



Pauline Latham OBE MP

Working hard for Mid Derbyshire

July 2014

UKIP FACTOID

In UKIP’s 2013 manifesto, the party’s position on global warming was that it did not exist, and was merely part of a cyclical pattern of weather. Over the last few years, UKIP have rubbished Government attempts to invest in renewable energy.

Dear Constituent,

Yet again July has been a busy month in both the Commons and Mid Derbyshire.

July saw me visit EPM Technology, a rapidly expanding company in Derby. EPM has seen fantastic growth in recent years and it is great to see a Derbyshire business flourishing in the way that EPM continues to .

I hosted an event for businesses in the Midlands looking to access the Ministry of Defence’s supply chain. It was brilliant to see small businesses come together, and was a good networking opportunity for all those involved.

A huge issue that I have been dealing with this month is that of the proposed housing development on land off Kedleston Road, Allestree. I do not normally deal with planning issues because they are for local councillors to determine but this one and a few others recently are a different scale from the normal ones. I am completely against this proposed development, as are the majority of local people, demonstrated by the number of constituents who attended a public consultation meeting at Woodlands School. The proposed development cannot be supported by the local infrastructure, with already oversubscribed schools and doctor’s surgeries set to see a demand they cannot meet.

Similarly, I am opposing a planned housing development in Borrowash. The main concern with the Borrowash development is that it is set to be built on greenbelt land and fills in one of the two fields between Borrowash and Spondon, in addition to further infrastructure concerns.

This month also saw me attend the launch of the Bishops of Derby’s United Nations bid to end Human Trafficking and I then took part in a debate on Modern Slavery in Westminster, highlighting Derby’s efforts to tackle such issues.

Finally, I spoke in the debate on reforms to vocational education. I am extremely pleased that I could highlight the work of Derby College and how it is providing useful vocational education for students through a range of different courses.

I hope to have lots more news to report in my next newsletter!

Yours sincerely,

Pauline Latham

Public Meeting about Development on Kedleston Road

As I am sure many of you that are local to the area will be aware, in April of this year, it was revealed that Catesby Property Group would be making an application for a residential development of up to 400 houses.

My immediate reaction to this news was that the size and location of the development were inappropriate, and I later went door to door with Cllr Roy Webb to gauge the opinion of local residents.

Realising that many locals were as concerned as I was, I held a public consultation meeting on 18th July at Allestree Woodlands School. It quickly became clear at the meeting that this was an emotive issue. One of the major concerns voiced was the impact that the development was likely to have on Kedleston Hall and the local infrastructure.

There is lack of infrastructure currently in place in the area, with Kedleston Road already a bottleneck at the rush hours. Locals raised the fact that the doctors surgeries and schools in the area were full, and simply could not cope with the additional strain of the numbers of residents living in the proposed 400 houses. There was some concern as to which local authority would cover the area, as the development itself is in Amber Valley, who would collect the council tax; but it would be for Derby City to provide the services such as schools, doctors and dentists surgeries.

The application is likely to be submitted to Amber Valley Borough Council in September, and I would strongly advise anyone with reservations about it to write to them directly. There is also a Facebook Group set up by local resident, Dave Anderson, objecting to the site, and I would also recommend joining this to get all the latest on the application and to show your feelings for or against the application. I, for my part, have committed to ask the Secretary of State to call in the application at the appropriate time.

Housing development in Borrowash

Another controversial subject in Mid Derbyshire is the housing development that has been proposed on land off the A6005 in Borrowash. In order to gauge public opinion about this particular development, I held another public consultation at Ashbrook School.

Around 130 people attended the meeting and voiced their concerns about how the development would impact on local amenities , and the fact that the proposed site is on greenbelt land.

At the meeting, it was explained that when the planning application is lodged by the developer; KPG Design Associates, people living in the area surrounding the site will receive notification of the proposals. I impressed upon the residents present that if they had concerns about the development, then it was important that they contact Erewash Borough Council.

I have written to all the residents of Borrowash to inform them of the development as requested by the meeting. I will of course keep a close eye on this matter, and endeavour to keep constituents updated.

Visit to EPM Technology

On Friday 25th July, I visited the premises of EPM Technology, a manufacturer of composite components on Raynesway in Derby. The firm is currently in the process of moving its facilities there to cope with increasing demand.

EPM came from small beginnings, and the business started in 1998 in a garage in Allestree. Now however, the company grosses around £6 million in sales annually, and makes F1 and sports cars and parts for a range of other applications.

The new site will allow the company to significantly expand its business, and could increase its turnover to £30 million. From what I saw of the new building, it was clear that there is a potential to expand the workforce, which EPM’s Managing Director, Graham Mulholland says could accommodate up to 150 employees.

It was good to meet Graham, and I wish him all the best in his current venture, which will provide vital employment opportunities for local people.



Debate on Vocational Education

Before recess, Labour called an Opposition Day Debate on their proposals for the reform of vocational education. I spoke in the debate, mentioning a number of institutions in Mid Derbyshire which will improve the standard of vocational education on offer in the area.

I spoke about how Broomfield Hall had expanded their range of courses to include foundation degrees in animal care. This will equip their students with the skills they need to continue their studies, and give them a high quality qualification.

I also mentioned how the manufacturing University Technical College, which is due to open in 2015 will offer local young people a world class education in manufacturing and will be great on the job experience.

I believe that Derby’s railway heritage, coupled with the world-class engineering firms in the area, like Rolls Royce and Bombardier, would make Derby the perfect location for the HS2 Skills Academy, which I put to the Minister during the debate.

Briefing for SMEs at Rolls Royce

On 21st July, I hosted a briefing event for businesses in the Midlands looking to access the Ministry of Defence’s supply chain. The guest speaker was the Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology, Philip Dunne MP.

The Minister spoke to the representatives of the businesses present about what the Government is doing to facilitate access to the MoD’s supply chain, which had previously been complicated.

He explained that the Defence Growth Partnership had been created by the Government to provide support to SMEs looking to enter the defence market. As part of this, a Defence Solutions Centre would be set up in Farnborough. The Centre will offer Government support to SMEs to create the defence technology of the future, and will identify opportunities for them in global markets.

Mr Dunne also spoke about how the advertising of MoD contracts would be simpler. Previously, only contracts worth over £250,000 were advertised in the Department’s trade journal, but now all contracts over £10,000 will go out for tender. Details of the contracts available will now also be made available online.

I was delighted with the turn-out at the event, with 16 firms represented from the Midlands. I was also proud to see two firms from my constituency in attendance; Armadillo Merino and Pektron. I will do whatever I can in my capacity as an MP to support local business, and if you do run a small business and require my help, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Derby’s Bid to end Human Trafficking

On 4th July, I attended the launch of Derby’s United Nations bid to end Human Trafficking, which is an initiative headed up by the Bishop of Derby. This was held at the Bishops House.

Over the last few years there have been a number of high profile police operations focussing on Human Trafficking rings in Derby. The victims were both internally and externally trafficked, and it is clear that it is a much larger problem than many first thought.

It is with this in mind that I took part in a debate on Modern Slavery in the Commons Chamber in Westminster, praising the work of the Bishop of Derby and Derbyshire Constabulary for introducing compassionate methods of policing that it is hoped will encourage victims to speak out.

Derby is only the second city in the UK to launch such a bid, and I am hopeful that it will help to rid the city of the scourge of economic and sexual exploitation.

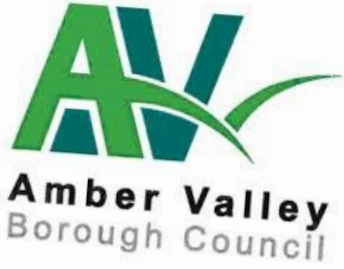
Delivered at no extra cost to the taxpayer



Kedleston Hall could be severely affected by the proposed development of 400 houses.



I host a public consultation at Allestree Woodlands School about the development.



Office of Mrs Pauline Latham OBE MP

The Old Station,Station Road, Spondon, Derby, DE21 7NE

t 01332 676 679

e Pauline.latham.mp@parliament.uk