



Caroline Dinenage

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



*With the Minister for the Portsmouth area
and a Vector apprentice*

Our area enjoyed two big boosts this month, thanks to welcome announcements from the Minister for the Portsmouth area & the Prime Minister himself.

Firstly, the Minister for the Portsmouth area visited Vector Aerospace at Fleetlands to reveal that the aviation firm is set to receive a £2 million investment from the Government. Subject to due diligence, this will enable the company to enhance its design and aviation services capacity at its Gosport site. Later on in the month, during a visit to Portsmouth the Prime Minister announced that Boeing had won a £420 million MoD contract to provide the in-service support for the Chinook helicopters to be completed at Vector Aerospace.

This is really fantastic news for the local economy, Vector is our largest single employer and has operated here in Gosport for 75 years - it proves that the Government is committed to helping our area reach its full potential. We have a proud history of servicing the Armed Forces and these announcements will ensure that we continue to do so.

As a business owner myself, I enjoy meeting local business women so was delighted to attend an 'Enterprising Women' event run by Fareham Business Club. It was great to meet so many inspirational people who are achieving their dreams on our doorstep.

During my weekly BIS Select Committee meeting, I had the opportunity to quiz the Secretary of State on some key issues, in particular last banks in towns – a pertinent matter for Lee-on-the-Solent residents after HSBC closed down last year. He reassured the Committee that he has already had two roundtable meetings with key stakeholders since Christmas and informed us that they are close to creating a 'code' to prevent towns from being left without a bank.

This month I visited two local schools to talk about democracy and my life as an MP. First up was Lee-on-the-Solent Junior School where the Honourable Ladies and Gentlemen of Year 6 took part in a lively Parliamentary style debate. Next up was Bay House, where Sixth Form politics students quizzed me on my voting record and plans for the Gosport area.

It was great to see a familiar face in Parliament when the Principal of St Vincent College joined me at an event run by the Association of Colleges. We discussed some of the issues faced by education providers for 16-18 year olds. I also met with local teachers from the National Union of Teachers who told me about their experiences of teaching in our area and we discussed their concerns about some aspects of education reforms.



*Talking to Year 6 at
Lee-on-the-Solent Junior School*



With Bay House Sixth Formers

I put my life on the line when I paid a visit to the Tigers Children's Motorcycle Display Team which has a weekly practice session at Daedalus. They invited me to lie beneath a jump as Tiger after Tiger roared over it! The team is run by parents who give up their time to travel across the country during the summer months taking their Tigers to displays & events, earning £100s for charity.



As ever, improving local healthcare services remains a priority. I joined other local MPs for a meeting in Westminster with the Chief Executive of the Southern Health NHS Trust where we discussed the action currently being taken to resolve problems with mental health and community health services and what impact it is having. I was pleased to hear that Gosport War Memorial Hospital is well regarded and taking on additional services.



Gosport, Stubbington, Lee-on-the-Solent & Hill Head have a very strong community of volunteers supporting good causes. This month I dropped into the Cancer Research UK shop on Gosport High Street to meet those who give up their time to run the store. Their work is especially important in Gosport where smoking related deaths are much higher than the national average. They are looking for more volunteers and would be pleased to hear from anyone who is keen to help out.

I helped re-launch the ICANGO Community Buses in Lee-on-the-Solent which have received sponsorship from Eckersley White. The service is operated entirely by volunteers and provides an invaluable lifeline to local residents. It was a great pleasure to have the chance to congratulate them on this example of the amazing community spirit in our area.

Gosport's reputation as a marine hub continues to grow. This month the wonderful Gosport Marine Scene held the first boat jumble in our area for ten years. With over 90 stalls selling a wide range of sailing equipment, the event enjoyed a huge turn out and great weather! I was disappointed to hear that the International Paralympic Committee has decided to exclude sailing from the 2020 Games in Tokyo, especially given the success of the sport at London 2012. With sailing and marine activities so important to our area, I stood up in Parliament to express my concerns about the decision.

A new free photography exhibition celebrating Royal Hospital Haslar will run until 21st March – I attended the opening evening & thoroughly enjoyed seeing the insightful photographs at the Gosport Gallery on Gosport High Street. It was great to chat to local people when I held my street stalls on Gosport High Street & in Lee-on-the-Solent; it's always helpful to hear your thoughts about local & national issues.

Coming up, I will be hosting a Dementia Friends training event with the Alzheimer's Society at the Gosport Discovery Centre on Friday 6th March from 1330-1530. Do come along and help our area become 'Dementia friendly'. We will also be holding a Community Clear Up event on 21st March, 10.30am at the Falklands Gardens by the Gosport Ferry - all equipment will be provided, please come along and join us! For more information on any of the above, contact my Gosport office on 02392 522121.



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 and Big Ben 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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