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April 29 2012

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"she has a record of unusually free speech" Simon Carr, The Independent
"the beating heart of the parliamentary Tory party" Quentin Letts, The Daily Mail

Double threat to our Green Belt

Green Belt land in Broxtowe faces another threat with the announcement that UK Coal has applied for open cast mining on land between Cossall and Trowell, as I anticipated some weeks ago.

Meanwhile Broxtowe Borough Council's Cabinet meet (see diary below) to discuss their plans to allow 4,000 houses to be built on our Green Belt.

These are such serious matters I will send out a separate "Defend our Green Belt " email newsletter.



Cancelled Operations Update

Over 550 non emergency operations at the QMC and City Hospitals have been cancelled "on the day" since January . This is clearly an intolerable situation which has caused great distress and inconvenience to hundreds of patients and their families.

The Trust which manages both hospitals says there has been a steep rise in the number of admissions to the Emergency Department at the QMC. They have identified a larger than normal number of frail elderly people needing treatment in hospital. The Trust say the situation has not been caused by a lack of money. However, I have been told that bed closures have contributed to the crisis.

I have spoken to the Secretary of State, Andrew Lansley, about the situation. I am providing the Minister with responsibility for Hospitals, daily updates. He, Simon Burns MP, is visiting the City on Tuesday to discuss the situation with the Trust (Simon is also visiting our local GP consortium based in Stapleford)

I have written twice to the Chief Executive. Dr Peter Homa has assured me that the closure of the Stapleford walk-In centre has had only a minimal effect on the number of people

using the Emergency Department and denies bed closures have played a significant part.

The Trust is conducting an inquiry which is expected to report next week.

Nuthall Post Office

Following the sad death of postmaster Rob Jones, Nuthall Temple Post office has been closed for some 16 months, much to the despair of locals.



Working with Parish and Borough Councillors I have written to the Post Office on a number of occasions, and they have repeatedly assured me that they want a Post Office in Nuthall.

I have asked them to advertise the business **again** and have contacted the local media to advertise the vacancy..

Dates for your diary and surgery details

Tuesday May 1st:

Broxtowe Borough Council Cabinet

The Cabinet will discuss the Core Strategy. The meeting begins at 6pm at the Councils offices, Foster Avenue, Beeston.

Saturday May 6th:

Surgery Stapleford Library

10am til midday Please call the constituency office for an appointment.
0115 9436507

Wednesday 16 May:

Broxtowe Borough Council

Meeting The full council meet to discuss the Core Strategy in the Council Chamber, Foster Avenue, Beeston.

Same Sex Marriage

Thank you to everyone who has emailed me with their views on the Government's plans to change the law to allow people of the same sex to marry. This very controversial proposal stirs strong passions and opinions.

I am in favour of same sex marriage. However, to date I have received almost 60 emails on the subject with just over the majority being against the plans.

I would like to know what you think so please email me with your views whatever they may be.

I will represent the views of all my constituents and I urge everyone to take part in the consultation as well as sharing their views with me.

Click [here](#) to take part in the consultation.

Out and About

Broxtowe CAB/South Notts College/Surgeries/Nuthall Gypsum Mountain/Broxtowe Mayor's Charity Ball

Broxtowe CAB

I met with workers and volunteers from Broxtowe's Citizens Advice Bureau in Beeston.

They have done terrifically well in attracting significant funding and continue to offer a first class service. However, they raised a number of important matters with me and as a result I have written to the Justice Secretary Ken Clark and spoken to the Minister responsible for Benefits, Chris Grayling. The effects of cuts to long term funding, and a poor Benefits telephone service were the top two concerns.

South Notts College

The Principal of South Notts College, Malcolm Cowgill came to see me at the constituency office to explain the College's plans for the future. The Beeston site is set to expand, which is good news and although there will be changes in some of the provision in Stapleford but the Arthur Mee Centre is secure.

Surgeries

I was a tad concerned when a caller to the office accused me of only having 1 surgery "in 14 months". As I have been holding one a week of late (and also often see constituents on Fridays in the constituency office) I thought I 'd remind my opponents that to date I have held **43** since my election! I held my third "drop in" at Sainsbury's in Kimberley yesterday. It was really good to meet so many people. On the basis it will soon stop raining (yes honestly we are still in a drought!) then I will be doing "street surgeries" in the summer. My next surgery is this coming Saturday (May 5th) at Stapleford Library so please call 0115 9436507 if you would like an appointment.

Nuthalls Gypsum Mountain

I have arranged a meeting this coming Friday with Fernwood to try and resolve the continuing problem of the Gypsum mound. I will of course report back.

Broxtowe Civic Ball

Congratulations to Broxtowe Mayor, Cllr. Jackie Williams who raised almost £2,000 at this year's Civic Ball which I attended. Jackie has done a sterling job during her time as Mayor raising money for her chosen charities of Rainbows Childrens Hospice and Link Youth Cafe in Stapleford. Next year's Mayor Cllr Margaret Handley has a tough act to follow but I know she is well up to the task ahead.

Campaign News



Moorgreen Speed Watch Launch

It started with a meeting in the Horse and Groom Car Park and we met in the same spot last Saturday to launch the Moorgreen Speed Watch. Congratulations to the newly revamped Moorgreen Residents Assoc. and all the volunteers who will be "zapping" speeding motorists in Moorgreen. Now we need to get an HGV limit - Notts County Council!

John McGrath and William Barnard; family meet the Minister

Having successfully won a full inquest into the death of Stapleford's John McGrath who was killed by his grandson, members of the family and I met with Paul Burstow MP who is the Minister with responsibility for mental health. You may remember I had a debate in Parliament about John's death; I have no doubt there was a profound failure to care for and supervise his grandson, William Barnard who is a paranoid schizophrenic. The family and I continue to campaign to make sure John did not die in vain and the inquest is due in late May/June.

Supporting Kimberley's Portas Pilot bid

You may recall I wrote to all our Town Councils urging them to apply to be a "Portas Pilot"; I also wrote in the same terms to Broxtowe Borough Council. The Government will choose 12 towns (and provide £120,000 to each) to pilot ideas from Mary Portas's latest report on how to revive our town centres. The Beeston Bid took up my offer as did Kimberley Town Council; the Bid then asked me for a letter of support which I didn't hesitate to give.

I had a meeting with Roy Plumb, who Chairs Kimberley Town Council last week and we were somewhat surprised that Broxtowe Borough Council had submitted an application on behalf of Kimberley but had not asked me for a letter of support. I made sure that letter went off even though the dead line has passed.



Wilkinson closure in Beeston

I have spoken at some length, again, with Wilkinson who assure me they have done everything they can to find alternative premises in Beeston. They also assure me that Broxtowe Borough Council has done everything they could do to assist them in their search. They have agreed to a meeting. I will of course report back.



Work in Parliament

Supporting improvements to Midland Mainline/ Tram Work disruption/ Domestic Violence definition/ "Meso" compromise

Midland Mainline debate

I attended and spoke in the debate on the need to improve and electrify the Midland Mainline. MP's from all parties with constituencies along the route came together to make the case/ Minister, Theresa Villiers was encouraging but gave no clues as to whether we will get the answer we all want in July. You can read the debate in Hansard

by clicking [here](#)

Tram Work disruption

I raised the affects of the construction of the tram in Beeston and Chilwell with the Minister, Norman Baker.

Anna Soubry (Broxtowe) (Con): I am all for improvements in public transport, but the tram works in Broxtowe are causing widespread disruption to residents, and last weekend the Wilkinson store in Beeston closed, with no alternative premises. Does the Minister agree that when deciding routes, wherever they are in the country, it is imperative to work with local people and local businesses?

Norman Baker (Lib Dem): I agree with that general proposition and am aware of my hon. Friend's concern about the extension to the Nottingham tram route. Ultimately, especially these days, when we are looking to devolve more decision making to local authorities, it is for them to decide the best way forward, and I am sorry that she feels that the local authority has not taken account of all shades of opinion

Domestic Violence and Mesothelioma

The final stages of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act passed its final stages through Parliament. I had lobbied the Government very hard to change the definition of domestic violence and to make sure victims continue to get legal aid for related matters and am pleased the Government accordingly changed the proposed legislation.

I also got involved with the debate on whether mesothelioma sufferers should have changes made to their compensation. "Meso" is a particularly vile and fatal disease caused by exposure to asbestos. I spoke out against the Government plans and was delighted to be told the next day there had been a change of heart. Again you can read the debates by clicking [here](#)

The second debate can be read by clicking [here](#)

Mick Atherton

I am very sad to report that after a long courageous fight against cancer Mick Atherton has died. Mick was well know to many people in all sorts of way. He and Eileen ran a shop on Central Avenue in Beeston for many years. Mick was a stalwart of the Beeston Civic Society. As Eileen's husband he helped her in many ways in her work as a Chilwell Borough Councillor and was hugely liked by their friends, neighbours and constituents in Chilwell. I knew him as great character and good friend who worked incredibly hard for my election campaign and the Conservative cause in Broxtowe . He will be much missed. We will pay our respects at Bramcote Crematorium at 11am on Friday May 4th.

And Finally...

Thank you to everyone who has thus far invited me to their celebrations to mark the Diamond Jubilee. If you are hosting an event then please let me know so I can advertise it in the newsletter and on the web site. I will be publishing a full list of local events in the next few weeks so email me your event details asap please.

Contact Anna Soubry MP

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