



Tim Loughton's Parliamentary Newsletter

Your local MP updates you on his Parliamentary and Constituency Activities

Welcome to the third edition of my regular newsletter...

Dear Constituents,

I am delighted to be sending you the third edition of my monthly newsletter. Thank you for the encouraging response to my last edition. Do remember to keep in touch and let me know what you would like to read about in these pages.

Please email me at loughtont@parliament.uk, if you know of a friend or colleague who would be interested to receive this newsletter directly from me.

After a busy time at the Conservative Party conference in Blackpool I have been carrying out my duties in Westminster. Since Parliament returned on 10th October I have raised questions with ministers in the House of Commons on concerns over the resumption of live animal exports, congestion on the A27 and the continuing chaos caused by the overpayment of child tax credits.

Wishing you all well,

Yours,



Tim stepping out in pink bunny ears and wacky glasses in an attempt to encourage the residents of Adur and Worthing to wear an item of pink and raise money for breast cancer research.

Tim in the Pink!

The things MPs do in the name of charity! October has been Breast Cancer awareness month and Friday 28th October saw people up and down the country wearing an item of pink clothing and donating £2 to the Breakthrough Breast Cancer campaign.

According to a Breast Cancer Survey, 80% of women have not checked their breasts in the last month for the signs and symptoms of breast cancer. The survey also found that nearly 47% of women don't check their breasts because they don't know how to. Breakthrough Breast Cancer campaigns to educate women about how to check their breasts for changes that might be a sign of breast cancer. It also specialises in funding independent research into breast cancer at centres of excellence throughout the UK and aims to find a cure for breast cancer by funding research which looks at improving diagnosis of breast cancer, better understanding how it develops and ultimately either curing the disease or preventing it.

Visit <http://www.breakthrough.org.uk/> for more information.

New Southwick surgery

Southwick residents recently expressed concerns about the plans for the new Manor Practice proposed on a joint site with the Library, which were subsequently rejected by Adur's planning committee. Tim brokered a meeting between the GP's, their architects and Southwick councillors and new plans have now been submitted to Adur council. Many of the original problems have been addressed but if you still wish to raise any objections you should write to the planning department at Adur Civic Centre by November 15th quoting reference SW/77/05 and copy in your ward councillors. We all want to see improvements to the cramp surgery at the Manor Practice that are acceptable to the majority of local residents.

Tim keeps trim for charity at Downsbrook School.

In July of this year Tim wrote to schools in his constituency making them aware of a new charity event called *Schoolchildren for Children* and encouraging teachers and pupils to participate in the proposed fun run. After he heard that Downsbrook School had decided to join the nationwide charity exercise session, Tim donned shorts and trainers on 30th September and joined pupil's of Downsbrook run a mile in their school grounds.

Schoolchildren for Children was launched by the British and Irish Lions before they left for their New Zealand Rugby tour earlier this year. In schools across the children raised a pound each by walking, running or jogging the equivalent of a mile at school. Half of the money raised at Downsbrook will go to a school in a developing country while the other half of the money will go towards extra-curricular sporting activities in

Downsbrook School.

Tim said of the day, "*Schoolchildren for Children* is a great idea; combining the promotion of healthy activity in schools in the UK whilst raising money for schools in developing countries abroad and having fun at the same time."

Visit www.schoolchildrenforchildren.org for more information.

Tim's special visit to Willows First School

Tim made a special visit to The Willows School in Lancing on Friday 14th October. He was there to officially launch the school's new breakfast club and enjoyed Marmite toast with pupils after listening to songs performed beautifully by the school choir and the national anthem played on trumpets by two pupils.

Willows is one of two Lancing schools which have submitted designs for Tim to use for his official Christmas card so Tim also spent part of the morning looking at pupils' designs. Tim was joined for the judging by Lancing Parish Council Chairman Councillor Wendy Gray and Julia Mardon from the Lancing Art Club.

Tim then went on to take part in a 'question time' session with the Mini governors which included questions about his favourite children's author and local road safety improvements. Before leaving he was presented with a new Willows cap and a copy of 'The Willows ways', a set of principles which pupils follow to show consideration to their peers around the school.

Tim commented: "I know from my earlier visits that The Willows is a very special school not just for the standard of learning but the way it encourages its pupils to be responsible young citizens and to look out for their colleagues and their community. The Head Mrs Keeler and her staff do an excellent job and have a lot to be proud of."

Worthing goes officially 'fairtrade' and Tim helps certify it

On Thursday 29th September, Tim spoke at the celebrations held to officially confirm that Worthing has been granted Fairtrade Town status. At the launch, Tim handed the certificate confirming the town's status to the Mayor.

Afterwards guests at the event had the opportunity to sample a variety of local Fairtrade products and meet local Fairtrade suppliers.

Fairtrade is an important issue and the poverty caused in sub-Saharan African countries, for example by unfair trading practices by western nations, means we all have a moral duty to ensure we look beyond our own immediate needs. The enthusiasm with which this accolade has been greeted shows that the people of Worthing have concerns for justice and fair play which goes well beyond our local boundaries and that is a great recommendation for our town and our residents. The Fairtrade Foundation was established in 1992 and if people want to learn about where in Worthing they can buy Fairtrade products they should visit <http://www.fairtrade.org.uk>.



Tim presenting the Fairtrade certificate with Mayor Nick John and Fairtrade's Hugh Garrett

Grove Lodge roundabout

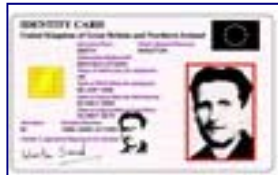
Many thanks to the residents who have responded to the surveys on the new lights and alterations at the Grove Lodge roundabout on the A27 in Worthing. Please continue to let Tim have your views so he can take these up with the Highways Agency.

An update on the Parliamentary issues that Tim's mailbag reveals are currently of greatest importance and interest to those living in East Worthing and the district of Adur:

Recent progress Identity Cards have made through parliament...

The Government made it a commitment in their general election manifesto to re-introduce the Identity Cards Bill to the House of Commons and the Queen's speech on 17th May this year confirmed that the Bill would be brought forward in the current session.

Last week Government plans for ID cards were further considered by the House of Commons and on 18th October the Government's majority was halved when Labour rebels joined opposition MPs to vote against the Bill.



Example of what an ID card might look like

Tony Blair's majority was cut from 66 votes to 32 votes on an amendment to make ID cards voluntary on an initial basis – as promised in Labour's general election manifesto in May. Tim voted against the Government's Bill.

The fight to stop the ID Cards Bill from being passed will now move to the House of Lords where it will start its progress on 31st October.

Update on Religious Hatred Laws

Last month we reported on why Tim voted against the Racial and Religious Hatred Bill. The Government promised in their election manifesto, and in a pre-election letter to mosques, that they would introduce the Bill and after having passed its Remaining Stages in the House of Commons, the said Bill received its second reading in the House of Lords last week and many concerns about civil liberties were raised in the debate.

This week the Bill faced detailed scrutiny by the Lords during its Committee Stage. Peers voted by 260 to 111 to drop the Bill and replace it with text that severely limited its scope and added safeguards for free speech. Home Office Minister Baroness Scotland of Asthal QC said she would attempt to find a compromise within the next fortnight.

Visit <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld199900/ldhansrd/pdvn/lds05/index/51025-x.htm> to read what peers said about the Bill.

What does the coming Animal Welfare Bill propose?

On 14th October, the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs published the new Animal Welfare Bill.

This Bill has a long way to go before it becomes law but if it does it will put in place safeguards against suffering for domestic animals — safeguards that have been in place for farm animals for years.

Amongst other things, the Bill proposes to increase penalties for those causing unnecessary suffering to animals; there will be a maximum of 51 weeks in prison and a maximum fine of £20,000. It is also hoped that the law will be more effective and thus able to be enforced to a greater extent. In addition, the Bill would

make it possible for preventative action to be taken to protect animals before suffering occurred.

Tim has long been a supporter of better treatment of animals and previously pressed for new legislation to update current welfare laws, many of which have been in place for a century. He is currently Treasurer of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Animal Welfare and has been involved in legislation against puppy farming, fur farming and live animal exports.

Visit <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/welfare/bill/index.htm> for more information on the Bill.