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Anna Soubry MP
working hard for
Broxtowe

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E-newsletter | December 14 2014

Hello again,

I have had a very enjoyable few days. On Thursday evening Boris Johnson delighted hundreds of supporters at an evening event to raise funds for my re-election campaign and a few hours later I learnt that Mia Kee had been successfully elected to represent Toton and Chilwell Meadows on Broxtowe Borough Council; Mia will be an excellent Councillor. On Friday I visited the Attenborough Nature Reserve, then had a good meeting about the tram workswell its been a busy few days so please scroll on!
As ever,
Anna

Notts Wildlife Trust goes from strength to strength

it's always a pleasure to go to Attenborough Reserve and on Friday I had a meeting there with Notts Wildlife Trust. The Trust is quite rightly highly respected with a number of new projects which I am keen to support. Their "ay up mi duck" t shirt campaign is popular as part of their campaign to attract more members and supporters.

Go to www.nottinghamshirewildlife.org to find out more about Notts Wildlife Trust and join them





Tram arrives for testing in mid February but still no official opening date

I had a good meeting with the Leader of Nottingham City Council, Jon Collins, Nottinghamshire County Council, NET and the tram constructors TWA on Friday afternoon. Unfortunately Broxtowe Borough Council didn't send a representative.

No one is able to give a date when the tram will be in full operation but testing will begin in February and continue for many months. The official 'line' is that the tram will be open sometime in the middle of next year; no-one disagreed when I said that could be as late as August.

Resident's Compensation

There was a firm "No" from Cllr. Jon Collins when I asked him if there might be money available to compensate residents on the tram route given all they have had to endure. I don't know if there might be some change of heart in the future. What I do believe is that this is the sort of matter that should have been properly determined when the plans for the tram were approved. This is one of the lessons we need to learn before embarking on any new route to Kimberley.

Chilwell/High Road open to traffic next week

I was assured that two way traffic will be restored to High and Chilwell Roads a week on Monday with buses running from Friday as the lights at the Middle Street/Station Road junction will be in place and tested. By January 17 the new traffic configurations on University Boulevard will be completed so that should ease the jams and congestion. I also asked about lighting for cyclists and pedestrians and was told the new lights will be on in two weeks time. Next week's night working at Toton will speed up the works there, but they will not be completed until the second half of January.

Cycling accidents

I raised what appear to be the large number of serious accidents when cyclists get a wheel caught in a tram track. I made the point that the accidents appear to happen in the same places on the route and given NET/TWA have used temporary tarmac infills to prevent accidents, I think they must now make sure they take the same measures at all potential accident points, or they will be liable. They got the point so I very much hope we might see an end to this very serious problem.

Fencing faces the final hurdle

I am very pleased to report that TWA is meeting residents to finalise fencing arrangements in the first week of January.

National Grid works in Beeston

TWA and the County Council confirmed they are doing everything they can to enable National Grid to do important gas mains work as the tram works come to an end.

Beeston Bid

Subscribers to the Facebook [Tram Ranting Room](#) will know there is much controversy about the Beeston Bid. Unfortunately, it has been reported that 32,000 people visited the recent Christmas light switch on events day and evening, which is clearly a nonsense. In fact the figure represents an estimate of "footfall" on the day which is, in my view, far from accurate. In any event the actual number of people is thought to be 3 - 4,000 people. The Beeston Bid, in theory is a good idea though it could be improved and needs to be made independent of the Borough Council. Sadly the release of the "foot fall" figures without full explanation has done little to enhance its reputation.

Beeston Civic Society

It was a pleasure on Friday evening to speak at the monthly Beeston Civic Society meeting; my topic was "The Commemoration of War" and after my speech we had a good discussion. War marks the failure of humankind to resolve differences or conflict; how we then commemorate a particular war has been reasonably uniform over the centuries. With few, if any, exceptions there has been joy when a war ends, a mourning for the fallen, respect for all who fought and pride in the sacrifice and courage of both those who served and their families. And of course a desire for peace in the future.

Radio 4 PM interview

An interview I gave two weeks ago for the Radio 4 PM programme was broadcast on Monday. It caused a few headlines for a number of reasons!

You can read the report from the interviewer, [Becky Milligan here](#) which includes the link to the item on i player

Is Westminster ready for the Chilwell Military Wives Choir and tram busters?

We will be up long before the crack of dawn tomorrow morning! I am taking two bus loads constituents to Parliament for a tour and a special day out. The group includes members of the Chilwell Military Wives Choir and residents from the tram route who, let's be honest, more than deserve a treat!



Conservatives win well in Toton and Chilwell Meadows

Despite it being a wet cold December day and illnesses that reduced both Mia Kee and her husband to almost two weeks in hospital, Mia not only won but secured a 4.5% swing to the Conservatives. It seems Labour lost more votes to Ukip (who came third) than Mia, and won the majority of Lib/Dem votes in the absence of a candidate. Mia's win is a testament not only to her qualities but also her work to defend Toton's green belt from housing development and pro Hs2 views!

And finally

There's a good article in today's Sunday Times about food banks featuring the great work done by Hope which is based in Beeston. Well - it's almost good. The journalist writes "Beeston, with its cheerless council estates". Er I don't think so! This somewhat proves you really should not believe everything you read in the media.

"a decent Conservative" *Kevin McGuire, Daily Mirror*

"If only all ministers answered questions like Anna Soubry does." *David Aaronovitch, The Times*

"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*

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