

Caroline Dinenage

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Your local MP reporting back from Westminster



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

With Parliament in full swing, I supported a number of important debates this month. In the Fair Fuel debate, I called on the Government to address the high cost of fuel that's hitting businesses & hard working families in our area. I was delighted to hear that the Chancellor has listened, & dropped the proposed January rise in fuel duty.

In Westminster Hall, MPs debated the tragically low rates of adoption. With only 8% of children in care in Hampshire being adopted last year, I spoke up in support of the Government's plans to promote adoption. I also contributed to a debate on building confidence for girls in school. Lack of aspiration remains a big obstacle to young women's success, and we need to do more at a young age to overcome this.

Back in Gosport I've nearly completed my target of visiting all my local schools – meeting the wonderful staff and pupils at Leesland Infants and St Mary's RC Primary School. I was also lucky enough to present prizes at Bay House School's Awards Ceremony, celebrating the excellent achievements of their students. But I know that local schools still face challenges, so I attended a meeting with Primary headteachers from across Gosport & Fareham to discuss their concerns.

I know that lots of people in our area are also worried about the future of the Coastguard. This month we heard that the new national Maritime Operations Centre (MOC) will be based in Titchfield, creating 96 new jobs. I'm now fighting hard to secure jobs there for the Lee-on-the-Solent staff when their centre closes.



Supporting action on adoption rates in Parliament



With the St Mary's School Council

For the latest news visit www.caroline4gosport.co.uk



Opening the new Gosport & Fareham Home for Veterans

We also learnt that the Hill Head Coastguard Rescue Team and the training facility for Coastguard operations will be located at Daedalus. It's more great news that shows the Daedalus site is coming on leaps and bounds. I hosted a meeting in Parliament with the Solent LEP and local MPs to discuss the progress of this site in regenerating the whole area and what we can do to support them.

A great boost for our whole area was also revealed, as we learnt that the Olympic torch will be coming to Gosport! I've long campaigned to ensure that we're included on the route, and I know it'll be cause for a big celebration in the local community. I spoke at the Gosport

Community Compact Conference to 40 local voluntary groups, and know that their hard work and dedication to our area certainly deserves recognition.

That's something that our veterans also deserve. Gosport hosts a very high number of these brave ex-service personnel, many of whom are struggling with the return to 'Civvy Street'. It was therefore a great pleasure to open Gosport and Fareham Home for Veterans, which provides residential support to get veterans back on their feet.

My support for our Armed Forces, both active and retired, meant it was an enormous privilege to be able to visit Camp Bastion with the Parliamentary delegation. It was hugely rewarding to learn more about the duties of our courageous forces out in Afghanistan – and meet some constituents who were serving out there. Being exposed to the demanding conditions our troops have to endure showed just how incredibly hard they work to keep us all safe, and reaffirmed my commitment to standing up for their best interests.

Finally, a plug - I know that Gosport residents are finding it hard to cope with the high cost of energy bills, so I'm hosting a Energy Advisory Surgery to help constituents find the best ways to cut bills. It will run from 10am-noon on 16th December at my office at 167 Stoke Road, Gosport, with lots of different organisations there to offer advice. I hope to see you there!

Best wishes,

Caroline



With Brig Patrick Sanders DSO MBE and Gen Sheren-Shah Kobadi in Afghanistan

GET IN TOUCH

Please feel free to contact me on any issue, or to find out when my next surgery is. It is also possible to come up to Parliament to have an official tour. I'm always happy to arrange tours of the Palace of Westminster and Big Ben for my constituents. Just please contact my office to book at least two months in advance to make sure you get a place - the tours are very popular!

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