. Tim joined a huge crowd of veterans, youth service's cadets and dignitaries including the Vice Lord Lieutenant and Worthing's Mayor and Youth Mayor at the Steyne Gardens for the traditional Drumhead Service and inspection of colour parties. Congratulations in particular to Janet Goldsborough-Jones for all her hard work in organising the event.



Happy 10th anniversary to Worthing Homes

Tim attended the birthday celebrations for Worthing Homes of the end of May who manage housing stock in Worthing and Adur. The housing association have grown enormously and have become involved in a lot of community projects beyond just renting out houses such as the enormously successful Community House in Dominion Road which has just been awarded a generous Lottery grant to secure its future. For more information on the 10 community areas where Worthing Homes are involved see www.worthing-homes.org.uk/celebrating10.

Hasler Meeting

Tim has been working with residents on the Hasler Estate and local councillors to find a way ahead for the problems over damaged roads and pavements and the refusal of the owners to



engage with us. The legal experts at the County Council's Highways Department have carried out a lot of research into this long running problem and are coming to give a presentation which is open to all residents to come along. It is likely to be held at **Lancing Parish Hall on Thursday July 16th at 6.30**. It would help if you could let me know if you are interested in coming to give an idea of numbers.

Marine Coastal Access Bill

Tim has received a good deal of correspondence about the Marine and Coastal Access Bill which is seeking to protect our marine environment and which Conservatives support. Some of you have raised concerns that the Bill makes no reference to highly protected sites, where no activity of any sort is allowed. Tim would like to assure you that this effect can be achieved within the marine conservation zone (MCZs) that the Bill seeks to establish. Tim has supported the creation of flexible MCZs where a fair balance can be struck between protecting a specific marine area and avoiding the placing of unnecessary restrictions on other activities which are not damaging to the marine environment. He has also supported extending the scope of offences created by the Bill to include the reckless killing or injuring of wildlife, the reckless removal of protected wildlife or marine fauna and the reckless destruction or damage of habitats or features are all offences.

Worthing Children's Parade

Tim again compered Worthing's Children's parade, now in its second year. This year it was twice as big as 10 local schools took part with magnificent sculptures and tableau on the theme of 'myths and legends.' A long procession including African spidermen, the Loch Ness monster, sphinxes and Icarus snaked its way through the town centre before being welcomed into Steyne gardens by Tim and the new mayor Cllr Noel Atkins. Tim commented that 'anything Brighton can do Worthing can do better' and looked forward to an even bigger event next year which has now firmly become an annual fixture. Schools taking part were Bramber First, Broadwater CoE First and Middle, Downsbrook, English Martyrs, Lyndhurst First, Thomas a Beckett First, Thomas a Beckett Middle, Vale First & Middle, West park CE First & Middle and Whytemead First.



Airplot

Tim has signed up to Airplot - a project that has bought a plot of land in the middle of the proposed third runway site at Heathrow. The plan is to prevent the runway from being built by challenging the proposals every step of the way. The project will give evidence at the planning inquiry, resist the compulsory purchase of the land, and campaign during the national election. Commenting Tim said:

'The Government says that we need a third runway to create jobs in tough economic times. But building a runway in 10 years time will not reverse a recession that is happening now. Moreover, the benefits to the economy have been completely overblown - an independent study commissioned by WWF suggests that the true cost of a third runway would be a £5 billion loss.'

Coastwatch Station

Tim has joined up with a group of Shoreham residents who are putting forward a plan to revitalise the old coastguard tower at the end of Shoreham beach and linked to the Old Fort turn it into an education facility and visitor attraction to include an art gallery and studios. The building is on English Heritage's 'Heitage At Risk Register' and has been in a sorry state of repair for some time. Elizabeth Mienert is heading up the bid and has produced a marketing plan and local councillors are being supportive. Tim is going to set up a meeting of all interested parties and more volunteers are needed so if you are interested please let me know and I will pass on your details to Elizabeth.



Whilst exploring the Fort site Tim also paid a visit to the newly refurbished look-out station manned by the National Coastwatch Institution. The building is manned entirely by volunteers and the watchkeepers act as the eyes and ears along the coast, keeping a visual watch, monitoring radio channels, using radar and providing a listening watch in poor visibility. More volunteers are needed to increase coverage. If you are interested visit the NCI website at www.nci.org.uk.

Surgeries

Tim's next surgeries will be held at the following places and times. For appointments please ring the constituency office on 01903235168.

- 10 July, Lancing
 - 24 July, Southwick
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