



A report from your Member of Parliament

Phil Sawford MP

Dear Constituent

Since May 1997 it has been my privilege to represent you at Westminster and as we pass the halfway stage of this Parliament I want to tell you what I have been doing on your behalf - both locally and in Parliament.

IN THE CONSTITUENCY

Constituency casework keeps me very busy. I have already held over 200 surgeries across the constituency and written over 20,000 letters on your behalf. All constituents are welcome to come and put their concerns to me.

I have met with many local organisations and made hundreds of visits to businesses, Trade Unions, schools, farms, hospitals, Parish Councils and constituents' homes. I have also supported and worked with many voluntary groups, sports clubs, local charities and community groups.

These contacts are a vital part of my job as they help me to see problems and successes first hand so that I can take your message back to the Government.

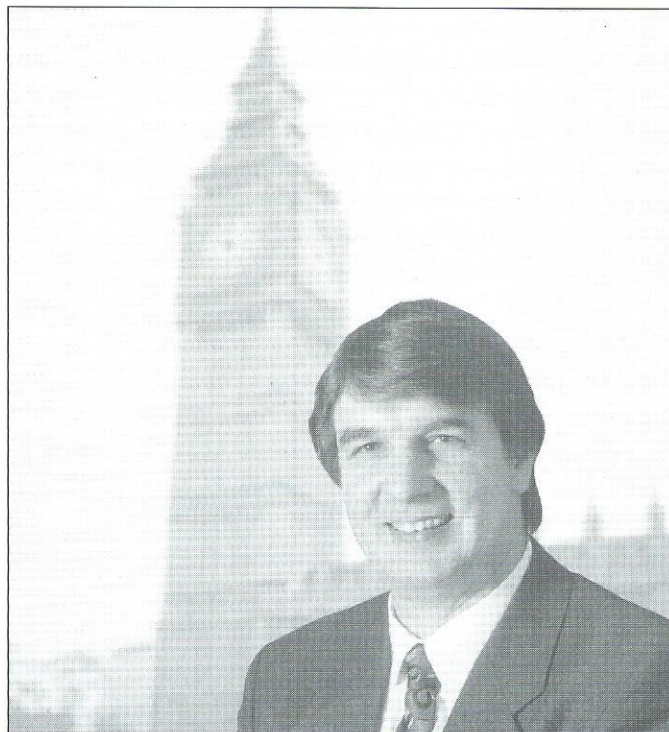
I have been campaigning on your behalf on local issues such as pressing for a Railway Station in Desborough, a new footbridge over the A14 to restore a link between Burton Latimer and Cranford, the Brompton Valley way campaign at Brixworth, free school transport and many other issues.

AT WESTMINSTER

I have raised many subjects with Ministers through more than seventy written questions on a wide variety of concerns such as - education, traffic issues, farming, health services, the probation service, pensions, access to the countryside, controls on GM Foods and third world debt relief amongst many other issues.

Most of the subjects I have raised in Parliament are issues which affect the constituency or are matters of concern raised by constituents and include representations on animal experiments, disability issues, firework safety and treatment for ME sufferers.

I have also raised a large number of issues in the House of Commons through oral questions, back-bench Committees, meetings with Ministers and contributions to debates. In addition to this I have signed over 200 Early Day Motions covering a wide range of subjects.



In June 1999 I initiated an adjournment debate on the British Shoe Industry. I understand that this was the first debate on the shoe industry in the House of Commons for more than twenty years.

A number of constituents have accompanied me to Westminster and have had the opportunity to take their concerns direct to Ministers.

There simply isn't enough space to cover the wide range of issues which I have been involved in 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.

Phil Sawford

EDUCATION - INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

The Government came to office with education as a top priority and this is already having a significant effect in the Kettering Constituency.

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

The amount of extra money going in to repairs and new school buildings is encouraging but there is still much to do. Money is being spent on removing mobile classrooms, some of which have been in place for over twenty years, and repairs which are long overdue.

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.

The total Government investment of £19 billion across the country, over three years, will help to equip schools, pupils and teachers for the challenges of the new millennium.

In addition to the investment in our school buildings the Government is delivering on its election pledge to cut class sizes for 5, 6 and 7 year olds and many of our children are now being taught in smaller classes.

Last year every school received an extra £2000 to buy new books.

It is essential to give our children the best possible



start in life and I have visited pre-school play groups, summer schools and after-school clubs in Broughton, Kettering, Spratton, Rothwell and Barton Seagrave to see at first hand the valuable contribution which they make to our children's learning experience.

Children 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.

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| • Rothwell Juniors | £380,000 for 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 & Senior | Roof and guttering repairs |
| • East Lea St Mary's 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 | £79,000 for new classrooms |
| • Moulton | Additional classrooms |
| • Montsaye | £1 million for 8 new classrooms to replace mobiles |
| • Latimer | £750,000 for classrooms, science labs & changing rooms |
| • Guilsborough | £500,000 over next 3 years (Technology college status) |
| • Brambleside | £180,000 for two extra classrooms |
| • Maidwell Primary | New classrooms to replace mobiles |
| • Grange Primary | Two new classrooms to replace mobiles |
| • Bishop Stopford | £750,000 sports hall / sixth form centre |
| • Henry Gotch Senior | £1 million for 180 extra places |
| • Latimer | £1.7 million arts centre / £130,000 Media centre |
| • Tresham Institute | £1 million sixth form centre |
| • Rothwell Infants | £250,000 for new classrooms / office |

The above is not a complete list but it illustrates just how much investment is going in to local schools and colleges to create a better learning environment.

HEALTH SERVICES

Since being elected I have had regular meetings with the Northamptonshire Health Authority, local Health Trusts and health service workers to discuss budgets, service delivery and health priorities.

One of the first things the Government did in 1997 was to allocate an additional £1.4 million to the Northants Health Authority to cope with winter pressures.

In December 1997 I had the privilege of opening the new Intensive Care unit at Kettering General Hospital.

In April 1998 Northamptonshire received a further £1.3 million to treat over 2000 patients waiting for operations.

The additional funding has continued to flow in to the County with an increase of £21 million in 1999/2000 and a further £23 million for the year 2000/2001.



I was particularly pleased to attend the celebrations marking the 50th Anniversary of our National Health Service. Extra funds together with the modernisation programme will ensure that the NHS continues to provide a first class service for the next fifty years and beyond.

Waiting lists nationally are 79,000 less than they were in May 1997 but there are still too many people waiting for treatment. Action is continuing to reduce waiting lists and waiting times at our local hospitals.

MAKING WORK PAY

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 increases in child benefit and reform of the Child Support Agency.

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

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

Economic stability, low inflation and low interest rates, are promoting business confidence and steady growth in the area which, combined with the New Deal for unemployed people, has resulted in the lowest unemployment rates in the constituency for almost thirty years.

WORKING FOR THE ELDERLY

I promised during the election to fight for a better deal for retired people who at that time were amongst the poorest in Europe.

I have supported 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 £100 which will help over 17,000 pensioners in the Kettering Constituency.

In addition more than 6,900 over 75's in the constituency will qualify for free television licences whilst the minimum income guarantee will ensure extra money goes to the poorest pensioners.

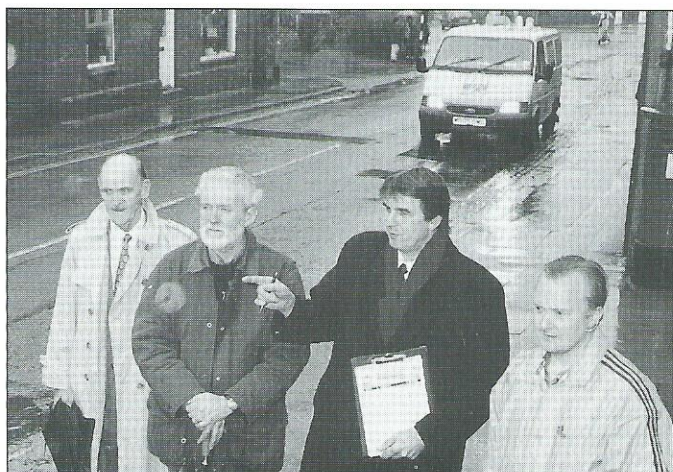
There is much more to do and I will continue to campaign for an increase in the basic state pension, a national concessionary travel scheme and free TV licences for all pensioners.

TRANSPORT / ROAD SAFETY

In June 1997 I contacted the Deputy Prime Minister to discuss the Rothwell/Desborough bypass, followed by a meeting with Baroness Hayman at the Department of Transport, Environment & Regions to press the case.

In August 1998 it was announced that the bypass would go ahead as one of thirty seven major schemes across the country.

Since then I have had further meetings with Ministers to ensure an early start and the £11 million scheme is now due to commence in 2001/2.



I am very conscious of the need to improve public transport, particularly in rural areas and I welcomed the announcement in May 1998 that the County Council would receive £690,000 for rural transport initiatives in Northamptonshire.

The new footpath/cycle way on the A45 from Broughton to the Walgrave turn is a much needed improvement in the interest of road safety. Other priorities I am pursuing are rural traffic calming, a 20 mph zone in Moulton, removing heavy traffic from the A43 in Geddington and more safe routes to schools.

The £1 million spent on lighting on the A14 has improved safety but the volume of traffic has exceeded all the original projections and I will continue working for further safety measures on this busy road.

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

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 on Saturdays across the
constituency. Ring 01536 411900 for details.

Visits:

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



Handy Numbers

Kettering Borough Council
01536 410333

Daventry District Council
01327 871100

Northants County Council
01604 236236

Kettering Citizens Advice Bureau
01536 482321

Daventry Citizens Advice Bureau
01327 706464

Welfare Rights (Kettering)
01536 520387

Working Families Tax Credit Hotline
0800 597 5976



Do you need help?

If you have a problem you would like me to help with or if there is
anything you would like to bring to my attention, please use the
space below.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

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.....Postcode.....

Telephone.....

Post your completed forms to:

**Phil Sawford MP
House Of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA**