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

Hello again and it's been a busy week!

It has been a difficult one for residents affected by flooding though people slept peacefully in Attenborough and Beeston Rylands knowing the new flood defences would protect them.

Wearing my Public Health Minister hat I was delighted to launch with my colleague Norman Baker, the Transport Minister, a new £20 million scheme to back "Active Travel". In short it's all about enabling and encouraging everyone to walk and/or cycle more. And yes I will specifically be raising the future of cycle ways in Beeston given the tram works!

On that subject - there has been some very bad news for traders and businesses in part of Beeston this week and such is my concern I have already spoken with the Secretary of State for Transport; I have a full report below.

Returning to the weather, as your MP (and as it happens the Minister responsible for these matters) I hope everyone entitled to a free flu jab has had it and that we are all prepared for what I fear is going to be a long hard winter – most importantly I would urge everyone to be a good neighbour especially to elderly or frail people.

As ever,
Anna

TRAM WORKS NIGHTMARE

Despite assurances given to me two months ago (and at the public inquiry) to the contrary, two sections of High Road and Chilwell Road in Beeston will be **closed** to traffic for six months consecutively for tram works.

This is a very serious matter as it will have a profound affect on all the varied, small, independent businesses and traders in this part of Beeston as well as for residents.



Times for many are hard enough without this considerable threat to the viability of some traders. Such is my concern that I have already spoken with the Secretary of State for Transport, Patrick McLoughlin (following this week's meeting between traders and NET) and have now written formally to him. I know Patrick shares my concern and is keen to assist in any way he can.

I will distribute copies of my letter to traders and post it on my web site (www.annasoubry.org.uk) along with details of other tram works and the forthcoming drop ins (details in the diary below).

I also hope that the Borough Council will consider any more assistance they can give via business rates. I should add, my letter to Patrick McLoughlin has been copied to the Borough, City and County Councils and to NET.

In the meantime I would urge everyone to show their support for the great shops and businesses on Chilwell and High Road by using them! Christmas officially starts today in Beeston at noon; the lights will be switched on at 6.15pm.

Good news for the Enterprise Zone

Alliance Boots have confirmed they are in discussions concerning the first major project within the Enterprise Zone which is on their Beeston site. The announcement is expected to result in the redevelopment of site infrastructure, including land preparation to make it ready for commercial use next year. I will visit the site and as you might imagine my first question will be about plans (or otherwise) to build hundreds of houses on the site thereby taking the strain off our precious Green Belt!



BIG Lottery funding for Wadsworth!

Congratulations to Wadsworth Fields Primary School in Stapleford which has been awarded £10,000 via the BIG Lottery Fund. The money will pay for a playground canopy to create an 'all-weather' facility, and increase physical activity amongst all its wonderful pupils!

Care Quality Commission

I am due to meet the CQC as I am concerned about the level of care and security in a number of care homes in Broxtowe. Please contact me if you have any matter you want me to raise with them and thank you to everyone who has contacted me thus far.

The Commission will be launching a service that makes it possible to sign up for emails alerting you automatically when the CQC plan to inspect or publish a report about a specific home or service at www.cqc.org.uk/emailalerts.

Dates for your diary and surgery details

Today - 1st December:

Christmas lights switch on and celebrations in Beeston

From 12pm with lights switch on at 6.15pm. Full details on the Borough Council web site -

please click [here](#)

Tuesday 4th December:

Tram drop in, Eskdale Junior School, Chilwell

Between 5:30 and 8:00pm

Thursday 6th December:

Stapleford Christmas lights switch on

Starts at 6.15pm please click [here](#) to access the Town Council's web site with all the detail

Friday 7th December:

Kimberley Christmas Lights Switch on

Starts at 6.15 with a T light parade through Kimberley.

Saturday 8th December:

Christmas Carols, Montrose Court, Stapleford

6pm until 8pm with music supplied by members of St Helen's Church, festive food and soft drinks.

Saturday 8th December:

Trip to Grassington Dickensian Christmas Market

There is a 53 Seater coach being organised from Greasley Parish Hall to visit this festive attraction. For more information and to book a place on this trip, please contact Cllr. Mick Brown on 01773 719790.

Thursday 13th December:

Tram Drop in, Beeston Town Hall

5.30pm until 8pm.

Friday 14th December:

Woodhouse Way development exhibition, The Belfry Hotel

2:00pm until 7:00pm: As I mentioned in my last newsletter, developers have announced plans to build 734 houses on green belt land in Nuthall. The developers (Wrenbridge Land) are holding an exhibiton of their plans in the Chatterley Room of the Belfry Hotel.

Saturday 15th December:

Advice Surgery

Please call the Constituency Office on 0115 9436507 for an appointment.



From Parliament:

Headcase Cancer Trust/ Sgt. Danny Nightingale/ Leveson

Headcase Cancer Trust

During Health questions on Tuesday, I answered a question from Mary Macleod MP who asked what steps the Government is taking to raise awareness of and assist those who have brain tumours.

In my answer, as well as mentioning the Government's current promotion of direct access for GP's to MRI scans and a pilot scheme to alert people to the common symptoms of cancers, I spoke about the work of local charity Headcase Cancer Trust. I have been a long time supporter of Headcase, which is based in Beeston, and its founder Colin Speirs. As I have said in previous

newsletters, Headcase raises considerable amounts of money to fund research projects into Glioblastoma Multiforme (GBM) brain tumours.

You can find out more about Headcase at their website: <http://www.headcase.org.uk/>. You can also read my full response to Mary MacLeod MP [here](#).

Sgt Danny Nightingale

Many constituents wrote in to show support for Sgt. Nightingale and I subsequently wrote to Philip Hammond MP, Secretary of State for Defence, to raise concerns about the sentence. I can now confirm that on Thursday his family received the fantastic news that he has been released with a suspended sentence by The Court of Appeal.

Leveson

As a former journalist (and proud member and shop steward of the National Union of Journalists), I could rightly be accused of a biased take on Lord Justice Leveson's recommendations.

It is absolutely the case that for far too long some sections of the print media have behaved in a disgraceful way ruining the lives of wholly innocent ordinary people who simply found themselves in extraordinary, sometimes tragic, circumstances. The current system demonstrably fails to govern the press with little recourse for the vast majority of victims.

There are however a number of laws, some criminal, which are available to curb some of the excesses, whether it is phone hacking (it is illegal), anti racism laws, libel, privacy and harassment.

I think it is also worth remembering that most journalists are decent professionals; we should not forget the brave work of many who have exposed scandal at home or abroad, those who have campaigned, often on unpopular subjects with considerable success and those brave souls who have lost their lives reporting from war zones.

I am all for a new tough regulator, as recommended by Lord Leveson, given the existing legal remedies are often costly or woefully inadequate. The problem is establishing the balance between a press free of Government/State interference and rigorous regulation to ensure fairness and decency for ordinary folk. Leveson recommends some legal (statutory) basis to underpin the new regulatory body and here lies the problem as the real danger is that we introduce state control over our press. I think it is important to remember that if we abandon any voluntary nature of press regulation the alternative is, in effect, Government deciding which papers or magazines will be allowed to be published and what they will or will not be able to print..

Personally, I very much hope that the press bring forward robust self regulation guaranteeing full and swift access for individuals who have been wronged, with stiff penalties for breaches of their code and practices. I will examine the proposed legislation with care but for me it is to be avoided if at all possible to enable a free press to flourish. It would be a very real threat to our democracy if the appalling behaviour of an admittedly overlarge minority, destroyed one of the rocks of a free and open society.

And finally...

I have been contacted by a concerned parent regarding the absence of a school crossing patrol at Roundhill Primary School. If you are interested in the position please contact Pam Riley at Notts County Council on 0115 9774865.

Contact Anna Soubry MP

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

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