



Caroline Dinenage

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



With Admiral Rob Stevens

This month started with the upsetting news that shipbuilding in Portsmouth will cease after nearly 500 years. My thoughts are with all those who will be affected by BAE's decision, including members of my own family. BAE now has a responsibility to ensure that job losses are mitigated as far as possible. I have had many conversations with unions, BAE & Government Ministers in recent weeks and will continue to do so.

In light of this sad news it was right for the Government to pledge its support to our area, with £100m investment in infrastructure at Portsmouth Dockyard as well as a brand new City Deal for Portsmouth and Southampton worth £950m. In addition to this, the Government has appointed Adm. Rob Stevens, a former CEO of the British Marine Federation, to chair a new Solent Maritime Forum to maximise the economic potential of the region. I met with Admiral Stevens last week to discuss his plans.



With the Secretary of State and Councillor Sean Woodward

Transport issues remain at the top of the agenda as we work to get the Gosport peninsular moving. Secretary of State for Transport, Patrick McLoughlin MP, experienced our congestion problems first hand when he got caught in traffic on route to meet with me in Gosport to talk about the future of our transport infrastructure. The Secretary of State was interested to hear our plans to improve the local road network and agreed to consider our plea for money to help deliver them.

On Remembrance Sunday, we reflected on the huge sacrifices made by our service personnel past and present. I was honoured to attend the Civic Remembrance Service at the War Memorial Hospital and to lay a wreath in memory of all those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country.



With Defence Minister, Anna Soubry

Hoping to improve the experiences of existing service personnel and to make better use of the area's military sites, I welcomed new Defence Minister, Anna Soubry MP, to Gosport. I also met with big local employer QinetiQ for an update on the innovative work their staff are doing to support the MoD.

Back in Westminster, I spoke in a debate on Defence Reform and expressed my support for proposals to drive down the cost of Government procurement and revitalise the Reserve forces.

I was also delighted to attend the Gosport Chief Scout Presentation, where I handed out awards to nearly 100 participants aged 6-25.

Encouraging young people to connect with business is a vital part of their education. It was also a key recommendation set out in a recent report on local growth for the Government by Lord Heseltine, who visited Brune Park School this month to hear how this has been acted on in our area. Lord Heseltine's visit also encompassed the Solent Growth Summit which brought together local business leaders from across the region.



At the Chief Scout Presentation



With Karren Brady

This month, Barclays published data showing the good news that small business turnover in the Gosport constituency increased by 8% in the second quarter of 2013. These firms are vital to our economy and I joined my fellow Small Business Ambassadors including BBC Apprentice mentor, Karren Brady, to launch www.thesmallsaturday.com and discuss what more can be done. With this in mind December 7th will be Small Business Saturday, a good chance to celebrate & support independent traders. For more information, visit: www.smallbusinesssaturdayuk.com.

I also spoke on The National Insurance Bill in the House of Commons this month, and I was pleased to support this legislation which will save all British businesses up to £2000 a year.

I am proud that this Government has announced plans to impose a cap on the charges imposed by pay day loan companies this month. We must ensure that the pay day loans industry offers a fair & transparent deal to those who use its services.



Supporting Bridgemary School's Anti-Bullying Campaign

At Bridgemary School, I heard from young people who have launched an inspirational campaign to tackle bullying, and back in Westminster, I was quizzed by students from Bay House School about my life as an MP.

We heard the welcome news from the Court of Appeal that the attacker in the Andrew Toseland case has had his sentence increased from 5 to 9 years. The brutal assault shocked the community in Forton who have been hugely supportive of Mr Toseland and his family.



Bay House Sixth Formers in Westminster

My regular open surgery took place in Gosport Discovery Centre - I always enjoy meeting constituents to offer help and advice. This month I have added some 'Help' pages to my website so that this advice is always easily accessible to those who need it; www.caroline4gosport.co.uk/help-pages/help-pages.

Best wishes

Caroline

(P.S. Please forward on my newsletter to friends and neighbours!)

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!

Constituency Office: 02392 522 121

Westminster Office: 020 7219 7078

Email: caroline.dinenage.mp@parliament.uk

Website: www.caroline4gosport.co.uk

Address: House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA