

Pauline Latham OBE MP

Working hard for Mid Derbyshire
November 2015

Dear Constituent,

Firstly thank you to all of those who have signed up to receive my newsletter. I hope they keep you informed of what I am doing as Member of Parliament for Mid-Derbyshire and of forthcoming events that may be of interest.

It has been a busy few weeks in Westminster and in the constituency. In Parliament we have voted on a Bill to give more powers to local governments, an updated Armed Forces Bill, and reforms to welfare. Away from the headlining grabbing events though I have joined in on a wide range of debates and question sessions including; Cardiac Risk in the Young, the UK's work in tackling Malaria and other Neglected Tropical Diseases, tackling youth unemployment and what the Government is doing to create more school places in Mid-Derbyshire.

Youth unemployment is a real success story in Mid-Derbyshire. In 2010 youth unemployment stood at 6.1% with the total number of young people unemployed at 350. In the most recent figures, released in September this year, that figure is now down to 70. This represents just 1% of 18-24 year olds in my constituency, a brilliant achievement.

I used a speech on the topic of youth unemployment to highlight the local initiatives in Mid-Derbyshire helping young people to give them the skills and experiences needed to be a smart choice for an employer. There are lots of people giving up their time to support young people and keeping them on the right track. They're a credit to the constituency!

At the end of the main government business in the House of Commons, Members can apply for an Adjournment Debate on any issue or topic they care about. I held one last month on the topic of speeding traffic outside Morley Primary School. This month I joined a debate on Cardiac screening for young people to praise the work of local fundraiser Danielle Wright. She has been raising money for Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY) in memory of her friend Sam Wright who died suddenly far too young. Her fundraising allowed all the sixth-formers at Woodlands School which Sam used to attend to be screened. She was awarded fundraiser-of-the-year by the Derby Telegraph earlier this year. I was glad to be able to highlight her efforts in the House of Commons.

As always if you think there are any events that I could ever help raise attention to or pop along to always feel free to email: Pauline.latham.mp@parliament.uk or tweet me: @Pauline_latham

Pauline Latham

Good month for rail news including a visit from Rail Minister

One of the highlights of the month was welcoming Rail Minister Claire Perry to Derby for a full day of rail-related activities.

The schedule was jam packed from the moment I met her at the station.

Firstly we visited Railway Vehicle Engineering Ltd to see re-engineering projects and the maintenance work being done for the National Rail Infrastructure Monitoring Fleet.

It was then on to Delta Rail for a discussion of the rail companies operations before a meeting with the Rail Forum East Midlands which represents over 150 rail related businesses across the region.

The rail related agenda continued into the afternoon with lunch at rolling stock operations company Porterbrook to talk about rail leasing before visiting train makers Bombardier.

In the evening Delta Rail hosted the Minister at a dinner at the Roundhouse with a number of other speakers to provide entertainment and insight.

The visit came off of the back of the announcement that the electrification of the Midlands Mainline is back on. This was very welcome news, not only for East Midlands Trains users but for rail related jobs in the area.

The final good piece of rail news is the new East Midlands Direct Award which will see £13 million invested in a host of development, including the investment of £1 million to improve accessibility at stations. Many of you reading this will no doubt use East Midlands Trains to get around so will join me in welcoming the news.



Join Community Clear Up Day!

I am organising a community clear up day to pick up litter in Willowcroft Park in Spondon and need your help to make it a success! It is taking place on Saturday 28th November between 10am – 12 noon. Litter not only looks bad but also is a risk for the wildlife that share the park with us.

If you would like to volunteer please contact my office at: The Office of Pauline Latham OBE MP, DE21 7NE or contact Amanda Howitt on 01332 676679 or email howitta@parliament.uk

I am a long standing campaigner on diabetes and the effects of high sugar content in people's diets. That is why I am backing Jamie Oliver's 'Sugar Rush' campaign to raise awareness to just how much sugar is in the food we eat, including the items like orange juice we look at as healthy. I met with Jamie this past month and the facts on sugar content were shocking. Popular drinks such as Ribena and Pepsi have 13 and 14 tea spoons of sugar in them respectively. The total recommended daily allowance for an adult is seven!

I will never be one to favour raising taxes but the facts in this instance convinced me that a levy on high sugar items will help offset the health consequences of consuming them, such as diabetes, which cost the NHS so much each year.



Meeting with Kedleston Voice

If anyone has driven along Kedleston Road they will have seen the large, yellow posters and signs along the hedgerows and in gardens as part of the campaign against building 400 houses on the other side of Kedleston Road.

This month I met with the community group, Kedleston Voice Action Group, to show my support to their campaign and hear the latest updates on it.

One of the main issues is how new homes would affect resources. I'm a vocal supporter of utilising unused land to solve the shortage of housing but new housing means more strain on school places, doctors surgeries, parking and roads. Without an effective plan to address these issues I cannot support the proposed development.

And finally.....

Attention all Small Business Employers: Work place Pensions Event.

Earlier this year I hosted an event on the changes to Workplace Pensions at the University of Derby. Following the interest in that event I am hosting another on Friday 4th December.

This is a **free** event for employers in businesses from Mid Derbyshire who employ one or more people to find more about the changes which will affect all employers and their employees. There will be an independent speaker from the Pensions Regulator to deliver the session followed by the chance to speak to exhibitors for further advice and information. I encourage anyone in Mid Derbyshire to apply to attend if they are unsure of what the changes will mean for them.

The details are:

Date: Friday 4th December 2015

Location; University of Derby's Enterprise Centre, Bridge Street, Derby, DE1 3LD

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

If you are interested in attending please email Amanda Howitt, on howitta@parliament.uk or call 01332 676 679.