



Tim Loughton's Parliamentary Newsletter

Your local MP updates you on his Parliamentary and Constituency Activities

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

March 2006

Dear Constituents,

This month I published my annual report on my activities in Parliament and in and around the constituency. A copy of the report is being delivered by volunteers to every house in East Worthing and Adur and if you are able to help deliver it please contact me. Courtesy of *Adur Talking News*, copies are also available on audio - tape and CD for those who have sight problems. If you would be like to be sent an extra copy of the annual report please email me at loughtont@parliament.uk or write to me at The House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA. A downloadable electronic version is also available on my website: www.timloughton.com.

My role as Shadow Children's Minister has meant that for the last three weeks I have spent two days a week in a House of Commons Committee leading for the Conservatives on the Children and Adoption Bill. As it currently stands the Children and Adoption Bill will do nothing to solve the problems facing the 10% of separating parents who go to court to argue over access to their children. I and my Conservative colleagues put forward amendments that would have meant that unless the safety of the child was in question then each of the parents should have a presumption of having a reasonable amount of contact with their child. Unfortunately the Government rejected our amendments but we will have another chance to put them forward at Report Stage, which I expect to take place in late April.

As always I have also been out and about in the constituency meeting a number of constituents and attending various meetings.

Best wishes to you all this Spring,

Yours,



Tim and Peter Bottomley MP at Worthing CAB to discuss housing projects

Sussex Police Update

Further to the article in last month's E-newsletter where Tim highlighted Sussex Police's concerns that Government reorganisation plans will lead to a 'super constabulary' that will have little scope to respond to local issues, on 20th March South East Police Authorities met with the Home Secretary and were informed that the Government planned to merge Surrey and Sussex police forces.

The Chairman of the Sussex Police Authority has repeated his view that he is doubtful that the merger of the two Forces will make Sussex better equipped to deal with crime. Tim and his fellow West Sussex Conservative MPs have also once again offered their support to the Sussex Police force. Tim commented: 'It is essential that the Government listen to the expert views of our local police officers and answer the concerns we have raised over the cost and accountability of the proposed changes.'

Tim's next surgeries are as follows:

Friday 7th April in Southwick, Friday 21st April in Worthing & Friday 5th May in Lancing
(Ring 01903 235168 to book an appointment)

Closure of Sussex University's Chemistry Department

Tim has tabled a Parliamentary Motion expressing his alarm at the possible closure of Sussex University's chemistry department. Despite the chemistry department having been given the second highest grade possible for a University course under the Research Assessment Exercise and having attracted staff of world renown—including two Nobel prize winners, it has fallen victim to the national trend of chemistry department closures.

Sussex University have said that although the number of people applying to gain a place on their chemistry course rose by 34% last year, the number of people accepting a place has declined and it is for that reason that the course is no longer economically sustainable.

Tim is concerned that not enough is being done at a national level to reverse the decline in the teaching of -



physical sciences. Tim has commented:

“Sussex University has served my constituents admirably and I know it is a great disappointment to many of them that the university authorities have felt they have had to make this decision.

“Many of my fellow Sussex MPs have also signed this Parliamentary motion and, as the future success of our economy and our international competitiveness depends on the continuation of the teaching of chemistry, I hope that the attention it receives will increase the pressure on the Government to ensure that no further chemistry departments are closed down.”

For a full version of Tim's EDM please visit <http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=30309&SESSION=875>

ID Card Update

Despite Tim's opposition to the Identity Cards Bill, on Tuesday 21st March MPs voted for the fourth time for ID cards to be brought in from 2008 for anyone applying for a passport.

In the last week of March the House of Lords will have another opportunity to vote on whether the ID cards should be compulsory and despite threats from the Government the Lords have signalled their intent to vote again in favour of making the cards voluntary.



Tim, in his capacity as Shadow Health Minister, visited the Sound Minds project in London which promotes music and art for people with mental health problems.

Brighton Road accidents

Following 2 tragic fatalities on the stretch of the A259 that runs through Lancing Tim has contacted police and County Council highways officials to see if any safety improvements need to be made, including a reduction in the speed limit to 30mph. Traffic studies are now being carried out and Tim is working with Widewater ward councillors to make sure that any recommended action is taken urgently and is communicated to local people.



Tim (far left) & fellow West Sussex MPs join the 10% Challenge

Tim joins the 10% Challenge

The 10% Challenge is an initiative by West Sussex County Council to encourage individuals and businesses to save 10% of the energy and water they use. The aim of the scheme is to have reduced harm to the environment by 10% by the end of 2006.

Earlier this March Tim and his fellow Conservative West Sussex MPs met to discuss the changes that they will be making to their lifestyles to ensure that by the end of the year they have met the 10% Challenge. Tim says "In my office we already recycle all our paper and at home we recycle papers, plastic and

glass and create compost. I usually catch the train to Westminster and the tube to Parliament and the 10% Challenge has reminded me that I can be doing even more to protect the environment for future generations. I want to see West Sussex leading the way on environmental reform and if everyone made simple changes to their everyday actions then the positive benefits to the environment would be immense.

"Currently the average household in West Sussex produces 1.3 tonnes of waste per year, uses 150,000 litres of water per year and produces 10 tonnes of CO² per year—if East Worthing and Shoreham residents wish to join the 10% challenge and reduce this average then I would urge them to visit <http://www.10percentchallenge.org.uk/index.htm> and make a pledge."

Fair Deal for Fishersgate

Tim has been lobbied by Fishersgate residents about the lack of resources for local people in this corner in the constituency following on from proposals that Fishersgate School could close as part of the current reorganisation of Adur schools. Together with ward councillor Jim Funnell Tim has been giving support to parents and governors to keep the school open and on March 23rd held a special public meeting at the school for local people to raise any issues of local concern in addition to worries over the future of the school. Adur officers Peter Latham and Lynne Ward came along to answer questions together with Phil Wiffin from the County Education Department. In addition Tim held a special drop-in surgery at the school on the following Saturday with Eastbrook councillors Jim Funnell and Carol Eade and County Councillor Ken Eade. Various proposals were discussed to improve road safety, look at the configuration of the play areas in the park area and improve street furniture to include clearing up graffiti and fly tipping. Council officers will be walking the streets in the area with local people to see what can be done and councillors will report back to residents. In addition a working group is being set up to see if a 'fun day' event can be held in Fishersgate as part of the Adur festival in June.

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.