

Listening to you

Adam Holloway MP

I want to know what you think

Please take a few moments to complete the attached survey and return it to address below:



National Issues

Please indicate the three most important issues to you:

- Education
- Housing
- Pensions
- Crime
- NHS
- Europe
- Immigration
- Other:

Local Issues

Please indicate your key local issues of concern:

Do you believe that Britain should have a referendum on the EU Treaty? Have your say:

- Yes, I believe we should have a referendum on the Treaty
- No, I do not think we need a referendum

Your contact details:

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

I want to hear from you

This form is also available online at: www.adamholloway.co.uk

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EU Treaty

Eighty per cent of our laws are already made in Brussels and more power will be given to Europe if this Treaty is signed.

I recently held a Pro-Referendum rally in Gravesend Town Centre and many of you signed my petition to hold a referendum on the Treaty. I will continue to push for a referendum – there is cross-party support for this. For my part, I believe it is time for us to return to something that more closely resembles the European Economic Community.



Westminster report

NHS Cancer spending figures are biased against West Kent. Each cancer sufferer in Dartford and Gravesham PCT receives just £8,530 a year – by contrast, cancer sufferers in Nottingham receive £17,028 a year – more than double.

I voiced my serious concern following the publication of new figures which reveal huge variations in the amount of money spent on cancer patients in different areas of the country.

I very much value the hard work by doctors and nurses in West Kent, but it is being hampered

NHS audiology appointment

I asked a Parliamentary question on the situation for my constituents who require hearing aids. Currently, the waiting times for you to get an appointment to see a hearing specialist is 52 weeks while the government's guidelines state: "The most complex audiology cases, those usually referred to ENT, will be covered by 18 weeks referral to treatment pathways from December 2008. The remaining routine adult hearing loss cases should be assessed within 6 weeks by March 2008". The Minister seemed genuinely concerned and agreed that this was unfair. I will continue to raise this issue.

by Whitehall officials who are distributing health funding across the country unfairly.

Of course I fully accept that a lot more money has been spent on the NHS under this government, but in my view this is yet another example of mismanagement of the NHS.

SEN children

In December, I accompanied a young constituent, Greg O'Donnell and his mother, Lisa, to Downing Street, where Greg handed in a letter to the Prime Minister asking when he was going to get a school place.

Greg is not alone in his quest for a special educational needs assessment and a suitable school. A quite shocking national level of bureaucracy delays these children getting the support they need. It can take as much as 4 years to assess a child properly and get them into the right school. I will continue to campaign for the speedier assessment of these children.



Adam Holloway MP

for Gravesham

Winter 2008 Newsletter

I hope that people had a good Christmas and that the new year has started well.

I am sorry to bang on about it again, but there are many voluntary organisations in Gravesham that need people to help out. This does not need to be particularly onerous, but even a small amount of time each week makes a difference.

Do please get in touch with me and I will try and point you in the right direction.

Adam

Adam Holloway MP

Fighting against crime and anti-social behaviour in Gravesend

Whitehill School Chickens:



Happy, Helpful and Hardworking

Gravesend Hospital Minor Injuries Clinic

Turn up here with a minor non-life threatening condition and you will usually wait less than an hour (the A and E at Darent is up to 4 hours). This is a really good service.



Post Office closures



Thank you to all of you who joined in the campaign to save our Post Offices. Unfortunately, it did not work.

I believe this “public consultation” exercise was just a sham and a fait accompli. This will have a devastating effect on small business, the rural community and the disabled. I made a case for keeping the Sole Street Post Office open. The Council Leader, the Chairman of the Parish Council, and others made a business case for keeping open the Sole Street Post Office.

In the last round of closures we were told that whilst Chalk Post Office was closing, there was always Denton - well, Denton now closes too.

One in five unemployed in Gravesend

According to the Office of National Statistics (government statistics) our 16-17 year-olds face an unemployment rate of 52%.

The unemployment figures for the ages of 16-64 year olds is also high.

There are nearly 18% who are economically inactive, an increase of 2.5 per cent since 2005.

That is nearly one in five of Gravesend's working population that is not working.

Following the accession of Eastern European block countries entering the EU, the government estimated that there would be no more than 13,000 Eastern European migrants entering Britain. The real figure is closer to 700,000 and rising. The real cost to Gravesend residents is unemployment, a loss of dignity for some, and a lost opportunity for many youngsters. But let's be quite clear: people employ these migrant workers because they work hard, are often well educated and skilled, and most of all they want to work. We can't blame them for coming here.



2007 Children in Need

Again, many congratulations to the Conservative Club for organising this, particularly, Alistair Ellis the Chairman. Yet again the event was supported by the Mayor of Gravesend - this year, the wonderful and determined Councillor Mrs Pat Oakeshott.

Setting and streaming in schools – who's in favour?

I would like to know whether Gravesend's teachers, pupils and parents are in favour of setting and streaming? Essentially, this means arranging all subjects by ability with a top stream for the very bright. I believe that as we operate in an increasingly competitive global market we need to not only identify our brightest and educate them accordingly but also to set all subjects so that youngsters are working within their ability with others who are of the same ability. We should also offer a great deal more non-academic opportunities such as the excellent vocational centre at in Thong Lane.

Ebbsfleet Utd back football scheme for youngsters



I recently had the pleasure of touring a number of our primary schools with Jason Owen of Kent County Council. It is based on the team talk to footballers by their coaches on discipline, achievement and team playing. The coach in this case is an appointed teacher. Those who get 'goals' with good behaviour and work get picked for the team, praised and offered tickets to see and meet the team at Ebbsfleet Utd.

This is an excellent scheme run by Jason who is brilliant and thank you to the enlightened teachers who have implemented the scheme and made it work.

No immigration controls at Ebbsfleet International

I have voiced my concerns in Parliament after the Border and Immigration Agency told me that there are no plans to have a permanently manned immigration control at Ebbsfleet International.

The Home Office said: “There are no fixed embarkation controls at UK ports and airports. The Border and Immigration Agency has the legal power and capability to put in place embarkation controls at Ebbsfleet should the need arise, and will therefore be undertaking intelligence-led embarkation controls there”.

I am aghast at this approach, particularly at a time when, at the Home Office's admission, we are on heightened security alert. Ebbsfleet is open to abuse by people looking to escape the country quickly and easily, such as criminals and terrorists.

This is an open door for people who have committed crimes, or perhaps a terrorist act, to get out of the country in a 10-minute boarding process.



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