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Anna Soubry MP

working hard for Broxtowe

www.annasoubry.org.uk

E-newsletter | December 16 2013

"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*

Hello again,

Normal service is almost resumed – I have finally sold my house in Nottingham and have been moving out which delayed this email; my apologies.

I have a number of serious matters and a few happier items to report.

As ever,

Anna

Opencast - we need a Public Inquiry

Notts County Council has agreed to Opencast coal mining on land between Cossall and Trowell.

This is a very disappointing decision and comes after the previous administration at County Hall did its utmost to see off UK Coal.

I have asked the Secretary of State for



Communities and Local Government, Eric Pickles, to “call in” this decision which in my opinion should go to a public inquiry. It will take five years of noise, dust and destruction of Green Belt land to produce four months of coal for Radcliffe on Soar power station.

UK Coal is in administration and I am extremely concerned that the bonds they must put up to guarantee the land is restored, are sufficient and can be honoured.

The roads in this part of the constituency are already overly congested and the preparation of the site and then extraction of coal will make them intolerable. This is something I will specifically raise with the Secretary of State for Transport, Patrick McLoughlin when he visits the constituency in the New Year. To be clear, we knew we had a tough fight on our hands (you may be one of the many people who attended public meetings I helped to organise back in 2009 and 2010). UK Coal’s last application was also approved by the County Council and only abandoned after a technical legal flaw was uncovered by campaigners resulting in court action.

All but one Labour Councillor voted in favour and all but one Conservative voted against, though it is important to note that planning committee decisions are not party political. I have been contacted by some members of SOCO (Shortwood Farm Open Cast Opposition) and have asked to meet them as a matter of urgency.

Oxylane rejected!

On a happier note I am very pleased that Broxtowe Borough Council rejected plans to create a large retail and sports park off the A610 near Kimberley, on Green Belt land.

This scheme would have seen the closure of Kimberley Leisure Centre and provide a further threat to shops in Kimberley. We need a radical re think to secure the success of our town centres; we need to bring services into our towns and recognise the harm out of town retail causes.

Kimberley’s councillors, with few exceptions, were in favour of the Oxylane scheme though in my view they had failed to consult all their constituents, especially over the plan to close the Leisure Centre, which I highlighted a few weeks ago drawing widespread opposition to the scheme.



Trips to Parliament

Residents of Lower and Fletcher Road got a day off from the nightmare of the tram works and joined dozens of Broxtowe's community leaders and volunteers on a trip to the Palace of Westminster. 120 constituents came on three trips to Parliament last week in a veritable fleet of buses organised by my team and I. Broxtowe CAB, Bramcote Today, Beeston British Legion, Trowell, Cossall, Awsworth, Greasley Parish Councillors, Stapleford Town Councillors, great community campaigners like Richard MacRae, Bramcote Sunken Church – it is a long list and forgive me because I can't name all our great organisations and people who got a trip of both the House of Commons and Lords. It was a pleasure to show people round. Now we know how to do it, I will organise trips for all constituents to come and see how their Parliament works.



Inspector asked to answer Toton allegations

I have written to the Planning Inspector asking her to confirm or deny a number of allegations made by two Broxtowe Borough Councillors about comments she is said to have made about the Green Belt land at Toton, during the recent Public Inquiry.

We have been told Labour and Lib Dem Councillors "panicked" after the Inspectors comments and at a secret meeting agreed to accept a recommendation to back at least 500 houses at Toton.



[Click here to read my letter to the Inspector](#)

Recognition at last

It was a great honour to be asked to present Nuthall resident Edna Mitchell with the Bomber Command Clasp recognising the great service of her late husband Acting Flight Lieutenant Gerald Mitchell. Gerald flew 25 successful missions during the Second World War and his son-in-law Bryan Samuels has campaigned long and hard for Bomber Command members to be recognised with their own medal. The Government announced both Bomber Command

and the Arctic convoys should be honoured with the Clasp and Arctic Star and you can read the full story [here](#) on the Nottingham Post web site.

Surgery details

This Saturday - December 21st

Drop in surgery at "The Bean" in Beeston

10:00 - 12:00

no appointment needed just come along, have a great cuppa and a chat.

And finally

My thanks to everyone at the excellent Mornington Primary for inviting me to their assembly on Friday; I then met the School Council and got a real grilling!

I've invited them to Parliament and assured them that other Broxtowe schools who have made the trip have found it worth the early start.

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