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**ANNA SOUBRY MP**  
Member of Parliament for Broxtowe  
**NEWSLETTER**



March 13 2012

[www.annasoubry.org.uk](http://www.annasoubry.org.uk)

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

Barton House, High Road, Chilwell, NG9 4AJ

Hello again,

Apologies for quite a "wordy" newsletter which includes a lengthy report on the future of the NHS and a reminder to everyone in Toton and Chilwell to vote in Thursday's by elections.

I have some news on the Tram Works and various campaigns so please keep scrolling down!

Much of my work in the last few weeks has been in Parliament. The Welfare Reform Bill which caps the amount a household can receive in benefit at £26,000 a year, became law and with Labour opposing the cap I stayed in Parliament to vote in favour of this important piece of legislation.

The downside was that I could not attend the "exhibition" at the Japanese Water gardens in relation to the plans to build 800 houses on green belt land in Toton. I have been campaigning to defend our green belt for years now and have the latest campaign news below.

I have spoken again in Parliament about the threat to the green belt land in Toton during a speech in a debate on Transport (yes there is a connection!). I also spoke about why I had been opposed to the tram route through Chilwell (scroll down for the link to Hansard to read my speech).

Next week the Chancellor will unveil his Budget. In advance of it, I asked him a question about whether he might back my preference to take more lower paid workers out of income tax. George Osborne gave an interesting answer, but gave no clues as to the contents of his red box next week!

As ever,

Anna

## Hands Off Our Green Belt !



Broxtowe Borough Council is asking residents, apparently, to identify "sites suitable for planning". It all sounds rather encouraging. Please check out the Borough's web site and please let me know whether you agree with me that this a totally meaningless exercise unless you are a developer!

Click [here](#) for the web page and email me with your views on [anna.soubry.mo@parliament.uk](mailto:anna.soubry.mo@parliament.uk)

Parish, Borough and County Councillors in Nuthall are leading the campaign to stop a huge "sports village" being built on green belt land off the Nuthall roundabout .Please email me if you would like to help with the campaign on [anna.soubry.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:anna.soubry.mp@parliament.uk)

In a somewhat bizarre move, one of the Labour Councillors for Kimberley has jumped on the band wagon. I say bizarre as he has consistently supported the very policies which in my view have made our green belt completely vulnerable to this type of development.

Labour and Lib Dem Councillors have yet to respond to my letter about the Government's statement that green belt land should not be developed save in "exceptional circumstances" and after "robust public consultation".

I am sorry to report that the Labour and Lib Dem coalition on Broxtowe still don't appear to understand that by accepting the last Government's housing targets they are positively encouraging this sort of proposed development.

The solution is to abandon the target and work **with** local communities to formulate a proper plan that preserves our green belt and delivers more homes.

### Tram Works /Jobs/Apprenticeships up date

There is quite a lot of information about the works which I have posted on my web site on my Tram Works page. [Click here](#) to go straight to it.

The liaison groups are being set up and NET are trying to make them as representative as possible, involving businesses and local organisations, i.e, residents associations. The groups are by invitation only, if you would like to be involved please email me for the necessary contact details on [anna.soubry.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:anna.soubry.mp@parliament.uk)

There is a meeting for residents of Lower Road, Fletcher Road and Albert Road on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March (see diary opposite).

The Beeston BID have also organised a meeting for traders (again, details opposite).

### Dates for your diary and surgery details

#### Thursday March 15:

**Chilwell by election for Notts County Council. Toton and Chilwell Meadows by election for Broxtowe Borough Council (scroll down to the "and finally" for details)**

#### Saturday March 17 :

**Surgery Beeston Library** Please call the office to book an appointment on 0115 9436507

#### Wednesday March 21 :

**Lower, Fletcher, Albert, Residents meeting** 7pm - 9pm Highfields Fire Station

#### Thursday March 22 :

Local companies can register an interest in tendering for tram work via: [www.tramlinknottingham.co.uk](http://www.tramlinknottingham.co.uk). I am told over £8m worth of contracts have been awarded to what's called the "local supply chain".

New jobs are being recruited through the Nottingham Employment Hub please [click here](#) or call 0115 876 4493  
Or E-mail: [hub@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:hub@nottinghamcity.gov.uk).

**I'm told over 70 vacancies have been advertised via the Hub and hopefully over 80 apprenticeships will be offered.**

### The Big Switch

Thank you to everyone who has emailed me about "The Big Switch Campaign" organised by the consumer watchdog Which?

The campaign aims to join households together to cut energy bills by negotiating with energy suppliers to seek to secure a better deal for their energy bills. This is a thoroughly good idea which I am pleased to see is being encouraged by the government. To join in please go to the Big Switch website by clicking [here](#).

### Out and About

## Headcase Ball / George Spencer Academy twice in two days!

### Headcase raise over £10,500 for research

I attended the Beeston based charity Headcase's Charity Ball at The Belfry. An astonishing £10,803 was raised to go to research into Glioblastoma Multiforme (GBM) brain tumours. This particularly unpleasant form of the disease has no cure – at the moment; it was an honour to meet the Professor leading the research at Portsmouth University. Well done Colin and the rest of the team. Read more about Headcase on [www.headcase.org.uk](http://www.headcase.org.uk)

### George Spencer Academy

Congratulations to all the winners in the debate on Bio Fuels which I helped to Judge on Thursday evening. I was back the next day for a gruelling interview with budding radio journalists Katie Garrett and Sophie Gibson-Leitch from Year 8 going on 18!



**The future of the NHS/ when does a protest become a stunt?/ how the**

**Beeston Bid Meeting on the Tram Works** From 6pm - 8pm at Relish.

### Saturday 24th March:

**FireFighters Charity Car wash** From 10am - 3pm at the Sherwin Arms car park, off the Bramcote Roundabout. Get your car washed by our brave fire fighters with all proceeds going to their Charity.

### Friday 13 April:

#### Broxtowe 5K and Children's Fun

**Run** Don't let the date put you off! Be lucky and join in the run.

It's at Bramcote Park starting at 5.30pm. AGM. More info on Broxtowe Borough Councils web site [click here](#)

### Saturday 21st April:

#### The Mayor of Broxtowe's Annual Charity Ball

This years "Rainbow" event is at The Belfry and tickets cost £32.

Proceeds to Mayor Jackie Williams chosen charities - Rainbows Hospice and the Link Youth Café, Stapleford.

Again click [here](#) for all the details on the Borough Council web site.

## Government is increasing public spending on the NHS

Last week I was asked by a protest group to accept 600 cards they had gathered from constituents opposed to the Health and Social Care Bill which is in the final stages of its progress through Parliament.

The group wanted to hand over the cards at my surgery at Beeston Library. I explained that my surgery is for constituents who often have very personal and private matters requiring my help and support. This group had in effect picketed a surgery at the Library last year despite an assurance they would not stage a “stunt”. Their antics caused distress and inconvenience to constituents coming to my surgery and I take the view that a constituent should not have to run the gauntlet of a demo to see their MP.

I offered to meet the group at my constituency office down the road this Friday, to accept the cards and to discuss the Bill with members of the group. They didn't get back to me despite letters and phone calls.

So instead of holding the surgery at Beeston Library, I rearranged to see everyone in their home on Saturday. It was a great success and as a result I am going to do considerably more home visits!

The group did go to the Library and as I predicted held a “demonstration” (their word).

On Monday they dropped off the cards at the office; it seems they are not interested in discussing the Bill.

I am sorry to say the group have either not read the Health and Social Care Bill or they have and are deliberately misleading people about it. This group claim the Bill “privatises” the NHS when it does no such thing.

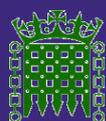
The very first clause in the Bill sets in law the duty of the Secretary of State for Health to provide a free of charge, comprehensive health service.

I fully accept the Government has not done the best of jobs in explaining the Bill, but misleading and scaremongering people for political advantage is shameful.

The Government's commitment to the NHS is best demonstrated by the fact we are *increasing* year on year the amount of money given to the NHS - an extra £12 billion by 2015.

It's because I believe in the NHS (and three generations of my family have worked in the NHS) that I support the Bill. We are living longer and health treatments are costing more as medicine advances. We need to reform the NHS to make sure it provides the very best health care for everyone and the Bill does that by shifting power away from administrators to GP's and nurses. The Bill joins up social and health care at a local level. It removes the financial bias Labour introduced for the private sector. Competition and choice will be based not on cost but on quality of care and treatments.

I have posted my response to the various cards and emails I have received on my web site and I hope you will read it as it explains why I am supporting the Bill in more detail.  
[www.annasoubry.org.uk](http://www.annasoubry.org.uk)



Working for you in Parliament

Speaking up for Chilwell and Toton/ Cutting tax for low paid

## workers/ Support for the Attenborough Nature reserve

### Transport debate

I spoke in a debate about Transport which you can read in Hansard by clicking [here](#). In brief I joined Labour colleagues in urging the Minister to improve the railway line to London, to give us a date for the work on widening the A453 and to ensure people were listened to before projects like the tram route were given the go ahead. I was opposed to the route for a number of reasons including the destruction and disruption it would create in Chilwell and Beeston. The terminus at Toton has made the green belt land opposite more vulnerable to development – just as Conservatives in Broxtowe predicted.

### A Tax cut I would support!

I would not support a reduction in the 50p tax rate though I accept there are good arguments for doing so. My preference is to move lower paid workers out of paying income tax a view I have held for many years. With the budget next week I asked the Chancellor the following in last week's Treasury Questions:

*Anna Soubry (Broxtowe) (Con): Many Conservative Members have long believed that lower-paid workers should be moved out of paying income tax. Will the Chancellor confirm that next month's increase in personal allowances will have a real benefit for hard-working families in Broxtowe, and can they be increased even more come the Budget, please?*

*Mr Osborne: The personal allowance is increasing from April. We inherited a personal allowance that was £6,475. It is going to be £8,105 in April. That will take 1.1 million people out of tax and deliver a tax cut to 23 million or so basic rate taxpayers. I say to my hon. Friend, to my colleagues in the Conservative party and to my colleagues in the Liberal Democrat party that this is a coalition policy. It was part of the coalition agreement. It was in the Liberal Democrat manifesto, but I am also proud that it is a Conservative Chancellor who is implementing it.*

### Attenborough Nature Reserve gets backing and a planned visit

Carline Spelman, Secretary of State for Environment and Rural Affairs, praised Attenborough as an outstanding nature reserve. In departmental questions I asked her to come and visit Attenborough, which Caroline happily accepted. A visit is planned very soon.

## and finally; Thursday's elections in Chilwell, Toton and Chilwell Meadows

Residents of Toton, Chilwell Meadows and Chilwell will be aware that there is a by election on Thursday for a new Borough Councillor for Toton and Chilwell Meadows and a new County Councillor to represent Toton and Chilwell Meadows and Chilwell.

I am supporting the Conservative candidates Halimah Khaled and Dr. John Doddy for a number of reasons. The threat to the green belt in Toton comes from the deliberate decisions taken by the Lib Dems and Labour who together control the Borough Council. Between them they have accepted a figure set by the last Government which they did not have to accept that means thousands of houses will be built on our green belt. They then chose to make Field Farm at Stapleford and the green belt at Toton their

“preferred sites”. Toton was removed only after local Conservative Councillors and I organised a public meeting. Only the Conservatives on Broxtowe Borough Council have consistently opposed development on our green belt land and in my view only Conservative Councillors will continue to defend our green belt. As most people know, Conservative Councillors have always opposed the tram route and it was Labour and Lib Dem Councillors on the Borough and County who consistently voted in favour of the tram route.

As it happens, I have known John Doddy as a friend for years, meeting him when our children went to school together, and it was only later that we realised we shared the same political views. John will be a great County Councillor a fearless champion who is not afraid to speak his mind.

I've known Halimah Khaled for about 8 years through both politics and her outstanding charity work. Halimah lives in and loves Toton – she will work hard for the area and will always put people before party. Halimah will be a real asset to Broxtowe Borough Council.

I very much hope that both John and Halimah are elected and if you are able to help in any way then please let me know.

### **Contact Anna Soubry MP**

**email:** [anna.soubry.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:anna.soubry.mp@parliament.uk) or [tel:0115 9436507](tel:01159436507)  
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