

# Caroline Dinenage

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Issue 31

Your local MP reporting back from Westminster



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

What an eventful month July has been! We've enjoyed soaring temperatures, celebrated the birth of a new royal Prince & enjoyed sporting success with Andy Murray at Wimbledon & a triumphant Lions rugby tour Down Under. England's cricketers have also made a great start in our efforts to keep Australia from regaining those Ashes!

Good news on the economy this month too, GDP has grown again, more than expected, up 0.6% this quarter. There is still a long way to go but this is definitely a step in the right direction. We also learnt that crime in Hampshire is down by 16% to the lowest level since the Office of National Statistics records began in the 1980s.

Our local Town Team have been working hard to improve Gosport Town Centre, the Empty Unit Support Scheme will make a grant of up to £7,000 available to help businesses rejuvenate the high street. An application form is available [here](#).

The quality of our local road infrastructure is an important issue & I'm committed to securing meaningful investment for our area. I'm delighted that a public consultation has been launched on proposals for a Stubbington Bypass & improvements to Newgate Lane. It was great to see the plans at Crofton Hall & discuss matters with Cllr Seán Woodward, the new transport boss at Hampshire County Council. You can view the plans & have your say [here](#).

Regular readers will know that I have long advocated calls for the people to have a real say on our relationship with Europe. I was delighted to support James Wharton's Private Members' Bill to put the promise of a European Referendum into statute.

I always love welcoming people from the Gosport Constituency up to Westminster. This month I hosted local community groups & voluntary organisations at my 3rd annual Volunteers' Reception in Westminster. This event, which I fund myself, is my opportunity to thank them for the tremendous work that they do. So many people in our area give enormous amounts of time & energy to the community, their dedication is truly inspiring. I'm always keen to hear about the work of volunteers & whether I can assist their efforts.

I was delighted to meet another local hero, 10 year old Luis Gonçalves from Gosport who received a kidney from his father, Ed. The family were in Parliament to spearhead a campaign to increase the number of names on the NHS Organ Donation Register. Luis & his family have shown enormous courage & I am delighted to be supporting their work.

With healthcare in mind I paid a visit to Gosport & Fareham Clinical Commissioning Group; CCGs now play a vital role in our health service, giving greater power to communities to ensure that local medical service providers are delivering services that meet our local needs. This new system provides an excellent platform for patients & doctors to take back control of healthcare from the Government & health authorities.



Viewing the transport plans with Cllr Woodward



With local volunteers in Westminster



With Luis & Ed Gonçalves

For the latest news visit [www.caroline4gosport.co.uk](http://www.caroline4gosport.co.uk)

Further along the coast, I visited the Port of Southampton, where I learnt about the many challenges, demands & opportunities that this big local employer faces on a daily basis. I also met with staff from BAE Systems to discuss ways in which we can ensure operations remain in Portsmouth. I have frequently raised this matter with Ministers & will do all I can to keep these jobs in Portsmouth.

At Crofton-Anne Dale Infant School in Stubbington I presented certificates to Year 2 pupils who had successfully completed a citizenship scheme. It was fascinating to learn about the projects these youngsters had undertaken; and hear how children in our area are proving to be model citizens in the making!



*With pupils from Gomer Junior School*

I was also delighted to welcome pupils from Gomer Junior School to Westminster for a tour of Parliament and a Q&A session. These trips provide a great insight into how the country is run & will hopefully inspire some budding politicians of the future.

The aspiration theme continued when local school pupils enjoyed a visit from Wimbledon Champion Andy Murray's mother, Judy. She served up some ace tips at a special tennis coaching session at Alverstoke Tennis Club.

As a mother myself, the ease with which young children can gain access to explicit content on the internet causes me great concern. I therefore welcomed the Government's crackdown on online content. I also met with a representative from Google to encourage them to take greater steps to tackle this issue.



*Judy Murray at Alverstoke Tennis Club*

Back in Gosport, I met with Radian Housing Association to talk about their local housing stock & the problems they face when allocating accommodation. With this in mind, during questions to the Department for Communities & Local Government, I called for councils to share best working practice when placing families in temporary accommodation. Local authorities would do well to emulate Gosport Borough Council, who rarely house families in B&B accommodation.

As the summer holidays get into full swing, I was delighted to endorse the Summer Reading Challenge which tasks children aged 4-11 years with reading six books from their local library during the summer holidays. I presented some additional books to the Gosport Discovery Centre to boost their collection & wish children undertaking the challenge happy reading!

When all that reading gets too much local youngsters won't be stuck indoors over the holidays as the Gosport Summer Passport Scheme is back by popular demand, running for 3 weeks over the summer. With scuba diving, ice skating and sailing up for grabs, I would encourage young people to sign up for free [here](#).

Summer events in Gosport continued with Bridgemary & Rowner Carnivals; both of which were fabulously entertaining & enjoyed wonderful weather. I also got to judge the baking competition at Alverstoke Infant School's summer fayre - it was a tough job, but someone had to do it!



*At Rowner Carnival with Cllr Jessop & PC Smith*

Finally this month, I paid my respects to Eddie Grenfell, hero of the Arctic Convoy medal campaign, whose funeral took place at Portsmouth Cathedral. Eddie will be greatly missed by all who were lucky enough to know him.

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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