



Tim Loughton MP's Parliamentary E-Newsletter

KWASH – It Just Got (even more) Serious



The West Sussex PCT has, at long last, published the consultation document into the reconfiguration of West Sussex hospitals. Despite continuous pressure from MPs and clinical staff and patients, the PCT has refused to include in the document a fourth option whereby two major hospitals in West Sussex would keep their A&E, maternity units and other . As it stands, two of the current three options would see Worthing and Southlands hospitals stripped of these services. We need to make the PCT see sense.

Feel free to send a letter or e-mail to the PCT, telling them, in no uncertain terms, what your response is to their consultation. Remember, we've only got until the 30th October...To find out more about how to respond and make your views know please visit www.southeastcoastfff.nhs.uk

West Sussex MPs and County Council leaders are still working hard together to save our hospitals and a website has been created to co-ordinate all three campaigns: www.fightforthefuture.org.uk KWASH is also working closely with the campaign to save the Princess Royal hospital.

On July 4th MPs secured a debate at Westminster which highlighted the campaigns and put pressure on the new Minister. For the full Hansard report of what was said, please [click here](#)

Tim commented:

"The PCT would like to see us pitch Chichester hospital against Worthing & Southlands but there is no advantage to people in West Sussex if they lose or downgrade either hospital. I do not understand how the PCT have completely failed to listen to the representations from MPs, our constituents and consultants that we need and deserve a two major hospital option in the consultation. We have been presented with a Hobson's choice.

"A rural county the size of West Sussex, with 760,000 residents and a growing population needs two major hospitals. East Sussex only has a population of 250,000 and yet is retaining both Eastbourne and the Conquest hospitals. We are sacrificing 2 perfectly good, cost effective and well liked hospitals to prop up Brighton which has an inferior track record on financial management, waiting times, hospital infections and accessibility.

"Under this consultation document it is likely that the 63,000 A&E attendees from Worthing and Adur will be expected to crawl along the A27 to Brighton or Chichester or go north to Surrey. Lives will be lost and patient care will inevitably suffer.

"These proposals represent an attack on the NHS in West Sussex and dishonestly the PCT is doing the dirty work of the Health Secretary by dressing up cost cutting measures as 'modernisation'. We will continue fighting these crazy proposals to the bitter end.

Log on to www.kwash.org.uk - to keep in touch with KWASH events and please sign the petition if you're not one of the 100,000 people who already have.

Tim's Annual Report

Tim's annual report should have been distributed to every household in East Worthing & Shoreham back in May. Rather than rely on volunteers to deliver it as usual a commercial firm was tasked to do the job. However, a number of people have said that they have not received a copy especially in East Worthing. Please let me know if that includes you and we can send you a hard copy or you can download it from my website on www.timloughton.com

TELL TIM

Tim is taking full advantage of the internet by launching an interactive website, whereby constituents can keep in touch and tell Tim their views and ideas. The first survey on the website asks local residents about their views on the environment and climate change. There is also a podcast from Tim which you can watch and download.

The website will hopefully be used by schools, special interest groups, and individual residents in the Worthing and the Adur District.

So if you wish to discuss local, national and even global issues with Tim, please log on to www.telltim.co.uk

Tim gets it 'wrong' for Wallace and Gromit



As you can see, Tim joined forces with Oscar winning animated stars Wallace and Gromit to help promote Wrong Trousers Day (WTD) 2007 which was held on 29th June to raise money to help improve the quality of life for children in hospitals and hospices across the UK.

This year's Wrong Trousers Day has a sports theme - Get your Kit on. Participants encouraged to pay £1 for the 'right to look wrong'. The day was organised by the Wallace and Gromit's Children's Foundation who were aiming to raise £1 million.

Tim commented: "Members of Parliament aren't really known for admitting we're wrong but on this occasion I'm more than happy to wholeheartedly support being wrong!"

Stand Up, Speak Up

The Conservatives are launching the Stand up, Speak up website which will directly involve the British Public in the writing of the next Conservative Manifesto.

The website will allow people to send in their views and concerns on any issue and these concerns will be used to draft potential legislation. You can also vote on policy ideas and contribute to a wide range of debates, such as counter-terrorism, immigration and how to fix Britain's broken society. There's even the chance to tell David Cameron face to face, what you think needs to be done.

Log on to www.standupspeakup.conservatives.com and register for your chance to put things right.

Where's the stink?



Tim was at the East Worthing Waste Water Treatment Plant (see photo) last month to see the result of the latest investment in Southern Water's site to rid the area of lingering smells. An enormous effort has now gone into making sure that all areas and tanks are sealed and offending odours have been kept to a minimum.

Southern Water have kept to their word and kept working on the problem and the results are apparent. Tim welcomed the investment and praised the company for holding their open day to show local residents exactly what has been going on.

Brighton Road work chaos

Tim has received a number of complaints about changes to road markings on the A259 Brighton Road around Brooklands. The County Council claimed that this is a high accident area and have moved to reduce the dual carriageway into single file much further back from the lights. This has succeeded in producing major tail backs. In response to complaints and representations from Tim the markings were altered after a few days and will now be closely monitored for 2 weeks to see if further changes are needed.

Let the County Council Highways Department know of further problems on 01243 642105. Tim will be monitoring the situation closely too, not least because he has already been stuck in the traffic himself and uses the road regularly to travel across the constituency

Taking Off



As you can see from the picture, Tim was at Dunsfold Park last month to see the unveiling of the new Air Ambulance helicopter which will service Sussex and Surrey and which has been funded by charitable fundraising.

Congratulations to Fishersgate School

Not satisfied in being saved from closure under school reorganisation plans last year after the outstanding efforts of staff, parents and governors who teamed up with councillors and Tim, Fishersgate Community School have now won the regional school of the year award and go through to the national finals in the autumn, to be televised on BBC2 on October 21st – great news.

More good news for Fishersgate came last week when a court ruling found against the builders who were involved in the long running saga over the Fishersgate Dome. Hopefully this clears a number of obstacles out of the way for completing this community facility in the near future.

Nuclear power station at Shoreham? ...over Tim's dead body

A number of scare stories have been going round about the possibility of a nuclear power station being built at Shoreham Harbour. Apparently this follows some references in the Guardian in the light of the Government's recent report on energy policy.

Tim has asked Parliamentary questions and made representations to the Energy Minister and there is no basis to these stories nor is it remotely likely that nuclear power stations would ever be built so close to such a densely populated area – so no need to panic. Next time you hear such scare stories tell the authors to check their facts before scaring my constituents.

Ropetackle Arts & Education Centre



Shoreham's brand new Ropetackle Arts & Education Centre opened its doors for the first time on Saturday, 2nd June, with a screening of Al Gore's Oscar-winning environmental film, An Inconvenient Truth. The event was a sell-out and was a promising and long-awaited start to what Tim hopes will be a "centre of excellence for arts events".

Directly before the film, a ten minute community news reel was screened. The news reel was created by Buckingham Middle School and it concerned local events. This is the first in a series of community news reels which local groups, especially schools, are being encouraged to produce. It is hoped that a news reel can be screened before all main events at the Ropetackle centre

The Ropetackle Centre really is beginning to establish itself as the heart of arts in Adur - a series of events during the Adur Festival was also featured at the Ropetackle Centre. This included an exhibition of pictures and photographs by local artists.

The Ropetackle Centre will provide local residents with access to high quality film, music and theatre, as well as training opportunities in the arts, film and media. Please visit www.ropetacklecentre.co.uk from Monday, 23rd July, to view the programme of events. A printed programme is also available.

Lucky enough to look younger than you are?

Citizen Cards are available to people of any age for the purpose of proving age or identity. They are accredited by the Proof of Age Standards Scheme, which is supported by the Government, Police and Trading Standards. To get a Citizen card, simply log on to www.citizencard.com and download the application form. If you're under 17, you get yours for free.

How big is your footprint?

A new website, which calculates your carbon footprint, has been launched. Log on to www.carboncalculator.co.uk and find out how environmentally friendly you are.

News on South Downs National Park

On Tuesday, 2nd July, the Inspector's report into the proposed South Downs National Park was published. The Report confirms that only the chalk ridge between Winchester and Eastbourne merits designation as a National Park rather than the much more extensive AONB area originally proposed.

Tim and other Sussex MPs agree that this is a much more sensible solution which threatened to take planning powers away from local people and their elected representatives across a vast swathe of district council areas in Sussex. There was also threat that land just outside the National Park boundaries such as that at the northern border of Worthing and Adur could be downgraded from Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and made vulnerable to development. Tim and fellow MPs will now be putting pressure on Government Ministers to go along with this common sense solution.

Tim goes fishing for rail improvements



Tim joined the campaign group Transport 2000 and actress Jenny Agutter to call on the Government to tackle rail overcrowding and improve and expand services for passengers through its upcoming 30-year rail strategy.

With over a billion people taking train journeys every year, rail overcrowding has become the number 1 passenger concern. The situation is set to get worse as the Government's own figures forecast a 30% growth in rail passenger miles by 2016.

Tim commented: "Passengers, and especially commuters who travel during rush hour, can experience terrible overcrowding and often feel like they are sardines in a tin-can. If the UK is to meet its international obligations on climate change then rail needs to be at the heart of a green transport strategy."

Calling all young people who want to play Midnight Football!

In an exciting new initiative, all 13-17 year-olds in the Adur District are invited to play football for free at Southwick Leisure Centre on the 21st July, 4th August, 18th August and 22nd September. The evenings will last from 10 P.M. to midnight and will include informal matches, skills practise and general Kick-about.

Refreshments will be provided and the sessions will be fully staffed to ensure that all participants can get the most out of the evening. If these pilot evenings are successful then Midnight Football will continue and become a regular fixture in the Adur District. So, if you love football and you're looking for something to do in the evenings, come along to the Southwick Leisure Centre at 10 P.M. on Saturday, 21st July.

Who is Tim's hero?



MPs were recently invited to nominate heroes from their constituency who have made the greatest contribution to the community.

Tim had no hesitation in nominating Mick and Chriss Smith whose hard work in East Worthing, through Mick's garage, led to the opening of a new community house in Dominion Road. The House was donated by Worthing Homes and last week Tim held a busy drop in surgery there where he presented Mick and Chriss with their MP Heroes certificate.

Garden Grab Bill

Britain's gardens are under increasing threat of being grabbed and covered in concrete. In neighbourhoods across the country, planning rules from John Prescott's tenure are forcing the demolition of homes with gardens, to be replaced with ugly blocks of flats or 'high-density' buildings.

Tim is vigorously opposing the planning rules which allow this and enthusiastically supporting his colleague, Caroline Spelman MP, who has also put forward a Private Member's Bill to change the planning rules to protect gardens. Sadly it looks as if the Bill will fail to gain Government support and therefore not enter statute books.

On that note you may be interested to know that the planning application for the development of 35 sheltered apartments in Charmandean Road, Worthing has gone to appeal after being refused by Worthing Council in the first instance.

Protecting our Marine Environment

Tim believes that protecting our marine environment and coastal waters is very important - at present less than 1 per cent of our coastal waters are fully protected.

The Draft Marine Bill was published in March this year. Tim believes it needs to be amended to ensure it offers guidelines and codes of practice to all areas associated with the marine environment. This would include planning, fisheries, industrial companies and environmental organisations. This would assist to foster a good relationship between those who earn a living from the marine environment and those who wish to conserve it.

Tim has consequently signed a [Parliamentary Motion](#) which calls on the Government to include a Marine Bill in the next Queen's Speech.

Tim in Parliament



After six years as a Shadow Health Minister Tim was moved in David Cameron's reshuffle so that he could concentrate on his role as Shadow Children's Minister – a post he has held since 2003. Tim is delighted to now be shadowing the new Department for Children, Schools and Families.

In Tim's last duties as a Shadow Minister for Health he led for the Conservatives during the remaining stages of the Mental Health Bill. Over the last five years the Bill has come under tremendous criticism from health professionals and the mental health community. Tim has been representing their concerns and asking the Government to agree to amendments to the most controversial aspects of the Bill. These included the issue of exclusions from the definition of what can constitute a 'mental disorder', the eligibility criteria for Community Treatment Orders, the issue of renewal of detention and the compulsory treatment of patients with unimpaired decision making ability.

It was only when faced with the prospect of defeat in the House of Lords for a second time that the Government began to indicate its willingness to negotiate. Whilst the final changes to the Bill do not go as far as Tim had hoped it certainly contains significant improvements of the Government's original proposals. To read Tim's final speech on mental health as Shadow Health Minister please [click here](#).

Open for business

The House of Commons breaks for the summer recess on Thursday July 26th and returns after the Party Conference season on Monday October 8th. It has also been announced that the new Parliamentary year will start on November 6th with the Queen's Speech and State Opening.

That does not mean that Tim will be away for all that time of course and he will be available in the constituency every week, other than a short holiday in August. The constituency office in Worthing will be open as usual and Tim's Parliamentary office will be staffed most days and voicemail monitored.

Forthcoming surgery dates are: 27th July in Shoreham, 17th August in Southwick and 31st August in Lancing.

For an appointment ring the constituency office on 01903 235168