



Caroline Dinenage

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



Calling for a debate on local infrastructure

Here in the Gosport constituency, we've started 2014 as we mean to go on. Following years of campaigning, preparation work for the £8.5 million improvements on Newgate Lane have finally begun and I hope that this will only mark the beginning of major changes to our local road network.

We also heard the fantastic news that the Solent Enterprise Zone at Daedalus has been successful in a bid for £7 million of Government money to help kick-start some of the infrastructure investment that is needed in order to make a meaningful step forward on the water-side area of this enormous site.

However, it hasn't all been good news. Bus provider, First, announced changes to a number of local routes which many people depend upon. I have written to company bosses & Hampshire County Council, urging them to make provisions for those who have no other means of transport. Cllrs Alan Scard, Graham Burgess and I will meet with the CEO of First next week to express our concerns.

I took the bull by the horns this month and asked for a Parliamentary debate on the transport infrastructure on the South Coast. It's not only the local roads that need attention, I highlighted the fact that it takes longer on the fast train from Portsmouth to London than to travel from London to Doncaster!

On a more positive note, we learnt that unemployment has fallen again in Gosport, Lee-on-the-Solent, Stubbington & Hill Head, with more than 489 additional people entering employment between December 2012 and December 2013. These figures are a result of both government policy and local initiatives such as this month's Gosport Business & Employment Fair which brought together job hunters, employers and advisors from across the local area. Bridge-mary based company Lynbyrd Express is also helping to combat unemployment, offering business training & personal development courses to those wanting to get on the job ladder. I paid them a visit to hear more about the work they do.

Up in Westminster, I took part in a debate on the National Minimum Wage and welcomed the Government's announcement that employers who do not comply with the NMW will face an increased penalty of up to £20,000. I also spoke up in support of Government plans to crack down on payday lenders during a debate on this really important issue.

Locally, volunteers from Gosport Basics Bank and Lee-on-the-Solent FISH (Food Information Supply Hope) provide essential provisions to people facing hard times. I met with some of those who selflessly dedicate their time to helping others and went out with them to meet some of their clients.



With staff at Lynbyrd Express



At the Gosport Basics Food Bank

The ONS also revealed that crime rates have fallen across the UK, in Hampshire by 23%, under this Government. I met with Gosport's Chief Inspector, Jim Pegler, to discuss the steps being taken to cut crime even further locally.

I was pleased to hear that Michael Fallon MP has been given ministerial responsibilities for Portsmouth & the surrounding area in response to BAE's recent announcement. I met with the Minister before Christmas & am looking forward to working with him to secure the future prosperity of our area.

It was with great pleasure that I welcomed Defence Minister Philip Dunne MP to Gosport to visit the Oil Fuel Depot & Vector Aerospace. Ministerial visits are a great way of raising Gosport's profile in Whitehall and I was

pleased to have the opportunity to discuss a number of local military issues with the Minister.

Always keen to promote our area, during questions to the Department of Communities & Local Government I praised the efforts of our local council in ensuring that military families are not disadvantaged in the wait for social housing and urged other authorities to follow suit.

My sons were very envious of my visit to the Hovercraft Museum at Daedalus this month - we are lucky to have such tremendous examples of the UK's engineering excellence right on our doorstep & I was interested to hear the volunteers' ambitious plans for the museum's future. My boys were even more green with envy when I visited Gosport Fire Station and met the real life heroes helping keep the Gosport community safe! They were, however, comforted when I did my own bit of school-time this

month, joining staff, parents & school Council representatives at Newtown Pri-

mary to discuss how the school environment can be improved to extend learning and play opportunities.

As part of my campaign to combat the IVF postcode lottery, I met with the founder of IVFyes, a charity calling for increased fairness in the availability of fertility treatment. This year, I will continue to urge the Fareham & Gosport CCG to commit more funding to IVF services.

A number of people have expressed their concerns about the future of the former Budgens store site in Stubbington. After months of letter-writing & phone calls, I finally found out this month that the Co-op Group have submitted a planning application for the site. Let's hope that this will be a positive step forward towards protecting the unique flavour of Stubbington's village centre.

Finally, I had an international visitor in Westminster this month when Tanzanian MP Esther Bulaya shadowed me for a day of my Parliamentary activities. Ours may be the 'mother of all Parliaments' but when you consider that 36% of the Tanzanian parliament are female – we have a lot of catching up to do!

Best wishes

Caroline

(P.S. If you can spare some time to help deliver my leaflets around your local area, I'd love to hear from you!)

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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With Minister Philip Dunne at the Oil Fuel Depot



With members of the Gosport Fire Service



With staff & Students at Newtown Primary