



# Caroline Dinenage

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



This February marked 100 years since the Representation of the People Act 1918, which both gave the first voting rights to women, and also extended them to more men. This was a really important milestone in our nation's democracy - and, importantly for me, led to the first female MPs! 100 years later 32% of MPs, 35% of Gosport Councillors and 37.5% of Fareham Councillors are women. It's still so important to teach girls that no careers are off limits, there are no boundaries to what they can achieve.

To mark this occasion, Peel Common Junior School visited Parliament. They had a tour, a session with the Parliament Education team and we caught up for a Q&A session on everything from homelessness to the names of my pet fish!

Back in the Gosport Constituency, I visited Lee-on-the-Solent Junior School, to lead a class for Year 6 pupils about democracy, Parliament and my role as an MP. It was also great to meet the Leadership students from Brune Park and Bay House Schools who have been working hard on projects to improve our local area. They raised some important local issues and came up with innovative solutions which I'm helping them pursue.

Continuing the education theme, the Prime Minister launched a [review of post-18 education and funding](#). This will look at how we can make the system fairer for taxpayers and students, create genuine choice and develop the skills our economy needs. I also met with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Phillip Hammond, to make the case for both the extra capital investment needed for our local schools and their future funding.

Some great announcements from Parliament this month include the introduction of legislation to [cap energy prices](#) - part of a host of measures to reduce energy bills. Welcome news that 99.6% of premises in the Gosport Constituency now benefit from [superfast broadband](#). The Government's rollout of superfast broadband has made superfast speeds a reality for more than 4.5 million homes and businesses.

The Government are also bringing forward proposals to [strengthen consumer rights in the private rented sector](#). These proposals will create a single ombudsman, fill in existing gaps of redress and improve 'in-house' complaints. This is a welcome step to improving redress for local tenants.

Also this month, the Hunting Act turned 13! As a supporter of the League Against Cruel Sports and Conservatives Against Fox Hunting, I have worked hard to ensure this cruel practice remains outlawed.

In Parliament, I pledged my support for the Royal British Legion's [#CountThemIn](#) campaign, to help identify veterans in our Census. We can't effectively support our ex-forces if we don't know where they are. This month the [Veterans Gateway](#) also launched a Freephone 24/7 mental health helpline, a single point of contact for service personnel, families and veterans - 0800 323 4444.



*Celebrating Vote 100 win Westminster with local female MPs*



*With the Student Leadership from Brune Park and Bay House*



*Pledging my support for the #CountThemIn Campaign*

As regular readers know I have pledged to #GiveUpPlasticForLent, my week 2 vlog updating my progress is available [here](#). In addition to this, I also signed up to the [#PlasticFreeParliament](#) campaign and Sky's [#PassOnPlastic](#). Sky Ocean Rescue's whale, Plasticus, made up of a quarter of a ton of plastic (the amount that enters our oceans every second), came to Parliament to bring to life the scale of this problem.



With Sky Ocean Rescue's Whale Plasticus!

Keen to reduce our environmental impact I am backing Keep Britain Tidy's [Great British Spring Clean](#) campaign. CHAT2US Community Litterpick Team will be holding a clean-up, weather permitting, on Sat 3 March, more information is available [here](#). Sisters Inn Arms beach clean is on Saturday 31 March, more information can be found [here](#).

This month, I welcomed Health Secretary, Jeremy Hunt's announcement of a [review](#) into 3 concerning medical issues, Primodos, Valproate and the use of vaginal mesh. This will look at what further action is needed relating to these treatments and the processes followed when patients report a problem.

It has also been announced that the [Gosport Independent Panel](#) will publish its Report about the historic concerns about Gosport War Memorial Hospital on 20 June.

I met with [Breast Cancer Now](#) to talk about regional variations in the detection and outcome of Breast Cancer and discussed what more I could do to raise awareness of the importance of screenings.

Also in Westminster, I met with the British Dyslexia Association who challenged me to raise awareness of dyslexia by taking the [Cappuccino Challenge](#)!



With Gosport Conservatives in Gosport High Street

I met with Changing Places who are campaigning for better public facilities for children and adults with disabilities. I also met with newsagents from our area to learn more about their Independent Retail Report 2018 and what this means for local shopkeepers.

In Gosport High Street, I spent a rainy Saturday morning chatting to shoppers with our local Conservative team. Gosport Conservatives next Street Surgery is this Saturday, 3 March from 10am, weather permitting, please pop along for a chat.

On Friday 23 March I will be holding an open surgery at the Discovery Centre from 2.30-3:30pm. If you have any concerns about local or national issues, or if you'd just like a chat, please do come along – no appointment necessary.

Looking forward to next month, International Women's Day is on Thursday 8 March and [National Apprenticeship Week](#) takes place between 5 and 9 March - an opportunity to celebrate the success of apprenticeships and promote the opportunities they offer to both apprentices and employers.



Looking forward to International Women's Day with local Councillors & Candidates

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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