

ANNA SOUBRY MP

Member of Parliament for Broxtowe

NEWSLETTER



Wednesday July 7th

Hello again,

The killing of John McGrath/good and bad news for Kimberley/Toton Fields trees update/Bramwell –Stop the Sale/The tale of two men/Alderman White Prize Giving

Thank you for all your emails and comments. I am settling into my office in Westminster and will be moving into my constituency office next week. MP's receive an allowance to rent a reasonably sized office and to equip it. I have taken a lease on a 400sq ft office in Barton House, 61 High Road, on the border of Beeston and Chilwell. I have two new members of staff. Adam Holliday started this week working as my Parliamentary Assistant in Westminster and Kate Shaw joins next week as my Office Manager based in the constituency office. Please bear with us as while we install telephones, computers, desks and the like! Meanwhile, the best way to contact me is to email me on anna.soubry.mp@parliament.uk.

Anna Soubry

THE KILLING OF JOHN MCGRATH

It's almost a year since John McGrath was killed by his grand son, William Barnard; they both lived in Stapleford and come from a kind and loving family.

A few weeks ago William was incarcerated in Rampton Hospital for the manslaughter of his grandfather and I have now received the report from Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS into events that led up to this terrible tragedy. William was very ill at the time of the killing suffering from paranoia and schizophrenia; many people, including his family and in particular his grandparents, had reported their grave concerns for his well being and mental state, but they were not acted on in the way they should have been.

William was meant to be cared for and closely supervised having been discharged from hospital after being sectioned under the Mental Health Act.

But in fact those that were charged with that care and supervision knew he had not taken his medication for months, that his mental health had seriously deteriorated and that there were well founded concerns he was becoming dangerous. William was not abandoned by his family and in particular, his grandfather, who is described as a lovely, larger than life figure, and who had a special bond with William. It's just that their concerns were not properly acted on and profound failures cost John McGrath his life.

I believe this case must not be forgotten and important lessons must be learnt so this sort

of tragedy never happens again. I have sent the report to the Secretary of State for Health and have asked for an adjournment debate in the House of Commons in the next few weeks.

GOOD AND BAD NEWS FOR KIMBERLEY

Just when I thought I had some good news from Kimberley I have received some disturbing news. It appears that the towns Police Station is to close this September. This is another blow to the town but it also impacts on Watnall and Nuthall as the police station in Kimberley is the base for their beat officers. Eastwood is set to get a new police station but it seems as the cost of closing the station in Kimberley. There has been no official announcement and if it is true that the police station will close then it is at best "regrettable" that there has been no consultation with any elected representative nor any of the people of Kimberley, Awsworth, Cossall, Watnall and Nuthall.

I have spoken to a number of Town Councillors about how we can make sure Kimberley continues to have a police station. A petition is being organised and meetings with senior police officers. I will keep you fully informed.

On a happier note I am told over a dozen GP practices are tendering for the Kimberley Medical Practice as a "branch" surgery. I am aware that there is concern that new patients are not being allowed to join and I have contacted the PCT for clarification. But the level of interest bodes well for the future of the practice - everyone who knew it always believed it was a special surgery and they are being proved right!

TOTON FIELDS

I held a meeting "on site" with the Forestry Commission to discuss their plans for the restoration of the trees felled by the owners in January. The FC has been trying to negotiate a re-stocking with the owners rather than issuing a notice which may be appealed leading to further delay. Negotiation seems a perfectly reasonable approach – if it is successful! The good news is that the FC have walked the site and report that various species of trees have self seeded and are growing well; however, I am told by one resident that there is a distinct lack of silver birch seedlings so I have asked the FC if it is possible to do a site study to determine the situation. The re-stocking is an opportunity to make sure new trees are also planted to the maximum advantage of residents ie; to reduce noise and dust levels and screen unsightly views.

What the FC have told me (this evening) is that any re-stocking notice will state that *planting* will be the main process for restocking the site though they can only insist on 1100 planted trees. The FC say they anticipate the natural regrowth will continue through the autumn and will be patchy though they say that will create a more natural "feel" to the site and in their words "provide a more valuable habitat for woodland fauna and flora".

In the meantime I am meeting with TEPS, the local action group to discuss the future of the site. I am keen to explore whether all or part of the Fields can be given "Village Green" status and forever secured for the enjoyment of the community.

STOP THE SALE – FRIENDS OF BRAMWELL

It was good to see so many people on Sunday (July 4th) at the Bramwell residential and care support centre. A group campaigning against the proposed sale of Bramwell has been meeting regularly and I believe we have made some progress. I have met with Notts NHS

Healthcare Trust who are the providers of the various services run from Bramwell and used by many residents and short stay users. The NHS is in effect neutral on the proposed sale; what they have undertaken is to provide me with as much detail as they have about their involvement with Bramwell. Please let me know if you would like to join *The Friends of Bramwell* and join our campaign to stop the sale.

KEN CLARKE V ROY PLUMB

Seventy years ago last Friday two babies were delivered in the same ward of a Nottingham hospital. One went on to become the long serving MP for Rushcliffe and two months ago, Lord Chancellor. The other went on to become a long serving Town Councillor in Kimberley and for twenty years, a Magistrate. The injustice of this tale of two men is that Ken Clarke can remain as Lord Chancellor for as long as he and/or the Prime Minister likes. Whereas Roy Plumb was forced to retire from the Magistracy for no other reason than he celebrated his 70th Birthday. I have spoken to the Lord Chancellor about this ageist anomaly that is grossly unfair. He has told me that he is aware that it is illogical and is "looking into it". Ken Clarke is known as a reasonable and sensible man and I hope he allows both to prevail and allow Roy back onto the bench as soon as possible.

ALDERMAN WHITE PRIZE GIVING

It was a great honour to help present the various certificates and trophies at the Alderman White prize giving night last Wednesday. Congratulations to everyone but the school band has to get a special mention. There aren't many good schools that don't have a good school band. The one at Alderman White is excellent!