

ANNA SOUBRY MP

Member of Parliament for Broxtowe

NEWSLETTER



Monday September 20th

Hello again,

Parliament is in recess because the Party Conference season is upon us and contrary to popular belief this does not mean MP's are off on their holidays again! The next three weeks are proving useful in setting up various meetings and generally getting out and about in the constituency. So, I am very much looking forward to visiting schools and community groups in particular. My diary is filling up but please contact the constituency office if you are a member of a group that would like to meet up.

I am keen to give a plug to the Macmillan "Worlds Biggest Coffee Morning". In Beeston, the Middle Street Resource Centre event is on Friday starting at 10am though early birds can join the the Toton Methodist Church from 9am on Stapleford Lane. There are other venues in Broxtowe which can be viewed on <http://coffee.macmillan.org.uk/Find/Findacoffeemorningnearyou.aspx>.

In no particular order some news and views.

Please keep in touch.

With best wishes

Anna

Work in Parliament

We returned to Parliament for a couple of weeks at the beginning of the month. I have spoken in a debate on crime and policing and asked both an oral question and a written one. Full details are on my web site www.anna4broxtowe.com and there are links which enable you to watch my speech and question. I have also been involved in the issue of Legal Aid for family solicitors, or rather the lack of it which was raised in a debate last week. In particular I gave the example of the situation in Stapleford which in effect has lost its only solicitor providing free advice and assistance to women who are being assaulted by a partner or ex-partner. I have asked that the Select Committee on Justice (which I am a member of) hears evidence on what is happening with legal aid contracts. I appreciate that this may not touch on everyone's lives but I think we would all agree that it is quite wrong when those in need of protection and indeed justice are denied that access because of a bureaucratic system that appears to have taken leave of its senses.

The Chetwynd Barracks Development – public meeting Wednesday September 22nd, The Village Hotel at 7.30.

Viewers of last Monday's edition of BBC East Midlands Today will have seen a news story about a housing development in Chilwell/Toton on land that was part of Chetwynd Barracks. I believe this a matter that has potential consequences for everyone in Broxtowe. I have provided much of the detail on my web site www.anna4broxtowe.com.

In short none of the roads on the development have been adopted by the Highways authority. Many of the roads are in a dreadful state and the situation has been allowed to continue for years without much prospect of resolution. A standard agreement between the builders and Broxtowe Borough Council was never signed even though negotiations began in 2004. One of the parties went into administration in February of last year making the matter is even more complicated with the possibility that council tax payers will have to pick up much of the bill of completing the work on most of the roads; that bill could run into hundreds of thousands of pounds.

My aim is to get the work to the roads finished as soon as possible but at no or little cost to Broxtowe Borough Council ie you.

I would like to thank all the residents who have contacted me and one in particular who has done a great job in finding out all manner of detail. PLUS a very big thank you to everyone who helped deliver another letter to residents this weekend.

I have heard from some of the builders and have been told that the money to make good the public open space on the development (a cool £60,000) has been authorised and is on its way to Broxtowe Borough Council. I was informed of this within days of Broxtowe Borough Council deciding to spend £60K of council tax payers money on the open space! You might have thought they would have known a cheque was all but "in the post".

I would urge all residents to come to Wednesday's meeting as I am receiving updates on almost a daily basis and we need to decide how we are going to make sure the works to the roads, pavements and lighting is completed as soon as possible and at no cost to council tax payers.

Finally, I have met with the Chief Executive of Broxtowe Borough Council and at her suggestion have agreed to chair a meeting with the builders, relevant local authorities and the administrators as a matter of urgency.

Stapleford – Wetherspoon site

It's taken some fierce emails and phone calls and to be frank a number of threats (nothing unlawful of course) but I am confident that Wetherspoon have completed the tidy up on the site on Derby Road and made it secure, though I don't find the fence all the way round is particularly attractive. I met with local business people who were concerned about groups of youngsters hanging around the former Health Centre which Wetherspoon bought some considerable time ago. The police have been involved and like me, were given various assurances which came to little. Finally, a senior manager at Wetherspoon got involved and the promised work was completed. He has also stated Wetherspoon will conduct weekly visits to the site and their "development team is conducting a review of the building and land with the aim of improving the property." I have asked to meet with Wetherspoon to discuss the future of the site.

Attenborough Flood Wall – victory for common sense

Congratulations to campaigners in Attenborough who have won their long battle against plans to erect a wall in the village as part of much needed flood defences. The Environment Agency (EA) had the courage to amend their plans to switch the route. The preferred alternative however was through the Nature Reserve and in particular it encroached on a site of special scientific interest (SSSI). In recent months the EA had a tricky set of negotiations to complete; Natural England (NE), for example were, quite rightly, concerned about the impact on the SSSI. Full credit goes to everyone concerned and that includes Notts Wildlife Trust. The need to protect Attenborough and other communities from flooding was never denied but it was always a folly to build a wall along that part of the village called "The Strand". I met the the Regional Director for Natural England a few weeks ago and she and her team were clearly formulating a reasonable compromise. Maddy Yago and I discussed a number of matters including the future of [Toton Sidings/Fields](#).

The "anti wall" campaigners in Attenborough gained "Village Green" status for the cricket pitches/sports fields. This lengthy process was successful and means the land is now protected from development, building encroachment and so on. I believe the registration of the land scuppered the wall plans and I very much hope residents in Toton will make a similar application in relation to Toton Fields/Sidings. I am bringing both groups together and very much hope we can secure the future of the land for the benefit of the community. Meanwhile I anticipate the owner of the land will appeal against the re-stocking notice though I have not heard any news from the Forestry Commission.

Kimberley Medical Centre – the fight goes on!

I have written again to the PCT about the future of the Kimberley Medical Centre. The patients group is looking to a legal challenge to the decision to close the surgery after there were no bids from neighbouring GP practices to keep the centre open as a branch surgery. I was assured that the PCT was confident there is capacity in neighbouring surgeries for the two thousand or so patients at Regent Street – I am now told in no uncertain terms that this is not the case. There is also concern that the thirteen surgeries that expressed an interest in the Medical Centre were not given enough time to prepare a tender. I am assured by GP's in the area that any neighbouring branch would be financially better adding patients to their existing surgery lists rather than turning the Kimberley Medical Centre into a branch.

Bramwell Residential and Care Home

There has been considerable debate amongst the Friends of Bramwell as to how we proceed in our campaign to stop the sale of the residential and care home. I remain totally opposed to the sale but unfortunately Notts County Council is determined to proceed with it; so we have lost that battle though the war continues! I am playing my part in trying to get more support for Bramwell from the various health organisations which work out of the Sheila Gibson Unit and are responsible for the many services provided at Bramwell. I am also exploring whether Notts County Council have met their statutory duty to carry out what is called an "Equality Impact Assessment". I'm afraid it's a horribly jargon filled area but if it gets us what we want then I am happy to "engage". I also believe that we should look at persuading the County Council to attach a set of conditions to any sale – this is no "cop out" but a realistic approach as to where we are. Protecting the services that are provided from Bramwell is imperative and I have no difficulty in playing my part in ensuring that whether Bramwell is sold or not those services continue to be supplied from and/or at Bramwell. In my view part of those services are the intermediate and assessment wards at Bramwell.

Bramcote Golf Course/Thoresby Road car park

I went to see the state of the Thoresby Road car park, which has been heavily vandalised. Whilst there I spoke to someone who was not the owner (she assured me) but a "friend of the family". Hm. I was assured the fencing would all be made good, graffiti removed and so on. In the meantime I am disappointed to hear that there is some idea of "allowing" the owners to build on the golf course site. Whilst I have sympathy for a business that failed, building houses on protected land is not an alternative to taking responsibility for an

unsuccessful business venture. I am particularly disappointed that the idea has apparently received the backing of a local Borough Councillor in Bramcote. The Bramcote Ridge is specifically protected in the "Local Plan" and rightly so. I will not hesitate to do all I can to resist development on Broxtowe's precious green spaces and green belt and I think it's important local Councillors of all political parties do the same.

Brock the Broxtowe Badger

The Coalition Government has announced a full consultation on a proposal to allow farmers to cull (kill) badgers in the effort to reduce TB in cattle. 25,000 cattle in England were slaughtered last year because of TB and the cost of the TB control programme is £63 million a year so it would be folly to try and minimise the problem. The plan is for a limited number of groups of farmers to be allowed to apply for a licence to kill badgers if a number of strict criteria are fulfilled (the full policy and consultation document can be viewed on <http://ww2.defra.gov.uk/2010/09/15/control-bovine-tb/> which is the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs web site).

I am not convinced, at the moment that such a scheme is justified. There is a considerable amount of credible evidence that the best way to reduce TB in cattle is to improve the way farmers rear their cattle. However, there is also evidence that previous culls have resulted in a long term reduction in bovine TB. I have no doubt we all want healthy cattle the difficulty is how we best achieve it without the killing of a rightly treasured wild animal which just happens to be the emblem of Broxtowe.

And finally....

Congratulations to my constituency manager Kate Shaw who ran the Robin Hood half marathon in 2hours and 19 mins, in aid of Treetops Hospice. You can still post event sponsor (!) Kate on www.justgiving.com/kate-shaw1

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