

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

**NEWSLETTER**



"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*

March 19 th 2011

Hello again,

I have little doubt all our thoughts are with the people of Japan and the people of Libya. The Japanese have shown great dignity in the face of appalling destruction and it's to be hoped they will soon be able to recover and begin the long hard process of re building broken communities and shattered lives.

The situation in Libya fills me with alarm. I support the UN decision to back a no-fly zone, but at the time of writing fear greatly that Gaddafi will not hesitate to eradicate all opposition and time is not on our side.

On a considerably lighter note, congratulations to Broxtowe's Mayor, Cllr. Pat Lally for the success of his Charity Ball. Pat told me we had all raised just under £1,500 for his two charities , Hope in Beeston and a hospital in Nigeria. We were together, yesterday at the opening of a new changing room for the disabled, at the Bramcote Leisure Centre and a new housing development in Chilwell.

Please scroll down for news on my meeting with George Osborne, parking problems at Bilborough College, Bramcote Today web site, A52 workings, school visits, Broxtowe's pot holes, Welfare reform, Notts Police redundancies, Asworth/Giltbrook wind turbine update, Labour's unacceptable tactics.

as ever,  
Anna

## **Meeting with George Osborne / next weeks budget**

In the run up to next weeks Budget (Wednesday March 23rd) I was part of a small group of MP's who met with George Osborne, Chancellor of the Exchequer. I raised two issues; firstly the rising cost of fuel which is hitting motorists and businesses, very hard. The other matter is the lack of lending by the banks to businesses, the withdrawal of overdraft facilities and oppressive bank charges.

I met with the Fair Fuel campaign the other week and have a great deal of sympathy for their campaign for a reduction in the cost of fuel. The current instability in the Middle East, notably in Libya, has had a considerable effect on the price of crude oil. There are also factors, such as the value of sterling and global demand, which impact on the price. In our meeting, George Osborne made it clear he is looking with great care at fuel duty and the effect of rising oil prices on individuals, families and businesses.

The Prime Minister has said the Government will also consider introducing a fuel stabiliser, which will have the effect of cutting the cost of motoring. He told us the other week.

"I know how difficult it is for motorists, and particularly for small businesses and families, when they are filling up at the pumps and paying more than £1.30 a litre. As we have said, we will look at the fact that extra revenue comes to the Treasury when there is a higher oil price, and see if we can share some of the benefit of that with the motorist. That is something that Labour never did in all its time in government, and it ought to be reminded of the fact that it announced four increases in fuel duty last year, three of which were due to come in after the election."

I also raised with George Osborne, the particular concerns of a number of constituents running small and medium sized businesses. The banks are simply not lending in a way which encourages growth; there is also concern that overdrafts are being pulled without warning and that charges are rising. The Chancellor assured me he is more than aware of the problem and discussions with the banks continue.

I very much hope next weeks budget not only provides assistance to less well off families and to all motorists. I also hope we will begin to see the removal of the sort of regulation that has been restricting growth in many of our businesses, especially smaller businesses throughout Broxtowe.

## **Bilborough College parking problems**

There has been a longstanding problem with students and parents parking inconsiderately on The Grange development opposite the College. Residents are at their wits end especially as a number of "offenders" can

be particularly unpleasant to residents when they, quite reasonably ask them not to block drives, park on pavements and so on.

I held a meeting with residents and am set now to meet the Principal of Bilborough.

The roads on the development have yet to be adopted so I have suggested the process is speeded up; I also have a list of how we can sort out the problem to the benefit of everyone.

### **Bramcote Today**

Bramcote's own web site is now on line. Please check it out on [www.bramcotetoday.org.uk/](http://www.bramcotetoday.org.uk/)

### **Highways Agency**

I have held a positive meeting with the Highways Agency about the lay by on the A52 off Bramcote Island as you go towards Bardills. Residents have complained that noise drifts across the carriageway. I think we have found a solution with better signage to enforce the restriction on HGV's parking overnight and better policing. .

The A52 towards Priory Island is to be considerably improved in the coming months and some of the tree work near the roundabout has begun before the birds begin to nest.

### **Schools visits**

I have thoroughly enjoyed visiting Larkfields Junior School in Nuthall and Wadsworth Fields Primary in Stapleford.

Eskdale Junior School and Chilwell College have both visited the House of Commons and I joined them in a question and answer session.

Larkfields Year 5 pupils get a particular mention as every one of them sent me a hand written letter and each received a personal hand written reply, which included a request from me to come and visit them. It was a real pleasure to meet everyone at Larkfields and in particular to discuss Year 5's views on the future of the A453 and the tram.

I am immensely proud to be the MP for all four schools; their pupils and staff struck me as outstanding – a real credit to Broxtowe.

### **Pot Holes – the state of our roads**

Notwithstanding the extra money made available by the Government and Notts County Council, I would hazard a guess that most of the roads throughout the constituency are in a desperate state. In particular I have received numerous complaints about pot holes. The problem, I believe is the unfortunate mix of years of poor maintenance followed by two particularly hard and long spells of frost, ice and snow.

Please report pot hole problems to the County Council on

<http://www3.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/travelling/roads/report-road-problems/>

Broxtowe Council leader, David Watts has also (somewhat bravely, if I may say as I fear his inbox will now be in serious overload) appealed for residents to contact him, with details about pot holes and repairs in urgent need of attention. David.Watts@broxtowe.gov.uk

I will continue to pass on to both David and the County Council, your complaints about the state of our roads.

### **Welfare Reform Bill**

Can I thank everyone who has contacted me about the Welfare Reform Bill.

I don't doubt the entire welfare system is in need of reform and am pleased to see the Coalition will introduce rules to make sure you are always better off in work than out of work. A life on benefit, traps people in poverty and dependency and the reforms will enable people to enter or re-enter the world of work.

However, there are concerns about some of the reforms notably to the Disability Living Allowance and I have asked to meet with constituents who have contacted me about the effect on people (notably children) with autism.

### **Notts Police Federation**

I have met with the Federation to discuss plans to make the forces' most experienced officers, redundant. The Federation put it this way "Notts are throwing out the baby not the bath water". Nottinghamshire Police have to reduce the number of people they employ and have announced that officers with thirty years of pensionable service will be made redundant. Meanwhile I am told 10% of the work force are unable to perform their normal duties, usually because of illness.

It also transpires that Notts seems to lack the will to face up to officers who are not up to the job.

I am very concerned about these redundancy plans, which will mean we will lose some of our best, most experienced police officers, from all ranks, when there are perfectly acceptable alternatives. I have asked to meet the Chief Constable.

### **Awsworth/ Giltbrook wind turbine**

The wind turbine proposed by Severn Trent at the sewerage works opposite IKEA has got the thumbs down from Nottinghamshire County Council, though the final decision lies with Broxtowe Borough Council. The plan is to erect the tallest wind turbine in Britain (as tall as the Blackpool Tower) which will undoubtedly impact on people who live near the site. The final decision will be taken by Broxtowe Borough Council in June.

### **Picketing my advice surgery**

I hold regular advice surgeries and please let me know if you would like an appointment.

Advice surgeries for constituents are a fine and long standing tradition amongst MP's; they are not meant to be political forums but a way for a constituent with a problem to meet their MP face to face and to get advice as to how their MP can help them.

I was contacted by a constituent and asked if she could book an appointment at my advice surgery to hand over a nationally organised petition of over 100,000 signatures about the NHS. I explained I would accept the petition (though suggested that it might be better to deliver it to the Secretary of State for Health) but not at my surgery in Beeston Library. It then turned out the constituent was a former neighbour who I knew quite well. She suggested I meet with her and a few others in the car park outside Beeston Library - I specifically queried whether I was being "set up". Given our friendship I trusted her assurance that I was not and that I would be handed a summary of the petition and a photograph would be taken. I agreed.

What actually happened was a political picket of Beeston Library, with staff having to ask the thirty or so people who attended, including Brotowe Labour Party, to stop blocking the entrance of the Library. A large Labour Party banner was unfurled and other protestors had banners.

I am more than happy to meet with any constituent and discuss any issue. What is not acceptable is to turn advice surgeries which are often attended by vulnerable people, sometimes facing a crisis, into a party political stunt.

I am very sorry that users of the Library and people who wanted to see their MP were inconvenienced.

I am genuinely, appalled at the tactics being used by the Labour party in Broxtowe in the run up to the May Council Elections. The thoroughly pleasant and hard working Councillor Barbara Carr, has announced she will not seek re-election as a result of the personal attacks on her by the Labour Party. I understand where she is coming from as I suffered some of the same during last year's General Election.

For many years Labour in Broxtowe has claimed to be proponents of "positive politics" though some of us had no doubt it was a mask, which has now slipped to reveal a particularly unpleasant style of politics which I hope all moderate and reasonable people will reject.

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