



**A report from your Member of Parliament**

# Phil Sawford MP

## Dear Constituent

It has been my privilege to be your Member of Parliament for over three years and once again I want to tell you what I have been doing on your behalf both locally and in Parliament.

## IN THE CONSTITUENCY

I have held 92 advice surgeries in the past twelve months across the constituency in Geddington, Burton Latimer, Wilbarston, Ashley, Loddington, Desborough, Barton Seagrave, Rushton, Rothwell, Brixworth, Moulton, Welford, Holcot, Spratton, Guilsborough, Clipston, Naseby, Cold Ashby, Maidwell, Walgrave & Overstone. I have also held regular surgeries in my Kettering office and in many of the wards in the town.

Constituency casework keeps me very busy, I receive, on average, over 100 items of correspondence a day and I write, on average, over 14,000 letters a year on your behalf.

I have visited businesses, schools, farms, hospitals and constituents' homes. I continue to support and work with local Councils, Trade Unions, voluntary and community groups, sports clubs and organisations for people with disabilities.

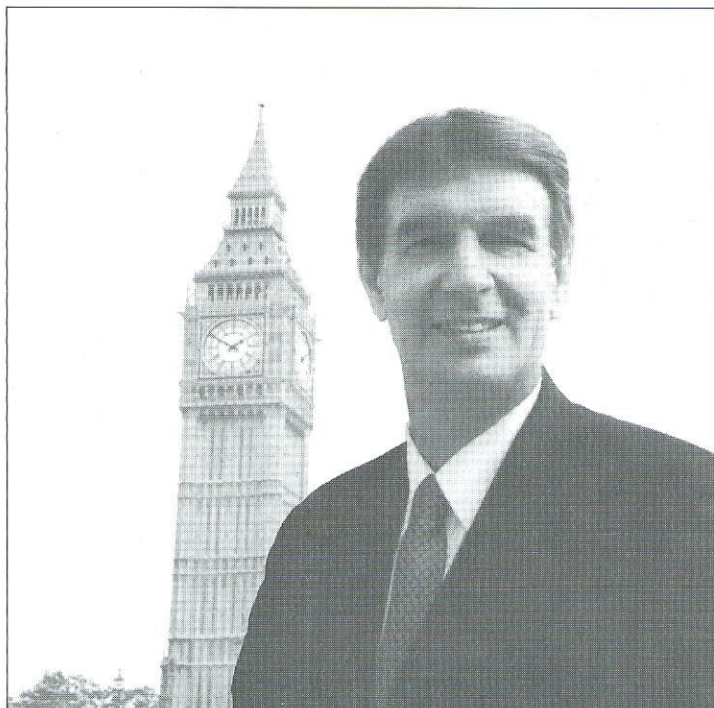
These contacts are vital as they help me to see problems and successes first hand so that I can take your message back to the Government. I see my role as your representative in Parliament not Parliament's representative in Kettering. Accessing available resources to meet the needs of the community is an important part of my work.

A number of Ministers have visited the constituency during the past year including the Home Secretary Jack Straw, Education Minister Michael Wills, Transport Minister Keith Hill, Claire Short the Minister for International Development and Stephen Byers the Secretary of State for Trade & Industry. These visits provide an opportunity for local people to gain direct contact with the government at the highest level.

## AT WESTMINSTER

I am a member of the Information Select Committee and I served on the committee stage of the Utilities Bill and the Local Government Bill. I have raised many subjects with Ministers through written and oral questions on a wide variety of concerns such as - education, transport, CSA, farming, health services, pensions, rural Post Offices, third world debt, animal welfare and police funding amongst many other issues.

Most of the subjects I have raised in Parliament are issues which affect the constituency or are matters of concern



Trust mergers, the shoe industry/manufacturing, recycling, the environment, firework safety, and the Desborough/Rothwell bypass. I have been actively supporting campaigns to give a better deal for vaccine damaged children, on access to Beta Interferon treatment for MS sufferers, compensation for former Far East prisoners of war and widows SERPS entitlement.

I have also raised a large number of issues in the House of Commons through back-bench Committees and meetings with Ministers. In addition to this I have signed over 350 Early Day Motions covering a wide range of subjects.

There simply isn't enough space to cover the wide range of issues which I have been involved in and there is much more to do but I hope this report gives some idea of my work on your behalf.

## TO CONTACT ME

Remember I am here to help you. If there are issues which concern you please do not hesitate to call my office on 01536 411900 or write to me at the House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA.

Regards



## EDUCATION - INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

I have now visited more than fifty of the sixty eight schools in the constituency to listen to pupils, teachers, parents and governing bodies.

In Northamptonshire average funding per pupil has risen by £300 since 1997, the biggest ever real terms increase in funding for schools. A lot of extra money is going in to repairs and new school buildings. During the last year I attended the official opening of new classrooms at Montsaye (8), Maidwell Primary (2), Rothwell Victoria Infants (2), Grange Primary (2) Park Infants (2) and Rothwell Junior School (8). Some of these schools had been using mobile classrooms for over twenty five years. Other schools have benefited from essential repairs to buildings (see table below).

The extra money is a combination of Government funding, County Council funding, Lottery money and private fund raising. The success of this partnership is of enormous help to our local schools.

This year the funding allocation to Northamptonshire Education Authority has increased by £13.61 million and in April 2001 every school will receive a further direct grant (a typical secondary school will receive £60,000 and most primary schools will get £20,000).

### SMALLER CLASS SIZES

In addition to the investment in our school buildings, class sizes for younger pupils have been cut (In Northamptonshire the number of 5,6 and 7 year olds in classes of over 30 was 22% in 1997, this has been reduced to just over 2%).



1. Opening the pedestrian crossings on the Ise Village

I have also been involved with the 'Safe Routes to School' initiative and new pedestrian crossings have been installed on the Ise Village, the Broadway and Bridge Street Rothwell to make journeys to school safer for our children.

Young people are our future and during my visits to schools I have been extremely impressed with the efforts and achievements of pupils and the quality, standards and commitment of teachers.

I will continue to listen to, and work with, all those involved with education in our community to ensure that our children get the best possible educational opportunities.

• Rothwell Juniors	£380,000 for 8 new classrooms to replace mobiles
• Loddington C of E	£23,000 to replace heating system
• St Thomas More RC Primary	New heating system and new classrooms
• Henry Gotch Infant & Nursery	Roof and guttering repairs
• St Mary's C of E, Burton Latimer	New windows and roof repairs
• Broughton Primary	Roof repairs
• Hawthorn Road	£235,000 three new classrooms and communal area
• Avondale Junior	£75,900 for new classrooms
• Park infant	£90,000 for new classrooms
• Moulton	Additional classrooms
• Montsaye - Rothwell	£1 million for 8 new classrooms to replace mobiles
• Latimer Community Arts Centre	£750,000 for classrooms, science labs & changing rooms
• Guilsborough	£500,000 over 3 years (Technology college status)
• Brambleside Primary	£180,000 for two extra classrooms
• Maidwell Primary	£185,000 for 2 new classrooms to replace mobiles
• Grange Primary	£126,000 for 2 new classrooms to replace mobiles
• Bishop Stopford	£750,000 sports hall /sixth form centre
• Ise Community College	£1 million for 180 extra places
• Latimer Community Arts College	£1.7 million arts centre / £130,000 Media centre
• Tresham Institute	£1 million sixth form centre.
• Rothwell Victoria Infants	£250,000 for new classrooms
• Montsaye - Rothwell	£100,000 Language College status

The New Deal for Schools (Phase 4) includes money allocated for Primary Schools in Naseby (£21,000), Rushton (£15,000), Clipston (£38,000), Braybrooke £22,000) & Brixworth (£36,000), along with Henry Gotch Junior (£176,000), Park Junior (£49,000), The Ronald Tree Nursery (£11,000), Avondale Infants (£10,500), Kingsley School (£522,000) & Wilbarston (£10,000) for repairs to buildings, heating systems, extra classrooms, etc.

The above is not a complete list but it illustrates just how much investment is going in to local



## HEALTH SERVICES

I continue to hold regular meetings with the Northamptonshire Health Authority, the Rockingham Forest Trust, General Hospital Trust and health service workers to discuss budgets, service delivery and health priorities.

Northamptonshire has received additional funding with a total allocation for 2000/2001 of £356.996 million, an increase of £28.015 million (or 9%) more than last year. Nationally, health service spending will rise at a record 6.1 percent each year for the next four years.

In Northamptonshire 26,000 more people have benefited from free eye tests this year than last and £70,000 has been spent on 8,850 extra registrations with dentists.



### 2. Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the NHS

Major investments at the Kettering General Hospital include a new £400,000 endoscopy suite to reduce waiting times for exploratory procedures and a £300,000 Ophthalmology unit which is helping to speed up eye operations.

Kettering General Hospital has been given two X-ray machines for breast cancer screening. In Kettering and Northampton breast cancer patients are now seen more quickly by a specialist, almost all within two weeks of referral.

Kettering hospital has treated 910 more patients this year than last, waiting times are being reduced and NHS Direct - the free 24 hour nurse-led helpline is now available to everyone in the constituency. Further investments for the near future include:-

- A £900,000 extension to the intensive care unit.
- A new 'Rapid Access Chest Pain Clinic' is due to be opened in April 2001.
- A new £500,000 CAT scanner to speed up diagnosis and help to cut waiting lists.
- £650,000 to build a new orthopaedic theatre to cut waiting lists for hip and knee operations.
- £500,000 to modernise the A & E department at Northampton General Hospital

I believe that everyone in the Kettering constituency, no matter what their income, who they are, how old they are, or where they live, should have the health care they need for themselves and for their families.

## MAKING WORK PAY AND HELPING FAMILIES

Making work pay and helping parents to balance work and family life are important factors in combating poverty and social exclusion.

Families are being supported with the biggest ever increase in child benefit from £11.40 to £15 per week for the eldest child and £10 per week for subsequent children. This is helping over 13,000 families in the constituency and the Children's Tax Credit will bring further help for many families from April 2001.

Over 2,000 families in the Kettering constituency are being helped by the Working Families Tax Credit.

The National Minimum Wage, Disabled Persons Tax Credit and the new 10p starting rate for savings and income tax are other measures helping constituents.

## HEALTHY ECONOMY - MORE JOBS

Economic stability and low interest rates, and the lowest inflation rate for almost thirty years are promoting business confidence and steady growth in the area. This, combined with the New Deal for unemployed people, has resulted in the lowest unemployment rates in the constituency for almost thirty years. Overall unemployment rates in the Kettering constituency have fallen by 38% since April 1997.

Across the constituency a total of 398 young people have benefited from the New Deal and 199 young people have found work through the programme.



### 3. Celebrating the centenary of Mill Road Park

## WORKING FOR THE ELDERLY

I promised to fight for a better deal for retired people and I welcome the action taken by this Government to assist pensioners by cutting VAT on fuel, abolishing charges for eye tests and increasing the winter fuel allowance to £200 which has helped over 17,000 pensioners in the Kettering Constituency.

In addition more than 6,900 over 75's in the constituency receive a free television licence - a saving of £104 a year - whilst the minimum income guarantee ensures that extra money goes to the poorest pensioners.

Single pensioners will receive a further £5 a week and couples will get an extra £8 a week from April 2001 but there is much more to do. I have consistently supported, and voted for, increases in the basic state pension to be linked to earnings and I will continue to press for free TV licences for all pensioners.



## REDUCING CRIME

Crime is falling in the county both in rural and urban areas. Police Authority figures show that overall crime has reduced by 9.5% this year following on from the 7.7% reduction last year. The independent British Crime Survey shows an overall reduction of 10% since 1997.

Northamptonshire people will be seeing more and more police officers on the beat over the coming months due to the extra resources to recruit 90 additional officers over the next three years. Fifty officers are already in post undertaking their initial training.



**4. Home Secretary Jack Straw at the Highfield Road community office, Kettering**

The Highfield Road area will soon have the benefit of a £56,400 investment in CCTV cameras and bids have been submitted to extend the system to Rothwell, Burton Latimer and Desborough.

Northamptonshire Police have been allocated an additional £700,000 for rural policing and intend to spend an additional £1.8 million in rural areas in the coming year.

## TRANSPORT

Work is due to start on the £11 million Desborough/Rothwell bypass in March 2002 and this much needed road will reduce pollution and improve road safety in both communities.

Removing heavy traffic from the A43 in Geddington is a high priority and I will continue to work with local councils and local people who are pressing for a new road to take traffic out of the village.

I am aware of the problem of speeding traffic in rural areas and I have been working with the Police and the Highways Authority to improve road safety in Moulton, Cold Ashby, Maidwell, Creaton and other rural communities.

I am very conscious of the need to improve public transport, particularly in rural areas and extra money received by the County Council is helping to fund a number of rural transport initiatives in the constituency.

**NOTE: - All statistical information in this report is sourced from publicly available/government data**

## SUPPORTING RURAL COMMUNITIES



**5. Opening new classrooms at Maidwell School**

I represent a large rural area and I have regular contact with Parish Councils, the NFU, and schools in addition to regular advice surgeries in villages across the constituency

As a result of these contacts I have taken up issues including the siting of telephone masts, rural Post Offices, planning guidance, VAT charges for church repairs, the Newton Field Centre, Policing, affordable housing, conservation, and issues which affect the farming community.

Many issues which concern constituents in rural areas are the same as in the urban areas but I recognise that there are particular issues in the countryside which I will continue to pursue on your behalf.

A summary of the recently published Rural White Paper is available from my Kettering office.

## How to Contact Phil Sawford MP

**London office:** House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

**Kettering office:** 1A Headlands  
Kettering  
Northants NN15 7ER

**Telephone:** 01536 411900

**Fax:** 01536 410742

### Kettering office hours:

Open 10 - 12 and 2 - 4 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday (Closed all day Wednesday)

### Surgeries:

Surgeries are normally held on the first and third Friday of each month at the Kettering office. (Please ring 01536 411900 for an appointment)

Drop in surgeries are held most Saturdays across the constituency. Ring 01536 411900 for details.

### Visits:

Please ring 01536 411900 to arrange visits to home, school, business, community groups etc