



Caroline Dinenage

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



Meeting the Chancellor to call for infrastructure investment

A new Parliamentary term has begun and I hit the ground running with a jam-packed agenda in both Gosport and Westminster this September.

I met with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond; the Secretary of State for Transport, Chris Grayling; and the Minister for Local Growth, Andrew Percy, to make my clear case for why we need central government funding for a western relief road, the Stubbington Bypass, and the next stage of the Bus Rapid Transit scheme (BRT). For too long our local area has suffered from under-investment in infrastructure and these projects are an important part of the solution to our traffic problems.

I sought an update from the MoD on the status of the retained area at Royal Clarence Yard. I have lobbied for the release of this largely unused and derelict waterfront site for many years, so that it can be brought back into use to create jobs and prosperity.

In Gosport, I met with the new chief officers of Gosport Borough Council following the decision to share executive staff with Portsmouth City Council. I also held productive discussions with Anne-Marie Mountfield of the Solent LEP about their projects in our local area and what more we can do to encourage small business start-ups locally.

With that in mind it was great to welcome year 10 & 11 Bridgemary school pupils to London to visit Google Campus. I arranged for the school to take part in the Future Founders workshop - an exciting youth entrepreneurship programme.

I met with Hampshire County Council's education boss, Peter Edgar & education manager, David Hardcastle, to discuss our local schools and raise constituent cases. I welcome their "Gosport Challenge" initiative, which focuses on raising education standards in our community to make them more comparable other parts of the county. I was delighted to speak to Sixth Form Academy students at St Vincent College and respond to their engaging, thoughtful questions.

I launched an Inspiring Apprentices campaign. Since 2010 there has been an incredible 11,240 new apprenticeship starts in the Gosport constituency. Every Monday I will be publishing biographies of current local apprentices to highlight these diverse and rewarding opportunities. You can read the stories released so far, [here](#). I then met reps from British Marine to hear about their work to provide advice and support for local businesses in the maritime sector who are looking to take on more apprentices.

I met with both the Chief Officer and the Group Manager of Hampshire Fire & Rescue, who updated me on their 'Making Hampshire Safer' strategy, which they hope will see upgraded fire engines and reduced response times in our area.

I also met the new District Police Commander for Gosport and Fareham. We discussed the imminent move of Gosport Police into the Borough Council offices and how that will improve the police's front desk coverage and visibility. In Westminster, I attended a roundtable with Michael Lane, Hampshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, and other MPs from our area to further discuss local priorities.



With Bridgemary pupils at Google Campus



Meeting Chief Inspector Woolrich

I met with the new Commanding Officer of HMS Sultan, Captain Peter Towell OBE, who I look forward to working with closely. I also visited Wickham Laboratories, now among our biggest local employers, for an update on their business.

I met Dick Tracey from South Central Ambulance Service who leads on the provision of Public Access Defibrillators. 60,000 people per year suffer cardiac arrest and the availability of PADs can increase chances of survival by around 70%. It is important that local groups take advantage of funding support to purchase this potentially life-saving equipment and train people to use it.

In Parliament, I celebrated ukactive's National Fitness Day with Coca-Cola GB's ParkLives reception. This great scheme, rolled out in Southampton this summer, is helping people from across the country get fit and active. I also joined fellow parliamentarians in donning eye-catching pink garments to help promote Breast Cancer Now's 'Wear it Pink' day on Friday 21 October. Find out more [here](#).

Gosport Heritage Open Days were amazing as ever. I enjoyed the sunshine and market stalls at Royal Clarence Marina, where Provincial Buses were on hand for vintage bus trips and Gosport Solent Brass and Radio Haslar provided entertainment. I also took part in a rainy, but fantastic, tour of Fort Rowner in HMS Sultan. It was a real privilege to look inside one of the wonderful historic sites which we are so lucky to have right on our doorstep.



Wearing pink in support of Breast Cancer Now

I caught up with the team at 33 Field Hospital at their home in Fort Blockhouse. Since my last visit, they have had a number of upgrades to their medical equipment and are now preparing to join the UN mission in South Sudan next summer.

I saw the breath-taking new exhibition by successful local artist Dan Williams at our very own Gosport Gallery on the important theme of Modern Day Anxieties. A collection of portraits looking at mental health and anxiety - I would highly recommend a visit, the exhibition is there until 22nd Oct.

Southern Water briefed me on their efforts to tackle localised flooding in the Stubbington Area and updated me with news that all of Gosport's beaches - Hill Head, Stokes Bay, Lee-on-Solent continue to have "excellent" bathing water quality. Hill Head and Stokes Bay are pilot sites for Southern Water's Bathing Water Enhancement Programme. You can read more, [here](#).

The Boundary Commission published their proposals to ensure equally-sized constituencies across the UK. The Gosport constituency remains unaltered but there are some notable changes elsewhere in Hampshire. I have suggested that our Constituency might be renamed Gosport Peninsula - as I'm aware that the current title of Gosport overlooks those in Hill Head, Stubbington, Lee on the Solent and Bridgemary.

Looking forward to next month, Gosport Borough Council is hosting a range of events for Older Persons Month, including the annual Joint 55+ Info Fest and Winter Warmth Event. To see all the events on offer, click [here](#) or contact Donna Simpson on 02392 545421.

Best wishes

Caroline



Trying my hand at Boccia on National Fitness Day



Visiting 33 Field Hospital at Fort Blockhouse

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 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