



Pauline Latham OBE MP

Working hard for Mid Derbyshire

June 2014

UKIP FACTOID

Did you know that UKIP’s 2010 manifesto promises to end spending on renewable energy sources? In spite of the drastic changes in the global climate and the rising cost of fossil fuels, it would seem that UKIP aren’t committed to providing the UK with a clean, sustainable source of energy.

Dear Constituent,

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

One of the biggest issues I have been dealing with is of course the delays to works on the Little Eaton roundabout. Living in Little Eaton myself, I have first-hand experience of the frustration and disruption that the delays have caused. Nevertheless, you can rest assured that I am currently in talks with both the Transport Secretary and the Highways Agency to try to ensure that the work is done as quickly as possible.

Another hot topic this month is the Belper library. Many of you will be aware that the Belper library is in need of a new location, owing to the fact that large parts of the existing structure are unsafe for the public to use. I had some initial concerns about the allocation of funding for the project, yet I think it represents a great opportunity to create a social hub for the people of Belper. It would now be good to confirm a timescale for the building work to be done with an end date to look forward to.

This month, I have also been working closely with a number of local schools. Firstly I visited Morley Primary School to see the work they had been doing with the children to promote sun safety. I was delighted to see that the school were so keen to encourage the pupils to take care and wear sun cream, and that they had employed such innovative and fun methods to impress this message on them.

The other school I visited was Pottery Primary in Belper. I spoke to the children at length about my role as the Member of Parliament for Mid Derbyshire, and handled what I felt were some very tough questions from the children about topics ranging from mice in my office to the UK’s future in Europe.

20th June marked National Care Homes Open Day, and I went along to the Laurels care home in Spondon to meet some of the residents and release some balloons to commemorate the occasion. It was a great event, and the entertainment provided by local school children was delightful.

On that same day, I opened the newly refurbished Housley Pharmacy, which is also in Spondon. I had a look at their new facilities, which were very impressive.

I hope to have lots more news to report next month!

Yours sincerely,

Pauline Latham

The Relocation of the Belper Library

For some years now, there has been a need for a new library in Belper. In its current state, the Bridge Street library is not fit for purpose. It has no disabled access, which is contrary to the social inclusivity that libraries are supposed to represent and large parts of the current Belper library are unusable, due to concerns for public safety. Owing to the poor state of the building, it will not be enough to simply refurbish the building, and the library will need to be relocated entirely.

A number of years ago, the Conservative group at Derbyshire County Council inherited a fund of around £1.5 million for the redevelopment of the library, and by the end of their leadership of the Council, talks were already advanced on the plans for it.

That is why I was concerned when I heard that the Heanor library was to be relocated, and that the funds would come from those intended for the one in Belper.

It is of the utmost importance that Belper gets a new library, but I have been concerned that the fund allocated for this may be dipped into by Derbyshire County Council to pay for other projects. It is with this in mind that I have written to the Head of the Council to ask that the project be put higher up their list of priorities and that the funds reserved for the Belper library are ring-fenced.

I understand that a report has been produced by the Council on possible sites for the new library. Should you have any views on where it should go, or like me are concerned about the timings and funding of the project, I would encourage you to contact the County Council directly and let me know that you have done so. Should you require assistance in contacting the Council, please do not hesitate to contact me using the details given below.



Delays to works on the A38

Over the past few weeks, I am sure many of you will have experienced extended delays on the A38 due to the slow progress of works on the Little Eaton roundabout. As a Little Eaton resident, I have personal experience of the difficulties caused by these delays.

I think it is ridiculous that works that were originally scheduled to end in March are still causing havoc for residents. The delays were reportedly due to the fact that ‘rare’ white-clawed crayfish were found in a brook close to the site, despite the earlier ecological surveys, carried out on behalf of the Highways Agency, failure to identify their presence.

However, when I called the Highways Agency’s Director of Strategy and Planning, I was categorically told that the Agency had ‘no plans’ to lay on extra staff, or lengthen working hours on the site. This response did not satisfy me, so I took the matter further and wrote to both the Highways Agency and the Secretary of State for Transport to ask that working hours on the site should be extended.

The response from the Highways Agency was that they had followed best practice guidelines when moving the crayfish, and that they were looking at ways of expediting the works. I will of course keep my eye on this matter, and hold the Highways Agency to account for any further upheaval. I will endeavour to ensure that the delays and disruption caused by the works are kept to a minimum.

Melanoma Campaign and Sun Safe Schools

As some of you may know, I have been involved in a campaign to get the drug Ipilimumab recommended by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) as a first line treatment for malignant melanoma.

I am pleased to say that the drug has now had approval from NICE. This will mean that late-stage melanoma sufferers will have access to this wonder drug earlier, giving them a better prognosis and quality of life. I would of course like to thank all the sufferers, the charities (Skin and Melanoma UK especially) and clinicians that supported me in this campaign.

I have also been writing to schools about the Sun Safe Campaign that Richard Clifford and his charity Skin are running. I am pleased to report that having visited Morley Primary School recently, the school are now teaching their children the importance of preventing excessive exposure to the sun. I was even treated to a rendition of the ‘Slip, Slap, Slop’ song, showing the importance of wearing sun cream!



The State Opening of Parliament

The Queen’s Speech is always a highlight of the Parliamentary calendar, and this year was no exception.

Her Majesty announced that the Government would be undertaking a number of legislative reforms over the next parliamentary session. The proposed changes included simplifying National Insurance, major reforms to the electricity market and the abolition of the 10p tax rate on savings.

It would seem that this new parliamentary session will be as exciting as the last, and I am proud to be a part of the party that is committed to bringing in these useful reforms.

I did feel very sorry for the young Page Boy who fainted during the speech. I think he was about 11 and he must have been so proud to be one of the train bearers. He was overcome by the heat in the Lord’s chamber and having to stand so very still that he just fell to the floor in a faint and was duly carried out. The papers all covered that incident which would have caused him embarrassment!



Visit to Pottery Primary School

On Friday 6th June, I visited Pottery Primary School in Belper and met with Year 6 pupils who had visited the House of Commons earlier this year.

I spoke to the children about my role as the Member of Parliament for Mid Derbyshire, and how I represent my constituents in the House of Commons. I also explained what the typical day for an MP was like, and spoke about the parliamentary process.

I told the children that I felt extremely privileged to be an MP, as it has allowed me to meet a variety of different people including homeless people, people with disabilities and even President Obama.

The children then asked me some very challenging questions and I was grilled on topics like immigration and Euro-scepticism.

I was pleased to hear that the children had undertaken some research before my visit and was impressed when they mentioned the mouse infestation in my Parliamentary Office a few months ago. Obviously, the children were fascinated by this, and asked me about when I used to keep mice as pets as a girl.



National Care Homes Open Day

I visited the Laurels Care Home in Spondon as part of the events they were running for National Care Homes Open Day.

The campaign, which has received backing from the Department of Health was designed to challenge the misconceptions the public may have had in respect of elderly residential care, in light of the findings of recent investigations carried out in the national media.

It was wonderful to meet some of the residents, and to enjoy the activities that had been laid on to commemorate the day. The Park School band and a nursery choir performed at the event, and I released 50 balloons to mark the day.

I think that the event really helped challenge perceptions about adult residential care, and I am sure that the residents enjoyed it as much as I did!



Re-opening of Housley Pharmacy

On 20th June, I opened the recently refurbished Housley Pharmacy in Spondon.

The pharmacy now looks really light and bright, and the work has allowed its owner, Chris Hind to create a discreet, welcoming and professional-looking consulting room.

It is great to see a local business investing in the facilities it offers the community, and I wish Chris all the best in his very smart, new-look store.

Delivered at no extra cost to the taxpayer

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