



Caroline Dinenage

**MP for Gosport,
Lee-on-the-Solent,
Stubbington and
Hill Head**



This month began and ended with big announcements, with the Conservative Party Conference in Birmingham at the start of October and the [Budget](#) this week, both setting out how the effective stewardship of the economy over recent years has paid off. Not only is unemployment at an all-time low, working people will see further cuts to income tax in April 2019 and an increase of the National Living Wage. This means someone working 40 hours a week on minimum wage has an annual wage up from £11,200 in 2010 to £17,100 next April.

Hampshire County Council has been awarded an additional £4.7 million, and Portsmouth City Council £890,417, to support Adult Services to get people out of hospital with the right package of care during the busy winter months.

The Budget also saw a further £650 million boost for Local Authorities for social care, £2 billion for mental health services, with a further £10 million donation to the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust to support veterans with mental health needs.

Back in the Constituency the fantastic [Winter Warmth and 55+ info Fest](#) event saw hundreds of visitors engage with 60 stalls offering great advice and guidance about how to keep healthy, happy and warm over the chilly months ahead. It was lovely to catch up with some of the community groups that make our area such a great place to live.

Some of these individuals were also captured in perpetuity at local artist, Dan Williams' truly brilliant '[Unsung Heroes](#)' exhibition at the Gosport Gallery. It's on until January 15th and I thoroughly recommend it!

I took part in an extremely wet local 'Memory Walk' for the Alzheimer's Society and, back in London, I celebrated the [Dementia Discovery Fund](#), started by this Government, hitting the £250 million funding milestone.

I met with First Buses to discuss local people's concerns regarding some of our bus routes and re-iterated how vital they are to our community. I was delighted that the Budget announced a £30 billion investment in our transport networks, with £420 million to maintain roads.

I saw those roads from a whole new perspective when I joined a shift with the Hampshire Constabulary Road Traffic Unit this month, giving me a valuable insight into their work. I was really concerned about the number of drivers who fail to make room for emergency vehicles, even with flashing blue lights and sirens. They have a [campaign](#) raising awareness for this.

Our local road congestion and air quality issues are well documented, so the last thing we need is large scale house building in our area. That's why I [submitted my objections](#) to the new planning application for 75 homes on Newgate Lane.



With the Talking News at the Winter Warmth, 55+ Info Fest.



Alzheimer's Society Memory Walk.



Joining the Hampshire Constabulary Road Traffic Unit.

I also wrote to the relevant Minister to outline my concerns that this development will place further pressure on our already over stretched infrastructure.

I had the honour of cutting the ribbon on the newly rebranded Alver Valley Family Centre and whilst there, I caught up with Chloe and team from The Real Junk Food Project and with Kerry from Acts of Kindness. The Discovery Centre also officially re-opened this month and includes more community space and a fantastic new Changing Places facility, footfall is already up by a third!



Opening the Alver Valley Family Centre.

The Gosport in Bloom Awards reminded us of the how beautiful our area looked over the summer months and a young, local TV Presenter, Fred Dinenage was there to hand out the prizes. (Never heard of him!)

Education Minister [Nick Gibb](#) visited Gomer Junior School to hear more about their award winning STEM teaching. Students from both Bay House and Crofton Schools came for tours of Parliament and I was happy to catch up with them to discuss politics and life as an MP.



Minister, Nick Gibb, visiting Gomer Junior School.

I met with Gosport manufacturing company STS Defence to hear about their incredibly innovative work in Artificial Intelligence and latest contract with CERN. I also met with Defence Minister, Tobias Ellwood MP, to discuss the future of Ministry of Defence sites across the Gosport peninsula. I was pleased to hear an extra £1bn for our Armed Forces in the Budget.

The Gosport Independent Panel held a meeting with families affected by the report into the deaths at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital. I published an [open letter](#) to be read out to the families. I also met with the Prime Minister to discuss the Government's forthcoming response to the report.

In Westminster, I met a number of charities to hear more about their vital work.

Amy and her gorgeous dog, Stanley, told me about the invaluable work of [Support Dogs UK](#) in maintaining quality of life when coping with disability. Breast Cancer Care highlighted the [support](#) they give to those with incurable secondary breast cancer. And I was honoured to speak at the launch of the [Together for Short Lives](#) report into children and young people's palliative care.

I was pleased to hear that the Government is launching a consultation to ban single-use plastic items. There were also landmark commitments made at this year's Illegal [Wildlife Trade Conference](#) to protect magnificent and threatened species across the globe. We also celebrated [Green Great Britain Week](#), the tenth anniversary of the UK Climate Change Act which was the first legislation in the world to introduce legally binding emissions targets.



Amy and her furry friend Stanley, a support dog.

While Brexit negotiations are still ongoing, the Prime Minister announced that 95% of the final Withdrawal Agreement has been agreed. Major steps included the [Fisheries Bill](#), proposing powers to allow the UK to determine which vessels may fish in our waters. The [Healthcare \(International Agreement\) Bill](#) will open the door to comprehensive reciprocal arrangements; including continued membership of the popular European Healthcare Insurance Card scheme.

Coming up in November I am excited to once again host the [Gosport Enterprise Fair](#), a free business support exhibition and networking event at St Vincent College on Friday 16th November. If you have your own business, or are thinking of starting one, this is for you!

Meanwhile preparations are underway for the roll out of Universal Credit in the Gosport and Fareham Borough this November. The Government has announced an extra £1 billion transitional relief, please click [here](#) for more information and advice about how this might affect you.

Best wishes

Caroline

GET IN TOUCH

Please feel free to contact me on any issue, or to find out when my next surgery is. I'm always happy to arrange tours of the Palace of Westminster for my constituents. Please contact my office at least three months in advance to make sure you get a place - the tours are very popular!

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