

Pauline Latham OBE MP

Working hard for Mid Derbyshire

October 2015

Meeting with Derby students to discuss student finance

I met with student union representatives at the University of Derby to discuss changes to the student maintenance grant announced in the Chancellor's July budget.

Understandably there was concern of the effect of changing this long standing grant on the ability of students from lower income backgrounds going to university.

When the tuition fees were changed in the last parliament the number of students from lower income families continued to increase.

I am confident the same will apply as the grant is changed to a loan.

Tour of Britain comes to Belper

It was a pleasure to join the crowds lining the streets in Belper to watch the Tour of Britain cycle past.

People had come from all over the country to watch some of the best riders in the world come through.

What might be lesser known is that it is actually thanks to a Mid-Derbyshire constituent that the tour got its start in the late 1950's at The Milk Race.



Mrs Latham to host another workplace pensions event

Following the success of the previous Workplace Pensions Event hosted by Pauline Latham OBE MP back in June 2015, The next event will be on Friday 4th December 2015

This is a FREE event for employers of small businesses who employ one or more people to find out more about the changes to the Workplace Pensions Scheme. There will be an independent speaker from the Pensions Regulator to deliver this session followed by the chance to speak to exhibitors for further advice and information.

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, in my constituency office on howitta@parliament.uk or call 01332 676 679.

And finally.....

Raising Awareness for Dementia

On Friday November 13th I will be hosting a Dementia Awareness session. As we all live longer many of us will have to deal with dementia in some capacity whether it is a problem we will have or whether a family member will suffer from. It is, understandably, a subject many treat with trepidation. I held a Dementia Awareness session for carers and family members to learn more about this condition earlier this year. It is due to its success that I am holding another one.

The details are:

Date: Friday, November 13th.

Location: Strutts Centre, Derby Road, Belper. Derbyshire, DE56 1UU.

Time: 10:00 – 14:00.

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



Dear Constituent,

The start of September is always very busy in Parliament as 650 MP's descend on Westminster and the House of Commons comes back into session from summer recess.

During this period I have participated in a wide range of debates and question sessions on topics ranging from support for local energy projects to penalties for dangerous drivers. In between the House took votes on a Trade Union Bill, an EU Referendum Bill and National Insurance Contributions amongst others.

The main issue that has dominated the first two weeks back though is that of the migrant crisis. The tragic image of a Syrian toddler washed up on a Turkish beach drove home for many the human cost of the Syrian War and the need for European nations to address it. The Prime Minister announced we would be accepting 20,000 Syrian refugees by the end of this Parliament. This is on top of those 5,000 we have taken in since 2012.

There is understandable concern as to the effect this will have on our national resources but it is the right thing to do. It does not solve the root of the problem, the ongoing civil war in Syria which becomes more complicated as it goes on, but as a compassionate nation we can accommodate these people. I will be joining a day long forum discussion on the crisis at Derby Cathedral on October 2nd and look forward to joining with others to discuss what can be done to help.

On a local note, I held a debate on traffic speeds outside Morley Primary School in the main House of Commons chamber. I started off the debate by reading a letter from a young constituent which eloquently summed up the issue: traffic not slowing down as they go past the School as children cross and even going through the crossing lights on red putting young lives at risk. I called for better signage leading up to the School and supported the campaign by the School to have the speed limit reduced to twenty miles per hour. Since the debate Derbyshire County Council have written to me to say they will be looking at the issue. The Minister who replied on behalf of the Government, Andrew Jones MP, also said he would be contacting Derbyshire County Council to see if there is more they can do to enforce the speed limit.

Parliament is now on a break for the Conference season so I am spending time in the constituency meeting people, visiting schools and local businesses, but when we return I will continue to be involved in the Chamber speaking up for Mid-Derbyshire and the people in it.

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

Yours sincerely,

Pauline Latham

Electrification of Midlands Main Line

On 30th September, the Secretary of State for Transport, the Rt. Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP, announced that work to electrify the Midlands Main Line would resume following recommendations from the Hendy Report. Alongside the electrification it will be combined with ongoing work to line speed and capacity improvement of the Midland Mainline from London to Corby, Leicester, Nottingham, Derby and Sheffield.

Earlier in the month I joined MP's from across the East Midlands in a debate on the issue in Westminster Hall saying I hoped it will be given the green light to continue. Now, this announcement means by 2023 the entire Midland Mainline to Sheffield will be electrified bringing cleaner, quieter, faster and more reliable trains with greater capacity to the line.

This comes alongside the already announced new East Midlands Direct Award, which will see £13 million invested in a host of developments, including the investment of £1 million to improve accessibility at stations.

This is fantastic news that will make a huge difference for constituents of Mid-Derbyshire and everyone else who uses East Midlands Trains. This announcement not only creates certainty for the rail industry, but also the supply chain and secures jobs in and around Derby

I will continue to work with our local Rail Forum and the many other people interested in this issue to make sure these improvements are kept on the right track (no pun intended).