



Caroline Dinenage

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



Announcing funding for the Stubbington Bypass at the Solent LEP annual conference

I concluded last month's newsletter with hopes for an imminent announcement about funding for the Stubbington Bypass. I am thrilled to start this one with the news that after many years of campaigning, the project has got the green light. The Government confirmed this month that it will contribute the £25.7m necessary to complete the scheme. This critical part of the solution to our area's traffic problems will transform connectivity of the Solent Enterprise Zone at Daedalus and the wider Gosport peninsula, easing pressure on the A32 and Newgate Lane and breaking down a key barrier to our area's economic growth.

The funding will combine with Hampshire County Council's contribution of £8.5m, secured in large part by the determination of local Cllrs Sean Woodward, Chris Wood and Graham Burgess. Construction is due to commence as early as 2018 and you can read Hampshire's FAQs document on the scheme, [here](#).



Speaking at Lee Junior School about my job as MP

I was also thrilled that plans have been approved for a 37,000sqft extension to the Innovation Centre at Daedalus. This will create 33 new office units, five new workshops and is up to 300 new jobs. Work is due to be completed by 2018. Schemes like this, along with road improvement projects, are so important for attracting investors and encouraging enterprise in our area.

In Parliament, this month's big news was the passage of the EU withdrawal bill, un-amended, through to the Lords for scrutiny. This bill would give power to the government to trigger Article 50 and get Brexit negotiations underway. In line with the views of the majority of my constituents, I voted in favour of the bill.

The proposed closure of HMS Sultan and Fort Blockhouse in Gosport was discussed in Parliament during a debate on the 'Better Defence Estate' strategy. Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP, of the Public Accounts Committee, explained that she was unconvinced by the economic case for numerous proposed closures. She used Sultan and Blockhouse as examples, reporting that the business cases for disposing of both sites remain unclear. The comments echoed the submission I made to the Public Accounts Committee last month, it is fantastic to see these concerns gaining traction in parliament. Watch the debate, [here](#).



Officially opening Rowner Junior School's fantastic new reading bus

I enjoyed visiting Lee-on-Solent Junior School, where I taught year 6 children about Parliament and my role as an MP. I was also honoured to visit Rowner Juniors to cut the ribbon for their fantastic new Reading Bus, funded by a generous grant from the MOD. This bus will provide a cosy venue for pupils to continue learning one of the most valuable and fundamental life skills: reading.

I hosted a meeting with the DVLA to discuss abandoned or untaxed vehicles. This has become a concern locally and I was keen to put a plan in place to resolve an escalating problem. Also present were representatives from Hampshire Constabulary, Gosport Borough Council, Streetscene and Hampshire Trading Standards. Since the meeting the DVLA have already visited our area again, when a total of 39 vehicles were clamped, 12 removed and 7 stickered. Report an untaxed car to the DVLA, [here](#).

Another highlight was Gosport Youth Council's Crime Conference. It was great to see over 100 young people engaging with the police and local voluntary organisations to discuss important issues such as hate crime, domestic abuse and cyber-crime.

Our Police and Crime Commissioner, Michael Lane, announced that groups serving our area will be awarded £326,305 to fund projects that prevent offending and support victims. I was delighted that great local groups like the Gosport Community Safety Partnership and the youth charity, Motiv8, were among the successful applicants.



At Gosport Youth Council's Crime Conference

Hampshire County Council are establishing a pilot project which will use Gosport Discovery Centre as a third-party reporting centre for hate crime. This will allow victims to report an incident without direct contact with the police, in a safe and secure environment. The pilot will run for one year as of the 1st of April. I am glad to see such a proactive, local response to tackling hate crime.

In Parliament I met representatives from four of the UK's leading cancer charities ahead of World Cancer Day. With cancer rates projected to rise by 2% in the UK between 2014 and 2035, I was glad to lend my support to such an important cause.

At a meeting with Sport England I learned that the Gosport Constituency has received a total of £602,855 National Lottery funding for sport since 2010. A fantastic range of local clubs have benefited, but Sport England are keen to make their support even more accessible to small groups. Find out more, [here](#).



Supporting Sport England's 'This Girl Can' campaign

I also attended an update on the work of the National Lottery Heritage Fund and learned that nearly £10m has been awarded to organisations in our area since 1994, which makes us among the higher recipients in the country, unsurprising given the volume of listed buildings and historic defence estates across our peninsula.

I supported the launch of Sport England's new 'This Girl Can' TV advert. This innovative campaign aims to encourage more women and girls to get active, regardless of their fitness level, age, size, ethnicity or body shape. Take a look at the fun, feisty new advert [here](#).

In Gosport, the 11th of February was a day of celebration as I joined huge crowds to welcome home Alex Thomson, who did Gosport proud by coming an impressive 2nd in the prestigious Vendee Globe Yacht Race.

Looking forward to next month, a number of events will be taking place across our area on the 4th and 5th of March as part of The Great British Spring Clean. Find out more, [here](#). Do grab some sturdy shoes and get involved!



Getting behind the Great British Spring Clean

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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