



Caroline Dinenage

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



October proved to be a productive month for tackling some of the long standing local issues that prevent our area from realising its enormous potential.

With 21% of the borough of Gosport still in the hands of the MOD, I secured a meeting with the Head of Acquisitions, Disposals and Commercialisation at the DIO to discuss the future of some of the disused and under-used military sites in our area. He agreed to visit me in Gosport, where I showed him the remaining Royal Clarence Yard site which is key to the regeneration of our spectacular waterfront. We also visited Fort Blockhouse to discuss its future role in support of the new QE class aircraft carriers which will be based in Portsmouth Harbour from 2016.

Improving our local transport infrastructure is also key to future prosperity. I made a deputation to Hampshire County Council calling for adequate bus provision on the peninsula; pleasingly, the Fareham to Gosport bus use has increased by around 24%, contributing to a 5% reduction in traffic on the A32. I also met with South West Trains to raise my concerns about the excessively long journey times, high prices and inadequate carriages which frustrate local commuters. The status quo is unacceptable so I have requested a meeting with the Minister responsible.

Alverstoke residents will be aware of the campaign for the release of the Stokesmead land in the village centre which has been held undeveloped by Abbey Homes for 30 years. I joined an open meeting to discuss the situation and have written to the developers, urging them to meet with campaigners and Gosport Borough Council. I also stood up in Parliament to request a debate on this kind of 'land-banking'. In Lee-on-the-Solent, I attended the Sailing Club's open consultation event where plans for an extension and improved facilities were put forward.

Thanks to companies such as Vector Aerospace, our area has a wide range of apprenticeship schemes on offer and between 2013/14, 2,290 people became apprentices. I was honoured to attend the Vector Aerospace Apprentice Graduation Ceremony and meet their impressive young graduates.

Another outstanding training establishment is the Royal Navy's School of Marine Engineering at HMS Sultan – in Defence Questions I urged Ministers to consider the value of this site in the 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review.

It was great to visit 'Sultan' to present the profits from their successful Summer Show as cheques to local charities. I am always so proud of the volunteers in our area and enjoy the opportunity to see them in action. This month, I visited Centrepeace in Gosport shopping centre, who offer support & guidance to local people. I also welcomed volunteers from the Gosport Citizens Advice Bureau to Parliament, where we had a chance to discuss common problems faced by their clients.



Showing the DIO official around the RCY Waterfront site



Speaking up for Stokesmead



Presenting the Sultan Summer Show cheque to local charities

Peel Common Junior School were also visitors this month, I took them to 10 Downing Street to hand deliver some letters. Whilst we were there, we bumped into the Chancellor, George Osborne, who stopped for a chat and answered the children's questions. One asked if her granny could have a bigger pension and he agreed to put pensions up again next year – nice work team!

Back on the South Coast, I visited Crofton Hammond Schools to join the celebrations of Red, White and Blue Day - showing support for Service families. At the Infant School, 40% of pupils have a parent in the Forces, so occasions such as these are important. It was a great event, hugely supported by parents, teachers and local businesses – HMS Collingwood even brought along a field gun for the day!

At the end of the month, I attended the launch of the annual Poppy Appeal in Gosport. Our local branch of the Royal British Legion is in need of more Poppy sellers – if you can help please call Tammy on 07733 102098.



With Peel Common Junior School and the Chancellor

Since last month's Scottish Referendum, there's been much debate about whether, in future, only English MPs should be able to vote on laws that only affect England, my Conservative colleagues - me included - think they should & I said so during a Parliamentary debate on the issue.

With the news that crime has fallen by more than a fifth since 2010, I had a meeting with Chief Inspector Jim Pegler to talk about some of the issues in our area. One of my concerns is the number of women who do not report sexual assault, so during questions to the Home Secretary, I called for her to ensure that all police forces take sexual violence seriously.



At the launch of the Gosport Poppy Appeal

During Parliamentary Questions to the Secretary of State for Health I complained about the long waits patients in parts of our area face for a GP appointment. Jeremy Hunt agreed to meet with me to discuss my concerns in more detail. During our meeting he took note of our local issues with waiting times and GP recruitment. He assured me that improving general practice is a key government priority and that, starting this month, all GP surgeries would be given Ofsted-style ratings, to ensure that poorly performing areas are more quickly brought to the attention of the Care Quality Commission and Department of Health.

As an asthma sufferer, I put on a brave face this month & got my flu jab at an event in Westminster to raise awareness about the importance of the seasonal vaccine – I'd urge over 65s, under 4s and other vulnerable groups to do the same – it really doesn't hurt! Autumn is also the time when we start to think about our energy bills so I attended events to learn more about how we can keep our bills down. You can find all the information you need on the 'Help' pages of my website www.caroline4gosport.com.

On Friday 7th November, I will be holding an Open Surgery at Bridgemary Library from 0930 until 1100. Please do pop in, no appointment needed.

Finally, on 6th February 2015, GCA will be holding 'An Evening with Jim Davidson', hosted by Fred Dinenage at Thorngate Hall. Tickets are selling fast - call 023 9258 8400 or email office@goscons.plus.com for info.



Getting my flu jab!

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!

Constituency Office: 023 9252 2121

Westminster Office: 020 7219 7078

Email: caroline.dinenage.mp@parliament.uk

Website: www.caroline4gosport.co.uk

Address: House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA