



Pauline Latham OBE MP

Working hard for Mid Derbyshire

May 2014

UKIP FACTOID

Nigel Farage has called for the Great British public to ‘punish’ greedy MPs, but did you know that on top of his annual salary of £63,000 he has claimed £2 million worth of expenses on the taxpayer? He has also boasted that this money was used to help UKIP’s cause.

Dear Constituent,

I hope that you are all feeling well rested after the Easter break. The weather was certainly at its best!

This month, whilst having been quieter than the last, brought with it a lot of exciting news and interesting experiences. One such experience was my visit to the Belper headquarters of the boiler manufacturer Vaillant, after they had been honoured with a listing in 2014’s Superbrand Business Index. I had a tour of the site, and learnt a lot about their business.

I also went to see how business was going at the branch of MacDonald’s in Asda in Spondon. It was great to meet some of their employees, and to hear what the company is doing to train and promote the advancement of their employees.

It was a real pleasure to meet Nigel Vardy, aka Mr Frostbite this month. He embarked on a ski racing expedition in North East Greenland to test out ski clothing made by the Alfreton brand, Terra Nova. Whilst it was unsuccessful, I am sure it was a fantastic experience, and I look forward to hearing about his next adventure!

The other piece of important news this month was the public consultation Tesco held at Belper Town Football Club on May 1st. This was an opportunity for local residents to see the plans for the Meadows Edge site in Belper, and to air their views about the prospective development. Having seen the plans for the site, however, it became clear that residents were dissatisfied, and it is for that reason that I have planned a public meeting on 22nd May. Please see below for details.

It has also been great to receive so many letters from constituents about issues that matter to them. The two things that have featured heavily in letters to me recently is the political situation in the Ukraine and the No.11 bus service. I have taken these concerns seriously, and have actioned them accordingly, details of which you will find later in this newsletter.

I hope to have plenty more exciting news to report next month.

Yours sincerely,
Pauline Latham

Visit to Vaillant’s UK Headquarters in Belper

A few months ago, I wrote to Belper boiler manufacturer Vaillant to congratulate them on their recent listing in this year’s Superbrand Business Index. In reply to this letter, the Managing Director of Vaillant, James Moore invited me to spend the afternoon at their Belper HQ.

At the start of my visit, I had an interesting presentation about the company followed by a tour of the production warehouse, where the company’s Research and Development is carried out.

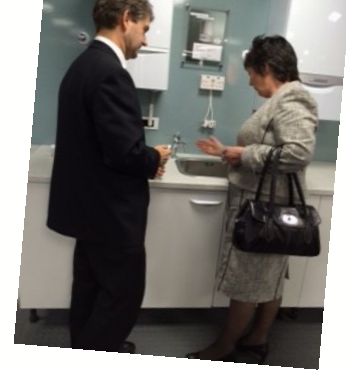


I meet with Vaillant’s Managing Director James Moore at the company’s headquarters in Belper

I then chatted to some of Vaillant’s employees, some of whom were so local that they walk to work. First, I met with the call handlers in their call centres, then I spoke to some of their engineers.

At the end of my visit, I was taken around Vaillant’s training centre, where I saw the wide range of boilers that Vaillant has to offer, and learnt about their ease of use and energy efficiency.

What struck me on my visit, however, was their employee-focussed approach, and it was refreshing to see a multi-national company, which was clearly concerned about its local impact. Vaillant employs around 500 local people, and really engages with the community, holding a bi-annual family fun day for its employees.



Public Consultation to be held on the plans for the Meadows Edge site in Belper



At a previous meeting, I look over the plans for the site of the old Thornton’s factory in Belper

As some of you may be aware, over the last few months, I have arranged a number of meetings between local organisations and businesses, Transition Belper and Tesco to decide what to do with the site of the disused Thornton’s factory in Belper and Meadows Edge site.

On 1st May, Tesco held a public consultation at Belper Town Football Club, to show their plans for the site to local residents, and to give them an opportunity to respond to them. During this consultation, residents felt that the discussions that I had facilitated between local stakeholders and Tesco had come to nothing, and that the majority of the first phase of the site would be made into housing.

I am therefore holding a public meeting on Thursday 22nd May from 6.00-8.00 p.m. in the Drama Room, Belper School, John O’Gaunt’s Way, Belper, Derbyshire, DE56 0DA.

The purpose of the meeting will be to allow people to express their views, whether positive or negative, before the outline application is submitted by Tesco at the end of May. There will also be an opportunity to discuss the correct process should anyone wish to object to the application and the grounds for which an objection can be made in order for it to be considered.

I would strongly advise that Belper residents and other interested parties attend this event, as it will allow them to influence the potential future of their town.

I will of course keep constituents up to date with any other discussions. Should you require any further information on the consultation or the exhibition, please do not hesitate to contact my Parliamentary Office.

Meeting with Nigel Vardy aka Mr Frostbite

On 11th April, I had the pleasure of meeting my constituent, Nigel Vardy, aka Mr Frostbite.

Nigel embarked on a ski racing expedition in Eastern Greenland, and was in one of the four teams taking part. He was to walk a gruelling 150km in five days with sledges in freezing conditions between 3 and –30 degrees Celsius. He was testing special extremities clothing for the Alfreton based firm, Terra Nova.

Nigel spent his 45th birthday on the trek, and celebrated with a glass of whisky on a glacier.



Unfortunately, however, owing to strong winds and terrible blizzards, the trek had to be cancelled. Nigel is not sure whether he will make another attempt to complete the race, but I am sure that his next adventure will be just as exciting!

Suspension of the No.11 Bus Service

Over the past few months, I have received letters from a number of concerned West Hallam and Stanley residents about the suspension of the No.11 bus service from West Hallam to Derby City Centre.

I too was concerned about this development, and believe that the decision to discontinue the service would not only damage the quality of local residents’ lives, but also harm the local economy, as many cannot get to work.

Last year, I wrote to the Chief Executive of Notts and Derby buses, who run the service to arrange a meeting with him. I was simply told that the service was not ‘cost effective’ and that my offer of a meeting had been declined.

After writing to Notts and Derby again, to reiterate my request for a meeting, I received notice that as from late June, the No.11 service would be reinstated with funds from Derbyshire County Council for a further year on a ‘use it or lose it’ basis.

Political situation in Ukraine

Over the past few weeks, I have received a number of letters from members of the Ukrainian community in Derbyshire relating to the political unrest in Ukraine.

I completely sympathise with the concerns that Derbyshire Ukrainians have in this regard, and I personally believe that Russia’s involvement in the Crimea region has been antagonistic.



Having made representations to the Minister for Europe at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on this matter, I am pleased that the Government shares my views. In his reply, the Minister stated that all joint military operations with Russia had been suspended, and that the UK Government does not recognise the legitimacy of the Crimean Government.

I am of course always interested in this delicate situation, and I will be keeping a close eye on it over the coming weeks.

Visit to MacDonald’s, Spondon



This month, I was invited to the branch of MacDonald’s in Asda in Spondon to meet their staff and see all the work they are doing to train and educate their staff.

Currently, the store employs 47 people, and is looking to employ another 4 over the next month. There are also a number of opportunities for career progression on offer, and employees can undertake a Level 2 Apprenticeship, which is equivalent to 5 good GCSEs.

The store’s manager Indy Rai is living proof of how working at MacDonald’s can lead to career progression, as 18 years ago he started as a crew member.

I thoroughly enjoyed meeting Indy and his team, and hope that the store’s business continues to grow steadily over the coming months.