

May 27th 2010

Hello again,

I have some very good news about the Kimberley Medical Centre (see below) and congratulations to the staff and patients who have worked so hard to save it from closure. I attended the Board meeting of the Primary Care Trust this afternoon. The Board voted against the recommendation to close the surgery and disperse patients but instead look for a neighbouring surgery to create a branch at the Regent Street premises.

Many years ago when I worked as reporter and presenter on Central News we used to enjoy what we thought was a considerable amount of power. Tinged with a certain amount of youthful confidence that probably bordered on arrogance, we could ensure that some wrong doing was usually righted following a two minute airing on the programme. It's more commonly known as the power of the media. But as a newly elected MP I'm suddenly in a whole new power game.

I actually have no power at all and certainly no sway or influence when it comes to an office (like the majority of MP's I still haven't got even so much as a broom cupboard). But when I got an email from a resident in Newthorpe about the illegal fly tipping of an asbestos shed, a couple of emails and call to the landowners (UKCoal) and the earth was moving. From my hidey hole off a long cool corridor I can at least deal with the most urgent of emails from constituents and sometimes with effect!

So, in no particular order – my report back on campaigns, issues and other concerns. Plus details of my MP surgeries. Please keep in touch.

Anna Soubry

Kimberley Medical Centre

The Board of the Primary Care Trust has today decided to reject their preferred option of closing the surgery and dispersing patients. Instead, they voted in favour of the surgery staying open as a branch of a neighbouring GP practice. One surgery has already expressed an interest and it remains to be seen if there will be enough genuine interest in the arrangement.

Patients, staff and elected representatives alike all hoped the practice would go out to tender (Option 3) but the Board rejected this option. It all boiled down to money. The last Government made cuts in the PCT's funding and as a result they have to save more than £130 million over the next three and a half years. The Board made clear it would not pay more than the going rate and those GP's on the Board, were of the firm view no GP would accordingly tender for it. There was also widespread concern that if the practice went out to full tender, it would take far too long whereas the option they agreed to would take considerably less time.

I met with the Chairman of the Board last Friday and he was good enough to circulate my views and subsequent email letter, plus all the other emails he had received, to all Board members before the meeting. In the end it was his vote that won the day and we are all very grateful for his support.

The credit for keeping the surgery open goes to all the patients and staff who campaigned so hard - it was a pleasure to work with you. Now we must make sure the surgery is adopted by another practice who can keep on this amazing group of workers who offer such a first class service.

Chilwell Meadows – Roads up date.

Thank you to everyone who has contacted me about the long standing problems of the roads on the estate. I have contacted and worked with the local County Councillor, Richard Jackson who is also responsible for Highways and Transport at Notts County Council. Richard has in turn contacted various officers at both Broxtowe Borough and the County Council to try to resolve the situation. The problem is that those responsible for putting the roads into good order (the builders of some of the homes) have gone bankrupt. I have seen a number of emails which show that the Legal Officers at the Borough are now making all efforts to make the administrators of those businesses take financial responsibility, quite literally, for the mess created by others.

There are similar problems over the adoption of the park space but again the legal department at Broxtowe are now taking firm action to try and resolve that matter. I will inform you of any developments.

Asbestos dumping

UKCoal own land off the A610 access road to Newthorpe Sewerage works that is apparently a bit of a haven for fly tippers. Most concerning in the last week or so was the dumping of what I am told is an asbestos shed. I was contacted by a somewhat desperate resident who found the oxygen of publicity in the Eastwood and Kimberley Advertiser had unfortunately not done the trick and got the stuff shifted. It took a phone call and a few emails before UKCoal promised to remove the asbestos by next Tuesday – there's a possibility I've persuaded them to take it away before the Bank Holiday. I'm told the site could(and clearly should) be made secure as it is prone to fly tipping. I've contacted Broxtowe Borough Council as I know they take fly tipping seriously and I've suggested to UKCoal that they should work with the Council to make sure fly tippers cannot gain access to the site in the future.

A52

The Highways Agency has announced they have abandoned their hugely disruptive plans to carry out major repairs on the A52 this summer. They will need to carry out work on the road but are looking to do so at night to minimise the inconvenience.

The A453

Like many people I am disappointed that the Government has been forced to defer the improvement work so desperately needed on the A453. The road is the main southern access to Nottingham and its twisting single carriageway with attendant delays should have been sorted out years ago. The result is not only adverse to Nottingham but from a Broxtowe perspective puts additional strain on the two roads that also serve the M1 namely the A52 and the A610.

I had hoped to work with Labour MP's from Nottingham as we all agree on the need to improve the A453 and had spoken with two of them about a joint approach. Unfortunately, they have signed a totally partisan Early Day Motion which means I can't provide the all party support that is required. I say the Government has been "forced" to defer the much needed work because in the words of Labour's Liam Byrne "there's no money left". Clearing up the economic mess is the priority and I was seriously impressed with The Liberals David Laws who has succeeded Mr Byrne when he addressed the House of Commons and took questions about the £6 billion saving package that will be immediately implemented as part of our efforts to restore the country's finances.

MP surgeries

I am holding surgeries twice a month across the constituency starting on Friday June 4th in Nuthall at the Temple Centre at 3-6pm. The next will be held in Beeston on Saturday June 19th though we haven't finalised the venue. BUT if you have an urgent matter then I am more than happy to meet with you at another time or discuss the problem over the phone. I have yet to finalise a constituency office so if you would like to come to a surgery please call 0115 9484576.