



Saturday August 14th

Hello again,

It's almost 100 days since I had the honour and privilege to be elected as the MP for Broxtowe.

It's been a very busy three and a half months and even though Parliament is in recess I'm not on holiday the last week in August. It's been a pleasure to take local issues and constituents views to Westminster and I'm particularly proud to have secured a debate into the death of Stapleford man, John McGrath (see below) and your voice in Parliament and making a difference to the lives of constituents is at the heart of being an MP.

It's taken some time to set up an office in both Parliament and in the constituency and get a full complement of staff. Thank you for your patience and full details of how to contact "us" and who "us" is, are below!

The following is a mixed bag of news in this order (for ease of scrolling!)

[Attenborough flood defences and 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations, Bramwell Residential and Care Centre. Midland Resource Centre. Car Parking Charges, Anti-Social Behaviour in Stapleford, Parliamentary work, how to contact me, Diary dates](#)

I hope to meet you at some of the events listed at the end of this email newsletter. Please keep in touch and enjoy the rest of the summer!

Anna

**[Attenborough; Flood defences and a Happy 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday \(Church Festival details in the diary section\)](#)**

The alternative route to the proposed flood defence wall on the Strand, has effectively been given the go-ahead by councillors at Broxtowe Borough Council. The Environment Agency originally gained planning permission for a highly controversial wall that would have isolated the cricket pitch/village green and spoilt a lovely part of Attenborough.

Opponents of the wall have fought a long campaign; some of us stuck with them even when the going got politically rough! The alternative route is controversial because it goes through a Site of Special Scientific Interest and many bird watchers and nature lovers are understandably concerned about the impact on the environment in this part of the Attenborough Nature Reserve. The application is available on

[http://planning.broxtowe.gov.uk/\(S\(4u2axh55nanz5pijwzkf0owuv\)\)/ApplicationDetail.aspx?RefVal=10/00](http://planning.broxtowe.gov.uk/(S(4u2axh55nanz5pijwzkf0owuv))/ApplicationDetail.aspx?RefVal=10/00)

The final decision has yet to be taken and the EA are keen to work with Natural England who are understandably reluctant to back the alternative route

*I have spoken to the Environment Agency and will write to the Secretary of State should the need arise*

*stage I believe the two bodies will continue to work together to reach an agreement which would ensure a minimum of disruption to the SSI and measures to conserve and protect the wildlife on the site.*

The day after the Planning Committees meeting there was concern on The Strand that some sort of protest was underway as a number of people opposed to the alternative route were spotted. In fact it was an organised party as part of the celebrations at the **Attenborough Nature Reserve Centre** which was celebrating a fifth birthday. I gladly took part in the party but sadly had to go before the walk....failing to brave the thunder and the rain. I had a meeting at Bramwell.

### **Bramwell residential home and care centre**

The "Friends of Bramwell" have a new and highly valuable member in Dr John Doddy. John is a leading GP in the North West Notts Consortium of GP's, who will be running health services throughout the constituency in a few years time, as part of the Coalitions reforms of the NHS.

At Thursday's (August 12<sup>th</sup>) meeting we agreed that John should work with Notts County Council to ensure that any sale of Bramwell protects the services currently provided at the centre and ensures they remain at Bramwell. We are all still opposed to any sale and will continue to campaign against it but have no doubt that John Doddy can be an effective and informed advocate for Bramwell in any negotiations about its future.

### **Middle Street Resource Centre**

This is a great place in Beeston used by over 200 people with mental health problems and illnesses. I visited the Centre and met with users; as a result I have written a long letter to the County Councillor with responses to the current "consultation process" and await a response. Please read the letter which is posted on my website at [www.anna4broxtowe.com](http://www.anna4broxtowe.com) I hope it explains why I have no doubt plans to close it are without any merit and should be thoroughly opposed.

### **Car Parking charges**

I have sympathy for a number of Borough and District Councils who felt powerless under the last Government and effectively forced to follow national Government dictates instead of the wishes of local people. But the LibDem/Labour coalition that controls Broxtowe Borough Council made a huge mistake when they imposed parking charges and I believe there now needs to be a full review. The charges are causing real disruption on residential roads in Beeston, Stapleford and Kimberley.

I've been to see residents in Beeston and it just isn't acceptable that workers in the town have been forced to use car parks and onto quiet streets now littered with cars from 9 til 5. Some roads, like Dovecote Lane are now plain dangerous now and a few bollards on the corner mark the concern but do nothing to solve the problem. I am told that the anticipated revenue this ill thought out scheme was designed to raise, is already under way in Kimberley and Eastwood. I accept that you can now "pop" into Beeston for an hour and find a free parking spot but the scheme has some serious flaws and I very much hope Councillors of all parties will come together to sort out this sorry mess.

### **Stapleford Anti Social Behaviour**

I'm working with the police, traders and local councillors to tackle a number of anti social behaviour "hot spots" in the town centre. If you do have any concerns please contact the police; the new Inspector for Broxtowe Insp. Craig Berry has made a very encouraging response to a complaint I raised with him. The local "beat manager" for the town is keen to sort out problems around the Wetherspoons acquired site of the former health centre and I shall add my weight (such as it is) to calls on Wetherspoons to take responsibility for

grounds and to make them less of an eyesore and site for anti social behaviour.

### Parliamentary business/web site link

I hope I don't regret this..but you can watch as well as read on the web site [www.anna4broxtowe.com](http://www.anna4broxtowe.com) or [www.theyworkforyou.com](http://www.theyworkforyou.com)

all my contributions in Parliament in debates, interventions and questions. What follows is a summary of my work in Westminster.

We got considerable local and some national media coverage for the case of **William Barnard and John McGrath**. Both men lived in Stapleford and John was killed by his grandson, Will who was seriously mentally ill at the time. It's my proudest achievement thus far, to secure a debate in Parliament, to bring the responsibility for the case to the Minister to the Chamber, whilst the family watched from the gallery. They then met the Minister and we agreed that families must be listened to and worked with and those charged with the care and supervision of someone with a serious mental illness must take responsibility for his care and take swift and strong action to keep them and the public safe.

I devoted much of my **maiden speech** to the defence of our green belt singling out the land around Cosall and pledging, like my predecessors, to fight any plans for open cast mining.

I opposed Government plans to give people accused of rape "anonymity". I went to see the Minister charged with the proposal; worked with fellow opponents on the Labour benches and made my opposition clear through national radio interviews and a speech on **defendant anonymity** in the House of Commons. The Government has now abandoned its plans.

I've asked questions, on behalf of constituents about the future of the Probation Service and why the police officer who assaulted Ian Tomlinson has escaped any charge.

I was elected to the **Justice Select Committee** and quizzed the Secretary of State for Justice, Ken Clarke on sentencing policy and plans to close a number of Magistrates Courts.

I am also Vice Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Justice Trade Unions and Vice Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for ITV.

### How to contact me/team details/surgeries

It's been an age coming! My constituency office is on the border of Chilwell and Beeston opposite Castlefields. Please write to me at **Barton House, 61 High Road, Chilwell, NG9 4AJ**. Our phone number is **0115 9436507**. You can also contact me at the House of Commons, SW1A 0AA 0207 219 7211 and my email address is [anna.soubry.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:anna.soubry.mp@parliament.uk). I also have a web site [www.anna4broxtowe.com](http://www.anna4broxtowe.com)

I have a **team of workers**. Kate Shaw, who is well known in Beeston and used to work as a fund raiser for Treetops Hospice, is my "Constituency Manager" and Rebecca Maher is my newly appointed full time caseworker. Adam Holliday is based in Westminster as my "Parliamentary Assistant".

I have been doing a number of home visits as well as fortnightly **advice surgeries**. If you would like to arrange a meeting then please call either office. 0115 9436507 or 0207 219 7211

### Dates for your diary in the next few weeks

#### August

Saturday 14-22nd

St Mary's Church festival <http://www.attenboroughchurch.org.uk/events.php> (the Church Tower will be open for visits on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> )

*September*

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>

Stapleford Carnival 1.00 Ilkeston Rec Ground Stapleford

Chilwell Community Centre "Fun/Open Day"

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>

Awsorth and Cosssall Village Produce Assoc. Annual Show.

[www.anna4broxtow](http://www.anna4broxtow)

Uns