

# Caroline Dinenage

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



A busy April started with a meeting with bosses at Queen Alexandra Hospital, including Chief Exec. Ursula Ward, to discuss current issues. Top of my list was the lengthy delays at A&E, a great concern for patients and SC Ambulance Service. They explained that a major cause was that Emergency Department admissions were exponentially up, partly due to pressures on local GPs. QA now have an action plan to deal with increased volumes and I will be keeping in touch with them to see how the situation progresses.

Continuing on the health theme, I met with the Care Quality Commission, which monitors and inspects health and social care services. The event enabled local MPs to ask questions about the quality of healthcare provision in our region. If you have any concerns about care or medical services you can report them [here](#).

I met with NATS to discuss their proposals for a Radar Reference Facility at Daedalus Airfield. I had many questions regarding the safety and visual impact of the radar, which will be used for engineering training purposes. A full FAQ document is available [here](#).

Elsewhere on Daedalus there is still local concern around National Grid's proposals to build an IFA2 Interconnector. To find out more about the potential impact I organised for local councillors, residents associations and my staff to visit the BritNed facility on the Isle of Grain. A small group took up my invitation to visit the site, which although not identical to that planned for Daedalus, provided a useful insight into what an interconnector might look and sound like. I am meeting National Grid bosses again next month for an update on the project.

I met with our Regional Schools Commissioner to discuss the recently released Education White Paper, plans for academies and to learn more about his role in overseeing the management of our local schools.

Fareham MP, Suella Fernandes & I met with headteachers and staff from over 30 local primary schools to discuss education policy. We were grateful for the opportunity to better understand their perspective on government proposals. I took along a Special Advisor to the Education Secretary so the teachers could be sure their messages would get back to the very heart of Government. Our teachers are so committed to improving life chances for local children and I have the utmost admiration for them.

I was delighted to officially open Gosport Bowling Club's Season and 'deliver the first wood' of 2016! This flourishing community facility makes the game of bowls accessible and enjoyable for people of all ages and abilities. For more information, click [here](#).

I always enjoy catching up with my pals at the Gosport Men's Shed. This month I was honoured to open the new extension to their HQ at St Vincent College. The Shed provides a meeting place for retired men who might miss the companionship and camaraderie of the workplace. Our group is one of the most successful in the UK, with over 100 members. Having attended their very first meeting, I feel a real closeness to this group and I am delighted to see them thriving.



I attended the Service of Thanksgiving at the Royal Navy Cemetery Haslar. Since the 1850s, this has been the last resting place of RN men and women who have served the Crown and nation in times of war and peace. Commemorating our brave servicemen and women was particularly poignant because our constituency has the 3rd highest number of war graves in the UK, with over 1,600 WW1 and WW2 graves.

I was pleased that Tesco are funding projects to improve green spaces from the 5p bag charge. Two local groups were successful in the last bid: CESSAC House for their garden and Haven Nursery School and Children's Centre for an outside classroom. For further info on applying for funding click [here](#).

I visited Cornwell Close to see the progress of the Green Deal Communities Fund project which is transforming part of Rowner. This important work has resulted in smarter, warmer homes and reduced fuel bills.

I celebrated St George's Day at two great community events: Stubbington's St George's Day Fete, which was brilliantly organised as ever by the Crofton Lions and Stokes Bay Sailing Club's Afternoon Tea, where I enjoyed a celebratory cuppa.

I was delighted to visit Kathy at Kev Jones' shop on Nobes Avenue, Bridgemary, which will soon be home to new Post Office facilities.

I was very pleased to hear about Gosport Youth Council's successful careers conference. Local pupils got involved in workshops on CV writing and interview skills and visited stalls with information about volunteering & apprenticeships. It was also great to visit Meoncross School in Stubbington and see their new Sixth Form, which was launched in September 2015.

In Parliament, I showed my support for survivors of stalking during National Stalking Awareness Week. I was shocked to learn this crime affects one in five women and one in ten men.

I welcomed the independent Crime Survey, which reported that national crime has fallen by 32% since 2010 to its lowest ever level. It is vital that we build on this by electing a Police and Crime Commissioner on 5 May who will deliver more visible policing and a better use of police resources. I'm backing Michael Lane, the conservative candidate for Hampshire PCC, who I think will do an excellent job.

I welcomed the introduction of the new National Living Wage this April, which gives a payrise to over 1.3 million hardworking people across the country. At the same time, the personal tax free allowance rose to £11,000, meaning 50,000 people in Gosport, Lee on the Solent, Stubbington & Hill Head received a tax cut and nearly 1000 low-earners were taken out of income tax altogether.

Looking forward to next month, the local elections on 5 May are vitally important. I encourage all constituents to go out and vote to maintain our strong Conservative councils, which have delivered good local services and kept Council Tax down over the last few years.

On Saturday 14 May the Waterbus link between Royal Clarence Yard and Portsmouth will be reinstated for one day only in conjunction with RCY's Home, Garden and Craft Fair. I know there is keen public interest in re-establishing the Waterbus service so it is great that local people will have the opportunity to take this special trip across the harbour. For full details click [here](#).

**Best wishes**

*Caroline*



*Visiting Cornwell Close, Rowner to see the results of the Green Deal Communities Fund*



*With Kathy at Kev Jones' shop on Nobes Avenue, Bridgemary*



*Campaigning for the May 5 local elections in Stubbington Village*

## 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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