



Caroline Dinenage

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



Hampshire MPs meeting with
Transport Secretary Chris Grayling.



Signing the Holocaust Educational
Trust's Book of Commitment.



Supporting the #SmearForSmear
Cervical Cancer Campaign.

Happy New Year readers! Just a month into 2019 and already so much has happened. The Prime Minister's EU Withdrawal Agreement was [defeated](#) in the House of Commons and the Government survived a vote of No Confidence. For those that are interested I've set out [my views](#) on the current Brexit position in full in the attached letter. Please be assured I will always work in the best interests of my constituents, to protect local jobs and prosperity and to deliver the mandate of local people who voted, by 64%, to Leave the EU.

In light of recent claims about the potential effect of a No Deal Brexit scenario on Portsmouth Port and surrounding roads, the Secretary of State for Transport met with myself and fellow Hampshire MPs to reassure us that the necessary preparations have been made and there is no cause for concern.

Although Brexit has dominated headlines, there have been some fantastic announcements this month which you might have missed. Good [news](#) on jobs as unemployment both nationally and locally has halved since 2010, with a record employment rate of 75.8%.

As a Champion of [Hestia's 'UK Says No More'](#) campaign I was delighted to see the landmark draft [Domestic Abuse Bill](#) published. The Government also launched its [Clean Air Strategy](#) and a [consultation](#) to extend the single-use plastic bag charge. New [financial penalties for fly-tipping](#) have been introduced to help keep our community clean and Pensions Cold Calling has been [banned](#).

The Government launched [The Long Term Plan](#) for the NHS earlier this month setting out its priorities for the £25 billion a year extra funding. I met with the Fareham and Gosport Clinical Commissioning Group to discuss local healthcare issues - particularly with regard to GP services in our area which are under great pressure. I caught up with Hampshire Healthwatch in Parliament to discuss their work representing residents voices in local health and care services.

[ICan Charity](#) talked to me about their work with children's speech and language therapy. Extra funding was promised to [Changing Places facilities](#). I was shocked to hear how few of these toilets for people with severe disabilities there are currently in hospitals and other public buildings and very much welcome this investment.

We commemorated Holocaust Memorial Week and I [signed the Holocaust Educational Trust's Book of Commitment](#), remembering the victims and honouring the extraordinary survivors. During Cervical Cancer Week I joined Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust [#SmearForSmear](#) campaign. I was shocked to hear that 1 in 4 women don't get a regular test; you can find out how to get yours [here](#).

Back in the Gosport Constituency there have been a number of positive announcements. I was delighted that the appeal in the application for 150 new homes on the land west of Old Street, Stubbington, was [dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate](#). The proposed build would have destroyed vital green spaces, put pressure on local infrastructure and exacerbated our traffic problems.

In other good news, in response to my letter to the Compass Group to query why staff at the Gosport War Memorial had not been fully paid, the company [agreed to pay the money these staff are owed](#).

I joined the children of the [Tigers Motorcycle Display Team](#) who have raised over £4K for local charities. I was not only impressed by their fundraising skills, but also their talent as they took turns to jump over me on their motorbikes.



Presenting 4k to local charities with the daring Tigers Motorcycle Display team.

Good education news as 13 local Primary Schools saw an [increase in school attainment](#) in recent Key Stage 2 results - huge credit to the hard work and effort of teachers, pupils and parents.

I was delighted to join St. John's Primary School '[Google Legends' Assembly](#) focusing on online safety. As a mother I know the online world is a concern for many parents. With this in mind I will be hosting a [free Cyber Safety Event](#) on February 7th, this will offer advice on digital parenting. You can get your ticket [here](#).

I was delighted to lead a lesson on Parliament and Democracy with Year 6 pupils at Crofton Hammond Junior School. They asked lots of smart questions and it was great to see their interest in current affairs.

Despite the fantastic progress of our schools, there has been increasing pressure on local post-16 education and funding - I met with the Skills Minister, Anne Milton MP to share my concerns.



At Crofton Hammond Junior School.

I also [met](#) with the new District Police Commander for Gosport & Fareham, Mark Lewis, to discuss recent policing and crime issues, including the sharp rise in bike thefts which I know is a concern for many residents.

I was delighted that Minister for Defence Procurement, Stuart Andrew MP, accepted my invitation to visit Gosport and [open the new Research and Technology centre](#) at STS Defence. I also popped over to Whale Island to meet the Second Sea Lord Vice Admiral Tony Radakin, to keep up the pressure on decisions regarding the future of Fort Blockhouse and HMS Sultan. Both sites have a key role in local economic prosperity, I remain adamant that HMS Sultan must NOT close and Blockhouse must be disposed of in a way that secures the best possible local outcome. I also discussed both sites with the Naval Base Commander Jim Higham, reiterating the significance of 'Portsmouth Harbour', not just 'Portsmouth' in discussions about our area's proud Naval History and, more importantly, its future prosperity, in which Gosport must remain integral.



Meeting the Second Sea Lord, Vice Admiral Tony Radakin.

Coming up in February, other than my [Cyber Safety event](#), don't forget the new Gosport [Friendship and Memory Café](#) is also launching on the first Wednesday of the month in Melrose Gardens.

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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