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CAROLINE DINENAGE MP

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR GOSPORT

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2021

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This month we have glimpsed the light at the end of the tunnel as the UK's world beating vaccination programme continues at lightening speed. Midway through the month we smashed our target to offer a vaccine to the top 4 priority groups (representing 88% of those most at risk from COVID-19) and are now offering it to those over the age of 64 and clinically vulnerable to COVID-19. [Fareham and Gosport CCG have administered over 62,000 vaccines](#), including to 95% of those over the age of 65! Across the UK, over 20 million people have now received the jab.

[Early data](#) also shows promising signs that the vaccine significantly reduces transmission and hospitalisation. If you have yet to be invited, but believe you are eligible or should have received your jab, you can now book your vaccine on the NHS website link below.

COVID-19 Vaccine Booking

We have a new local [asymptomatic testing centre at Thorngate Hall](#) in the Gosport Constituency, open to critical workers or those who cannot work from home, to test for COVID-19 if they do not have symptoms. This is vitally important in our fight to tackle local transmission as 1/3 of us will be asymptomatic and at risk of passing the virus on. Check eligibility and book your test below. Gosport Borough Council are also urgently looking for volunteers to help at this center.

Eligibility & Booking Site For Asymptomatic Testing

Volunteer At Thorngate Testing Center



I spent an afternoon volunteering at the Covid 19 vaccine clinic at Solent View Medical Practice. Thankfully for local residents I was not handling any needles, merely stewarding patients to the right part of the building. It was such a delight to see medical professionals from sites across the Constituency, alongside volunteers, working together as a team in this big national effort, and local people so relieved to receive the vaccine. On a good day this one team have been able to vaccinate well over 1000 people, what an honour to be a tiny part of it. Whether you are a medical professional or not, you can still volunteer to play your part and I would highly recommend getting involved.

Volunteer As A Medical Professional

Volunteer As A Steward

Most importantly, as the vaccine programme rolls out the Prime Minister has published the roadmap out of restrictions, showing us the steps ahead in the coming months. The full information can be found in the link below, including details on when we can potentially start meeting loved ones inside and out, return to our favourite local pubs and finally get a professional pair of scissors snipping our hair.

It is worth noting that these dates are not set in stone and contingent on meeting [4 new tests](#). There is a minimum 5 week before between each stage to ensure that data is collected and analysed, including on variants, so we are not risking another wave.

Roadmap Out Of Restrictions

In addition we have now received an update on summer 2021 examinations following a consultation by the Department for Education. [Teachers will assess grades for students](#) based on what they have been taught to ensure fairness and flexibility for our children and young people who have had their education impacted. A further [£700 million funding boost](#) - on top of the [£1 billion covid catch-up investment](#) - has been announced as schools and colleges return to face-to-face teaching on March 8th.

Good news as nursing applications have risen by over a third, with 50,000 students applying for courses through UCAS, putting us a huge step closer to delivering 50,000 more nurses for our NHS. I joined the Prime Minister in encouraging residents to sign up to a rewarding career in care. Whether in a voluntary role for short-term work or long-term career change, additional staff are urgently needed during the pandemic to help out most vulnerable residents. Find out more [here](#).

In addition, reforms to the NHS to provide more integrated, localised and improved healthcare services were published this month in the White Paper on Health and Care. Find the full details and proposed changes to support staff and improve patient care [here](#).



For February's National Apprenticeship Week I kickstarted a campaign with local apprenticeships and their providers to celebrate the opportunities that they bring and challenges they are facing. We heard from apprentices from Fareham College's CETC Campus to Gosport Borough Council as they took over my social media. At the end of the week, I hosted a [roundtable with representatives](#) from many of the organisations including the Royal Navy, Fareham College and CEMAST.

Sadly, this year I was unable to join the Gosport Fairtrade Action group as usual for Fairtrade

Fortnight to learn more about their work getting a fairer deal for farmers. You can still get involved and hear more about their upcoming events [here](#). We also marked [Safer Internet Day](#), raising awareness about how you and your family can stay safer online and [the work](#) my team and I in the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport are doing to tackle online harms.

We have had other causes for celebration this month as I joined local group Loud and Proud for their 10th anniversary. I cannot believe that this fantastic organisation - who are a volunteering group for young people and part of Gosport Voluntary Action - have been empowering our youngsters for a decade. You can get involved and find out more [here](#).

I also met with the local Scouts Association to learn more about how I can become a [Scouts Ambassador](#). I'll be working with the Scouts to make my new role official and look forward to joining the team. I also joined Google and Parent Zone to speak in a [#BeInternetLegends assembly](#) for Gosport Constituency schools, talking about the tools our children need thrive in a digital age and develop their online skills.



It is always a pleasure to speak to our younger residents and it was great to chat with third year students at the Solent University doing their BA (Hons) Fashion Promotions degree, talking about entrepreneurial practice. Having previously been a small business owner and worked with so many local entrepreneurs across the Gosport Constituency, it was good to talk to local students about the opportunities available for them as they enter the job market and business world.

We have a some new members of the Gosport Clergy for the Church of England and it was fantastic to catch up with them and hear their enthusiasm and vision for the churches in our area and ideas on how make faith inclusive for all ages.

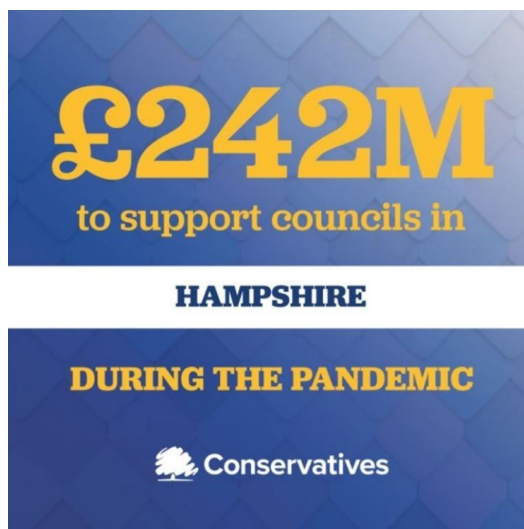
I know that there has been concerns regarding anti-social behaviour in Lee on the Solent Car Parks, particularly Beach Road, which has been an ongoing issue for some years. I met with residents to hear their experiences and will be continuing to support them in anyway that I can, including writing again to Gosport Borough Council about the actions residents would like to see being taken.

Hampshire County Council has benefitted from further cash boosts this February, including:

- [£38.8 million](#) to improve Hampshire highways, with nearly £15 million of this to fix potholes
- An [extra £880,000](#) for our Violence Reduction Unit, for preventative work with those most at-risk of offending and to tackle serious violence at its root
- [Over £2.3 million](#) to support victims of domestic abuse and their families, helping providing safe accommodation

Funding to support those facing domestic abuse is especially welcome as I took part in [Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week](#) to remind those who need it that #ItsNotOk and [support is out there](#).

In total, Hampshire have received [£242 million](#) in the past year to support residents in our fight against COVID-19 and fund essential services across the region.



In addition, Bay House School and Sixth Form are set to receive a share of the £1 billion School Rebuilding Programme to [help fund refurbishments and improvements](#) for students and staff. I have written to Further Educational providers in the constituency about the [Further Education Capital Transformation Fund](#) - to expand or refurbish existing facilities - and offer my support for any applications.

CAROLINE DINENAGE MP
GOSPORT INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2021

"JOIN ME ON MONDAY 8TH MARCH TO HEAR FROM A RANGE OF EXCITING SPEAKERS ABOUT GETTING MORE WOMEN INTO BUSINESS AND POSITIONS OF PUBLIC OFFICE."

CAROLINE x

FEATURING TV's ALISON CORK

WHO: A HOST OF FASCINATING LOCAL AND NATIONAL SPEAKERS
WHEN: MONDAY 8TH MARCH 2021 AT 11:00AM
WHERE: SIGN UP FOR ZOOM LINK

MAKE IT *YOUR* BUSINESS

CAROLINE DINENAGE MP
FREE GOSPORT EXPORT EVENT

WHETHER YOU'VE NEVER EXPORTED BEFORE OR HAVE BEEN EXPORTING FOR YEARS, THE GOVERNMENT WANTS TO HELP YOU MAKE YOUR BUSINESS STRONGER, MORE PROFITABLE AND MORE RESILIENT. COME ALONG TO FIND OUT MORE!

WHO: JOIN ME AND OUR TOP EXPORTING EXPERTS
WHEN: FRIDAY 12TH MARCH 2021 AT 11:00AM
WHERE: SIGN UP FOR ZOOM LINK

Coming up in March, the Chancellor will be publishing the Budget on the 3rd, outlining the future of financial support and further economic measures that will affect us this year. Keep an eye out on my [social media platforms](#) and [news page](#) of my website for updates on Wednesday.

You will have all already received an email on my upcoming events for International Women's Day and my free exporting event for local businesses. If you have any questions don't hesitate to drop me and my team an email.

March 8th: International Women's Day Event

March 12th: Free Gosport Exporting Event



As ever, if you have any questions or queries please email me at caroline.dinenage.mp@parliament.uk.

***Best Wishes
Caroline x***



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Our mailing address is:
Caroline Dinenage
167 Stoke Road
Gosport, Hampshire PO12 1SE
United Kingdom

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