



Caroline Dinenage

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



November was an action packed month. I welcomed the new Minister for the Portsmouth area, Matt Hancock MP to the Daedalus Enterprise Zone; we toured the new CEMAST skills centre which now has over 900 students, and met staff & apprentices at Aerotech Solent's business facilities. I also took the Minister on a whistle-stop tour of local roads, to demonstrate the urgent need for improvements.

Improving our local road network is crucial to our area's future growth prospects and this month Hampshire County Council approved the proposed routes for the Stubbington Bypass & southern section of Newgate Lane and the bid was submitted to Government for the £30 million needed to get the job done. I also led a debate in Parliament on the painfully slow rail route which connects us to London and attended a meeting with South West Trains to discuss the problems we face.

Among other meetings to discuss our area's prospects, I met with Crown Estates who own a lot of sites across the peninsula, with Berkeley Homes to talk about progress at Royal Clarence Marina and with the owners of the former Haslar Hospital site to hear how their ambitious plans for redevelopment are progressing. I also met with the group who are putting together the independent panel who will conduct an inquiry into deaths at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

The Government has invested a lot of effort into getting young people into work experience, traineeships & apprenticeships - the result is a 48% reduction in youth unemployment in our area since 2010. To find out more about how this is working in practice I visited Anthony at the Alverbank Hotel who has benefitted from the Hospitality Industry Training scheme.

I met some other impressive young people when I marked 'Parliament Week' by chairing a mock House of Commons style debate & vote for students at St Vincent College and CEMAST. I was also delighted to meet citizenship students from Crofton School on their tour of Parliament.

I continued my campaign to tackle poor basic skills when I launched my Parliamentary Group for Maths & Numeracy's report on early years education. We were joined by Skills Minister, Nick Boles and the TV legend & maths guru, Johnny Ball.

This month we commemorated the 100th anniversary of the start of WW1. I was honoured to lay a wreath on behalf of the Gosport constituency at the Remembrance Sunday service at the War Memorial. I also visited Woodcot Primary School where pupils had made their own poppies in a special garden to emulate those at the Tower of London. I then spent a magical afternoon making and flying remembrance kites at Leesland Junior School.



With Matt Hancock MP



At CEMAST for Parliament Week



*With Johnny Ball and Barry Sheerman
launching the numeracy report*

Local people will be aware of the deaths of two teenage girls from Gosport as a result of a tragic dangerous driving incident last year. Since then, I have campaigned for an increase in the maximum sentence for causing death by dangerous driving; this month I spoke in a Parliamentary debate on the matter and was pleased that the Minister expressed his commitment to this and confirmed that the law would change to ensure that any driving bans run after a prison sentence rather than concurrently.

I took part in a frenzied trolley-dash at the Alver Valley Tesco in aid of their Neighbourhood Food Collection - there are so many complex reasons why people use food banks but we are lucky to have some amazing local organisations which are helping those in need. During questions to the Department for Work and Pensions, I raised my concerns about the hold up in payments of benefits to claimants with terminal illnesses and called for the system to be more streamlined.



On the Tesco trolley-dash!

I was pleased to see two wonderful groups from our area pursuing their health campaigns in Parliament. The PLANETS Charity raises funds for Southampton General Hospital's neuroendocrine tumour centre. And the Portsmouth NASS branch to discuss how to improve outcomes for people with Ankylosing Spondylitis.

Back on the south coast, I attended a small business breakfast meeting to speak and take questions about the Small Business Bill which is currently passing through Parliament. I also popped into meet some of the budding new businesses taking part in the various courses offered by Gosport Borough Council in Global Entrepreneurship week.



With Layla Stephen from PLANETS

I held one of my open surgeries at Bridgemary Library and was delighted that so many people dropped in to discuss local and national issues. I also held a meeting for Gateway Forton Pre-School in my Gosport office to discuss their relocation.

Lee-on-the-Solent's 'Save the Square' campaign continues with vigour; I met with the local residents who've been working tirelessly to protect Victoria Square. I also dropped in to talk to the lovely ladies from Crofton WI about my life as an MP.

The end of the month saw me getting into the festive spirit with Christmas activities & lights starting to go on across our area. The Gosport Ferry have announced two promotional deals to cut the cost of travel over the Christmas period; the Christmas Weekend Saver Ticket will allow four adults to cross the water for £6 (6th-21st December) and the Festive Family Ticket which will get two adults and three children to Portsmouth for £5 (20th Dec—4th Jan).



With Claire Jeffries from NASS

Finally don't forget Small Business Saturday this weekend; when stocking up on those pressies - shop small!

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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