



Caroline Dinenage

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



*At GAFIRS New Year's Day swim
with my brave son!*

Happy New Year to all readers! I thoroughly enjoyed Christmas break at home in Gosport which included a trip to Stokes Bay beach on New Year's Day to watch the GAFIRS swim. While I wasn't brave enough to take part, my oldest son, Ed, took the plunge to raise funds for the life-saving work of the GAFIRS. I also enjoyed supporting Gosport & Fareham Rugby team at their first match of the New Year.

In Parliament, the New Year started with important news regarding Brexit when the Prime Minister delivered a speech outlining 12 negotiating objectives. I welcome this clear and detailed plan which gives much needed certainty to businesses and the public alike. The Government will now publish a White Paper formalising its negotiating strategy and giving MPs the opportunity to debate it.

Britain's clear decision on 23 June 2016 to leave the European Union is not altered by the Supreme Court ruling this month. It is right that the public's will is respected and when this matter comes to the House, I will vote in favour of triggering Article 50, in line with the views of the majority of my constituents.

A busy month in Westminster & Gosport included a Public Accounts Committee hearing on Ministry of Defence plans for the Defence Estate. I made a submission about HMS Sultan and Fort Blockhouse and was pleased Gosport was mentioned as a result. The taskforce I have set up to address the problems associated with disposal plans for these sites met again this month. MOD reps attended so the group had a chance to ask questions on the next steps.

Back in Gosport, I accompanied the Defence Minister to visit 33 Field Hospital at Fort Blockhouse. The Minister toured the site and I had the opportunity to meet soldiers and officers and hear about their upcoming deployment to South Sudan.

On Monday the 23rd Fareham Borough Council's planning committee voted 7-2 in favour of National Grid's application for outline planning permission to build an electricity interconnector at Daedalus. Hundreds of residents from Fareham & Gosport turned up to the meeting. Many spoke against the proposals, including myself, Cllr Philpott of Peel Common and Cllr Wood of Stubbington.

I remain concerned about the potential implications of the interconnector for aircraft operations and businesses on the Enterprise Zone. I have supported applications for the decision to be 'called in' by the Secretary of State and will continue making my concerns known to Fareham Council & National Grid as they move to the next stages of the planning process.

In Parliament, I signed the Holocaust Educational Trust's Book of Commitment. A few years ago I was invited to take a group of Gosport sixth form students on a visit to Auschwitz. That experience has never left me and that's why I see Holocaust Memorial Day as an important opportunity to reflect on those tragic events.



*Visiting Gosport & Fareham Rugby Club
Photo Credit—Chris Roberts*



*Visiting 33 Field Hospital at Blockhouse
with the Minister for Defence Personnel*

I attended the relaunch of the Department for International Trade's website to support small businesses in exporting their goods. Great.gov.uk gives users access to millions of pounds worth of potential overseas business.

I was pleased to welcome Hampshire County's Cllr Mans, Executive Leader of Children's Services, to Parliament. Our meeting enabled me to raise a number of constituent cases and we also discussed important local educational issues.

Continuing on the education theme, I visited Crofton Hammond Junior School in Stubbington to meet all 64 of their year 6 pupils and led a lesson on parliament and my role as MP. It was great to see how engaged they were with current affairs. I also caught up with Matt Atkinson, principal of St Vincent College & discussed some of his exciting plans for the campus.

Having received letters from constituents concerned about proposals to move Gosport Day Services into the Discovery Centre, I made representations to Hampshire County Council. Following this, I was delighted to be informed that Gosport Day Services will remain fully open at its current location with the potential for further access to the Gosport Community Hub space.

I visited Fareham and Gosport Family Aid to hear about the incredibly important work they do to provide support for troubled families and discuss how I can assist them in challenges they face.



With year 6 pupils at Crofton Hammond Junior School in Stubbington

A constituent raised the issue of refuse collections taking place along Newgate Lane South at around 7:30am, causing more problems during rush hour. I raised this with Cllr Sean Woodward, Leader of Fareham Borough Council. He has now advised me that in the long-term, Fareham Borough Council will be making fundamental changes to the scheduling of this round. In the interim, early collections will be shared between crew which should enable them to be clear of Newgate Lane South by 7am at the latest.

I was delighted to present Steve from Charlie's Beach Hut, with two complimentary tickets for Great Western Railway after they won my Facebook poll to decide which local charity should receive them. You can find out more about this fantastic charity and the inspiring story behind it [here](#).

In Gosport, I met representatives from the Care Quality Commission to discuss their work in our area and receive an update on local standards of care. I raised a number of concerns, including issues with long waiting times for appointments at GP Surgeries and the need for better facilities in Stubbington.

I welcomed news that roads in Hampshire will benefit from a dedicated £2,123,000 pothole fund. The state of our roads is often raised with me by local residents. This funding builds on the £1,488,000 Hampshire received last year when the Pothole Action Fund targeted key local roads including the A32 from Fareham to Gosport Town Centre.

And finally, with roads in mind, we await the imminent Government decision on whether to fund a Stubbington Bypass, which regular readers will know I've been campaigning for since I was first elected MP. Fingers crossed for positive news in my next newsletter!!

Best wishes

Caroline



Signing the Holocaust Educational Trust's Book of Commitment



Presenting complimentary Great Western Railway tickets to Charlie's Beach Hut charity

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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