



February 2016 Newsletter

Dear Constituent,

Compared to the highs of the Festive season, January can be a quiet month for many as we go back to work and focus on goals we have set for the year. If you managed to make it to the end of the month with your new year's resolution intact, congratulations!

For me, January was a very busy month. Parliament returned on January 4th and it has been almost non-stop since.

I always work hard to raise important local issues and causes in Parliament I believe in. This previous month was no exception.

In November I was contacted by a constituent about a cancer drug treatment which could have helped her husband but unfortunately it has been removed from the Cancer Drug Fund; the Government scheme to allow people to access cancer drugs not routinely available on the NHS.

After applying many times for a debate, I was finally successful in securing one this month in Westminster Hall. A cross-party group of MP's joined me and raised similar cases of constituents and personal examples of the difficulties of accessing cancer drugs.

Whilst the Minister who replied said NHS England will be looking at alternative treatments to make up for the removal of some drugs I will continue to press the Government on cancer treatments, an issue I care strongly about and I know will directly or indirectly affect, almost everyone in the constituency.

I also took the opportunity to raise a number of issues I know have been of concern in the constituency.

The approved development scheme in Oakwood has seen substantial opposition and I commend everyone in the community for the way they have come together to defend vital green wedge land.

The plans would leave ancient woodland completely surrounded by urban development leaving no pathway for wildlife who inhabit it to come and go. I asked specifically for safeguards for wildlife to be part of any new green space development plan and hope the House will debate it.

On another local issue, I was contacted about is the Derbyshire Scouts Association efforts for a new building they can use for their meetings. The Scout Association have used Drum Hill in Little Eaton since 1926. A 45 year old building on the site, Birch Hall, which is currently used by the local scout group is due for demolition. I raised the case directly in the House and called for debate on funding for volunteer led organisations like the Scouts that so positively help young people and the community. All my children have benefitted by using this amazing place for camping and working on their badges and other activities.

If there is ever an issue you want to contact me about or an event you think I can help with please do not hesitate to contact me on Pauline.latham.mp@parliament.uk or 0207 219 7110.

Yours sincerely,

How to contact me: 0207 219 2246/01332 676 769

Email: Pauline.latham.mp@parliament.uk

Facebook: [facebook.com/Pauline.latham.31](https://www.facebook.com/Pauline.latham.31)

Twitter: @Pauline_latham



Mid-Derbyshire visitors to Parliament

This month I had the pleasure of welcoming both junior schools from Allestree to Parliament in the space of a week: Lawn Primary School (above) and Portway Junior School (below). The students had many interesting questions for me displaying a level of engagement with current affairs most grownups would be proud of. I look forward to welcoming more Mid-Derbyshire visitors soon.



Record Low Unemployment Figures

Unemployment figures for Mid-Derbyshire remain at record lows which is great news. The figure now stands at 257, down over 1,000 since May 2010.

Behind every one of these figures is someone who is now enjoying the security of a job and the satisfaction of bringing a pay packet home. This does not mean we can be complacent though. I will be organising a Jobs Fair later this year to help those looking for work and will continue to support businesses so they can grow and employ more people.

Syrian Refugee Crisis Event

The Syrian refugee crisis continues to dominate the news and I am proud the UK is doing so much to meet its moral responsibilities supporting refugees in the region and the most vulnerable who are coming to the UK.

I know many of people in Mid-Derbyshire have questions about how the UK is supporting refugees or how the relocation programme will work in the UK. I am therefore hosting an event with Richard Harrington MP, the Minister for Refugees, and the Bishop of Derby, the Rt Reverend Alistair Redfern.

The details are:

Date: Friday, February 12th

Time: 2.00 – 4.00pm

Location: St Peters Church, 6 Chesterfield Road, Belper, DE56 1FD

I invite anyone interested to attend and hear directly from the Minister the work the UK is doing and ask any questions you may have on the issue. After all he is the expert!

If you would like to attend please contact Amanda Howitt in my constituency office on Amanda.howitt@parliament.uk or call 01332 676 679