

Tim Loughton's Annual Report Spring 2008

Member of Parliament for East Worthing & Shoreham

Speaking up for Adur & Worthing all year round



Non Stop Fight For Fairer Deal for Sussex

"I have never been busier on your behalf than during the last year when it's been one major issue after another," says local MP Tim Loughton

First there were proposals to downgrade hospital services across West Sussex. Then seven sub post offices in the constituency came under threat of closure. Not content with that we were hit with a potential bill of over £800,000 to subsidise a national scheme of concessionary bus passes for pensioners. A good scheme but it is supposed to be fully funded centrally by the Government, not by local tax payers.

The fight for a fairer deal on three fronts opened when the *Keep Worthing and Southlands Hospital campaign* (KWASH) was launched by Tim and Peter Bottomley, the West Worthing MP and former Worthing mayor Tom Wye.

Thousands turned out to support the campaign, attend meetings, write letters and contribute to a massive petition of protest signed by 129,732 local people which was presented to the West Sussex Primary Care Trust in November 2007. The outcome of this tremendous effort will be known early in the summer (check the www.kwash.co.uk website for updates)

"It is my fervent hope that the Primary Care Trust have listened to the overriding case to keep A&E, maternity and other essential services at Worthing. Thanks to everyone who came out and supported the KWASH campaign to stand up for our excellent local hospitals, doctors and nurses," says Tim.

A strong protest, led by Tim, against the closure of local sub Post Offices during the year has been disgracefully ignored by the Post Office.

Tim reports that he has been right behind North Lancing Residents' Association and their spirited efforts to save the Mill Road Post Office. At Bowness Avenue in Sompting, he supported pensioners backing their postmaster's efforts to save their busy sub Post Office. It was a similar picture at the other branches targeted in Adur and Worthing. Tim organised local meetings and launched petitions which thousands of people signed and he spoke in Parliament about the need to listen to local people. It was all to no avail but West Sussex County Council are now trying to engage the Post Office in negotiations which could lead to the Council taking over some of the services under threat.

The campaign for Government funding of concessionary bus fares is also ongoing. Tim took a delegation of local councillors to see Ministers about the shortfall in funding. So far, no rebate has been forthcoming but Tim is continuing the battle for a fairer deal for his constituents. No wonder he says he has never been busier!



To receive Tim's regular e-newsletter email Tim at: loughtont@parliament.uk

“Green, keen & teen” says Tim

All too often young people get a bad press but as I go round the 38 schools in my constituency I sometimes wonder why. When I visit youth groups and meet members of youth councils and youth mayors I am impressed with the energy, enthusiasm and really good ideas which abound.

In my experience, young people are as concerned with our local community and the state of the environment as anyone. I always do my best to listen and promote their good ideas. On this page you will find some of the young people initiatives in which I have been involved recently.

Eco Summit

Worthing Town Hall was recently invaded by over 150 pupils from 13 local schools, teachers and environmental experts for an **Eco Summit** called by Tim to promote environmental good practice locally.

The day was organised along the lines of a mock United Nations General Assembly chaired by Tim and helped by the West Sussex Youth Cabinet, County Council, Environment Agency, Southern Water, Marks & Spencer and others. Each school gave a presentation on ways they were already helping the environment and then split into working committees to come up with ideas for a ‘green print’ for Worthing and Adur.

After a debate in the afternoon in the presence of the Mayor, the delegates voted on a 26 point charter which will now be promoted amongst local schools. Let us know your own ideas as this is an ongoing project with more meetings planned. Full details are on Tim’s website.



Courtesy Worthing Herald

Midnight Football

Based on a successful scheme in Scotland, Tim brought together representatives from Adur Council, West Sussex Youth Service, Adur police and Impulse Leisure to run a series of pilot sessions offering late night indoor football to teenagers with the idea of taking them off the streets and out of trouble. With the generous help of referees from Adur Athletic (www.adurathletic.co.uk) over 40 teenagers enjoyed the sessions at Southwick Leisure Centre. It is hoped to promote the idea further throughout the district.



Let them eat cake!

Tim secured funding from local employers Norwich Union to help Worthing’s Youth Cabinet make a film called ‘Use It Don’t Abuse It’ about how young people have it in their power to encourage respect for the local environment and prevent vandalism. It was launched at Worthing Town Hall.



Electric Storm Youth Ltd

Tim has been helping this group of Christian charity volunteers to progress proposals for youth community facilities on the site of Freshbrook School in Lancing after it

is merged into the Thornberry School site. See their plans on: www.electricstormyouth.co.uk

Are you doing your bit for Shoreham's new Lifeboat?

Since Shoreham lifeboat station was established by the RNLI in 1865 over 1,650 people have been rescued by local volunteer lifeboat crews. Now, coxswain Peter Huxtable and his colleagues need our help to raise £1m towards the £6m cost of the new lifeboat and station. The RNLI does not receive public funding.

If you want to join Tim in supporting this vital local service log on to www.rnli.org.uk/shorehamappeal or send a donation to: RNLI Shoreham Appeal, Admail 4071, Shoreham-by-Sea, BN43 5ZU



Shoreham will soon take delivery of a new, faster, all-weather Tamar class lifeboat to replace the Hermione Lady of Colwyn after 18 years of service. But the lifeboat station built in 1933 is ill-equipped to house it and the slipway is already sinking.

Are you an MP's hero?

Each year MPs are invited to nominate a constituent to receive an MP's hero award in Parliament. This time Tim had no hesitation in recommending Mick & Chriss Smith who have worked so hard to create Mick's Garage Community House in Dominion Road, East Worthing. It is a thriving centre of activity for young and old throughout the week and has helped enormously to reduce problems on the estate. They desperately need more money to keep it going though. Can you help?



Tim travelled to the Bolton gym of Olympic medalist boxer Amir Khan with David Cameron to launch a scheme to give every 16-year old an opportunity of National Citizen Service.

Hi Ho Hi Ho and off to work we go

Tim joined a team of gardening volunteers working with the Southlanders Community Association to spruce up some of the gardens in the Southlands ward of Shoreham.

Meanwhile Southlanders have secured funding to run their popular community café in Wilmot Road.

Tim also took a group of local residents to look round the derelict part of the Southlands Hospital site which is to be developed by English Partnerships and Crest Nicholson for housing. He is making sure that local people are properly consulted on the plans for what will be a very significant residential development.



Looking out for others

Concerned at the amount of clutter outside shops in Shoreham, Tim took a group of Adur councillors and officers along the High Street with a couple of volunteers from the local organisation 4Sight. It was interesting to see the hazards from everyday obstacles

that are taken for granted but which have to be faced by visually impaired people. As a result shopkeepers have been asked to consider relocating some of their signs and street furniture.

Standing up for Adur & Worthing all year round



To receive Tim's regular e-newsletter email Tim at: loughtont@parliament.uk

See what Tim is up to on: www.timloughton.com

A week in the life of your MP

When Parliament is sitting, Tim usually travels on Monday morning from his home in Sussex to Westminster and works there until returning to his constituency on Thursday.

At Westminster, his job is to represent constituents' interests, scrutinise new laws, work on alternative policies and hold the Government to account.

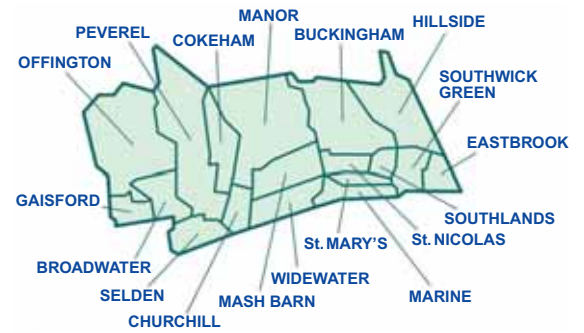
Usually, only a small amount of time each day is spent in the Commons chamber itself. Most of Tim's work is done in his office, in meetings, liaising with individuals, charities and special interest groups and in parliamentary committees.

The last votes in the Commons are usually at 10pm on Mondays and Tuesdays; 7pm on Wednesdays and 6pm on Thursdays. The House sometimes sits on Fridays for private members' business. On Fridays and Saturdays Tim usually spends busy days on constituency appointments, school visits, local meetings and surgeries.

As well as representing all the residents in his East Worthing & Shoreham constituency, regardless of political affiliation or age, Tim is the Shadow Minister for Children, last year he led on legislation such as the Mental Health Act and is currently responsible for scrutinising the Children & Young People Bill to help children in care.

Tim deals with up to 100 letters and a similar number of emails every day. His office tries to respond promptly but given the volume of correspondence, things can go astray occasionally. Don't be afraid to chase the office if you have not heard back in a reasonable time.

The East Worthing & Shoreham constituency



Parliamentary copyright



An MP's job is never dull

Why not take a look at Tim's website?

www.timloughton.com

The website gives useful information about what Tim is doing to represent you.

or: www.telltim.co.uk for Tim's podcasts & surveys on topical issues.



If you have trouble reading this report and would like an audio tape version (courtesy of Adur Talking News) or to book an appointment at one of Tim's fortnightly constituency surgeries please ring: **01903 235168**.

Parliamentary accountability

Last year Tim published on his website extensive details about the way he uses his Parliamentary allowances. In 2007 his office spent £140,352. Most of the budget went on employment of a full time personal assistant and a full time researcher in his Westminster office, and a part time secretary dealing with surgery cases. In addition he has a part time researcher helping on children's issues in Parliament and took on a temporary worker to help with the KWASH campaign for most of 2007. He has never employed any members of his family.

This annual report is paid for out of Tim's Parliamentary allowances and distributed by volunteers. For his voting record and other information see: www.theyworkforyou.com. For details of Parliamentary speeches and questions see the Parliamentary website on: www.parliament.uk. If you have a complaint about an MP and have failed to resolve the problem directly you can contact – The Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA. Email: standardscommissioner@parliament.uk

Tim Loughton

Member of Parliament for East Worthing & Shoreham

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Website:

www.timloughton.com for information about what Tim is doing to represent you.
or: www.telltim.co.uk for Tim's podcasts & surveys on topical issues.

Other useful numbers to cut out and keep

Adur District Council	01273 263000 (www.adur.gov.uk)
Council Tax enquiries	01273 263444
Anti-social behaviour hotline	01273 263356
Worthing Borough Council	01903 239999 (www.worthing.gov.uk)
Council Tax enquiries	01903 221061
Anti-social behaviour hotline	01903 221430
Adur Worthing joint refuse & recycling	01903 851729
West Sussex County Council	01243 777100 (www.westsussex.gov.uk)
Lancing Parish Council	01903 753355 (www.lancingparishcouncil.gov.uk)
Sompting Parish Council	01273 882246 (www.sompting.org.uk)
Worthing/Southlands Hospital	01903 205111 (www.worthinghospital.nhs.uk)
NHS Direct	0845 4647 (www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk)
Worthing CAB	01903 532662 (www.worthingcab.org.uk)
Shoreham CAB	01273 453756 (www.shorehamcab.org.uk)
Lancing CAB	01903 755585
Police non-emergency	0845 6070999
Power cut helpline	0800 7838866
Gas leaks Transco	0800 111999
Water leak line	0800 820999
Floodline	0845 9881188
Crimestoppers	0800 555111
Benefit Fraud Hotline	0800 854440
Samaritans	0845 7909090

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