

ANNA SOUBRY MP

Member of Parliament for Broxtowe

NEWSLETTER



October 25th 2010

Hello again,

Thank you to everyone who contacted me with their comments on the Governments plans to change Child Benefit. Most people agreed that I could pass on their emails or letters to both the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer and I will let you know of their responses. We are receiving an unprecedented number of emails at the moment which means our turn around is not as swift as we had hoped. Personal emails tend to get a personal reply and people with genuine emergencies and immediate need get priority.

I do read all my emails and welcome your comments - so keep them coming!

As ever,

Anna

The tram – Is it a Green or an Amber?

Last week the Coalition Government gave the green light to the tram; or was it more amber? I won't pretend the announcement was not a surprise and tinged with disappointment as so many people in Broxtowe have campaigned for a long time against the route through the constituency. Following my meeting with the minister, Norman Baker I knew the Government was settled on the route and it was the route I had always opposed. However, I didn't think the country could afford to fund the tram and I am opposed to Nottingham City Councils work place parking levy from which they plan to raise a significant part of their contribution. I certainly am in favour of using any available public money to fund the desperately needed dualling and improvement of the A453. The Government has approved the funding mechanism for the tram extensions with the caveat that officials will meet urgently with the City Council to make sure the project is "delivered affordably". Given many people are not quite sure what that actually means and given the real need of people on the route to know when they will lose their home or business, I have put down a question for the Secretary of State asking him for clarity.

If I am pulled out of the ballot, I will let you know the answer.

Stapleford walk in centre / meeting with the town council.

It was a pleasure to attend Friday evening's town council meeting in Stapleford. We discussed a number of matters notably the threat to the Walk In Centre in the town.

The public consultation begins on November 1st. Users of the service can complete a feedback form on line by visiting the PCT web site at www.nottspct.nhs.uk

Please also send your comments to me – I am compiling a "dossier" which will form part of my submission. The consultation finishes in February and includes a public meeting.

The Lib Dems in Stapleford have started up a facebook campaign

www.facebook.com/sswic?ref=ts&v=wall . They already have over 600 supporters and I would urge people to sign up.

Cameron and Clegg at George Spencer Academy

I got a call last Wednesday from David Cameron's office saying that he and the Deputy Prime Minister wanted to hold a PM and Deputy PM Direct in Broxtowe and could I suggest a venue. I didn't hesitate in suggesting the George Spencer Academy.

I was then sworn to secrecy and that was pretty much the end of it until I was told many hours

later to get there for 12 on Thursday - if I could persuade the whips to give me a day "off" . These "PM Direct" events are genuine question and answer sessions from the public - party workers and members are banned. I got a few minutes with David Cameron considerably less (quite rightly) than the staff and a small band of pupils. The schools politics students were in the audience and asked two first class and tricky questions! It was a great event and everyone connected in whatever way with George Spencer should be seriously proud of the staff and pupils. I anticipate a video of the "PM and DPM Direct" will soon be posted on the No.10 web site.

Toton Trees

I have now heard from the Forestry Commission about the basis on which the owners of the land are appealing against the restocking notice. I will send out a more detailed email to residents (please let me know if you would like to receive it) .

In short the owners objections to the restocking notice is that it is neither "in the interests of good forestry" nor in the interest of "local amenities of the district".

I would urge everyone who knows the area or who uses it in any way to write or email the Forestry Commission as a matter of some urgency.

Letters should be sent to;

Richard Barker,
Forestry Commission,
620 Bristol Business Park,
Coldharbour Lane,
Bristol, BS16 1EJ
Or by email to richard.barker@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

My advice is to express how you use the area, what the trees meant to your enjoyment of the area and to the community and area at large. To some extent there is a need to address the more technical side of the appeal – and I will certainly make representations on those points (as much as I can). As I said if you would like the full details of the appeal please email me as a matter of urgency. I will also post the details on my web site.

Cossall Open Cast

I went to the UK Coal Exhibition at Awworth. I find the prospect of a 300 acre open cast mine horrifying and the proposed route for 8 "movements" of HGV's appalling.

The route is under the M1 across Trowell Moor, up the A6002 to the Nuthall Roundabout , out to the M1, down the M1 to the junction with the A453 and onwards to Radcliffe on Soar power station.

There are many fronts on which to attack the plans – the route being a primary one.

I have invited all Parish, Borough and County Councillors for the affected areas to a meeting, along with the County Councillor responsible for Highways and the leader of Broxtowe Borough Council.

In the meantime there are already various campaigns springing up which I hope the group set up after the public meeting we held earlier this year, will co-ordinate.

I have met with the North West Leicestershire MP to discuss the application in his constituency and his plans for a Private Members Bill to create a 500 metre "buffer zone" between any opencast and residential homes.

We are in the early stages (UKCoal have yet to make the application) in what I anticipate will be a long hard campaign.

Parliamentary work

At the moment we are debating the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill which has moved into the Committee Stage. The bill reduces the number of MP's, which I support and will allow a referendum on changing our voting system. I am in favour of the referendum but not in favour of the AV system (which in my view will not deliver proportional representation in any event). The Justice Select Committee meets every week and is occasionally televised.

Tomorrow (Tuesday October 26th) I will be attending a meeting we have arranged between the leader of Broxtowe Borough Council, The Chief executive and Eric Pickles, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

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