

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

Adam can be contacted as follows:

Commons: 020 7219 8402
 Gravesend: 01474 332097
 Email: hollowaya@parliament.uk
 By post: Adam Holloway MP
 House of Commons
 London SW1A 0AA



EU Treaty

I am sorry to report that the Lisbon Treaty was approved by the House of Commons despite the overwhelming majority of the public who wanted a referendum. The votes cast were 311 against a referendum and 248 votes in favour.

On one amendment, which would have forced a two question referendum - a vote on EU membership and a vote on the Treaty - 311 voted against and 247 voted in favour.

It will now go to the House of Lords where I hope it will be defeated, but I won't hold my breath.



Dartford Crossing Tolls

Because of the consultation process regarding the Dartford Crossing I have been asking Parliamentary Questions on transport issues.

I do not believe that local residents should continue to pay for a bridge that was paid for over 5 years ago. In the past year the revenue from Dart Tag alone has been £32m. The proposal that certain local residents in the Crossing area would receive discounts is an administrative nightmare and unfair in this proposed post code lottery.



Courtesy of Kent Messenger Group

I believe the tolls should be scrapped and have therefore proposed that we have a one-week toll free trial when the tolls are removed to assess its actual impact on journey times and queues. In 2003 a Government report stated that if the toll plazas were removed one way then that would allow an extra 6400 vehicles to flow through per hour. Adding to that, it is acknowledged in the report that an increase in toll charges affects the low income earners the most and, in

my view makes it harder for them to find better paid employment further afield.

This trial would take place as part of the consultation process.

I believe that there would be free flow of traffic, less pollution, fewer traffic jams and would speed up journey times and make business more effective.

<http://www.adamholloway.co.uk/petitions/index.html>

Policing

In the early years of the 19th century our streets had become so lawless that the then Home Secretary, Sir Robert Peel, came up with the novel idea of a police force patrolling the streets.

In between then and now policing has changed. The beat system was killed off along with Dixon of Dock Green, we had newly merged police forces; shiny new patrol cars were introduced and a computer system. Policing has gone from prevention to detection. Prevention in my mind does not sit well with computer statistics and targets; it's immeasurable.

A history lesson: In 1898 there were 4,221 violent crimes in England and Wales. Just over a century later there were 331,843. Even allowing for population increase, that is a 47-fold rise in violent crime. In 1931 there were three crimes a year for every police officer. In 2001 there were 44. According to the United Nations Britain is the most common-crime nation with 58 crimes per 100 people compared with the US at 43 and Japan at 22.

A novel idea for the 21st century would be beat officers preventing crime, squaring the circle.

Adam Holloway MP

for Gravesham

Spring 2008 Newsletter

As of today somewhere around 9,000 individual people have been in touch with my office asking for help since May 2005. Some people have been in touch with our tiny office on multiple issues. We have taken on a huge workload, and I am very grateful to the team for their great efforts on your behalf. I would be very pleased to hear any constructive criticism of how we are doing things - so do please get in touch with me.

Finally - at the risk of sounding nanny-like - may I request that people make an effort to pick up litter where practical to do so. The road sweepers do their best, but we can all play a part in making Gravesham a better place to live.

Adam Holloway MP

Fighting against crime and anti-social behaviour in Gravesham

Congratulations to 100-year-old Mrs Hilda Cole from Higham



Adam and Mrs Cole with children: Jamie, Shaun, Scott and Melissa.

Many congratulations to Mrs Hilda Cole, a former resident of Higham and now resident at Copperfields Nursing Home on this important birthday.

Mrs Cole grew up in Gravesend and in 1954 moved to Higham. This lovely lady was joined in her birthday celebrations by four generations. I had a brief but interesting chat about the bombing suffered in Gravesend during the war - of course it was no where near as bad as what happened in London and elsewhere, but it amazing to think that when she was 37 years old bombs were falling on the centre of town.



Bookreading week at King's Farm primary school

On the Buses

I have travelled on the new Fastrack route and would like to congratulate Kent County Council and Fastrack for going ahead with this project.

The service will include innovative ideas, such as buying tickets beforehand by mobile phone, which customers wave in front of a scanner as they enter the bus.



How good would it be, if you could just look at a map of Gravesham and see where the buses actually were, and your leave your front-door at the last-minute, but not miss the bus? Well, if you catch any of the following buses: 307, 480, 490, 495, 498, 499, Fastrack A or Fastrack B, the live real-time positions of the buses are on the internet.

The following website www.kent.acislive.com gives the link to the live bus map that shows exactly where the buses are. The website also has links for real-time information at particular bus-stops, which can be accessed from a mobile phone on the move.

Unfortunately, Fastrack has been hit by mindless vandalism. What I do not understand is that the vandalism is probably committed by the very same people who benefit from this service.

Child Mediators shame me into car cleaning

I was invited to Painters Ash Primary School to meet 25 children who had been chosen to train as child mediators.

Lisa Pritchard of Mediation North Kent organised this excellent initiative enabling youngsters to mediate in their own arguments. They were trained to mediate in their peers' disagreements involving stolen water bottles to playground fights and name-calling.

During this session, I was invited to take part in a mock mediation session with Janice Small, one of our team. Janice accused me of subjecting her to undue stress by having to travel in my rather untidy car - which she described as being "knee deep in food wrappers, empty drink cans, old newspapers, and a Tesco box of smelly, out-of-date cheese".

However, the children began to realise that this was not a mock mediation session but a real life situation. Happily, the children were able to negotiate a settlement - with me agreeing to clean the car. When I produced the offending cheese samples, the children agreed that Janice had indeed been subjected to offending behaviour and the cheese was disposed of.

So, due to the adept negotiating skills of these youngsters, I have warded off a staff mutiny and I am pleased that the skills these children have learned will be taken forward into their secondary education and beyond. The cheese is now in the bin - I doubt anyone will wish to recycle it.

Congratulations to Ebbsfleet Utd Wembley here we come!



It is great news that our local team are going to Wembley and I shall be there cheering them on. Which starts me thinking about sports participation. I have created a sports link space on my website.

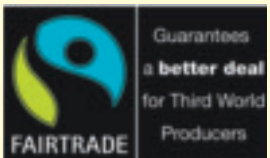
I think that when people get involved with their neighbours and communities they become better places. The same is true of joining sports clubs - you get fitter, make new friends and the wider community benefits from youngsters being involved in something outside of school and the home.

Through my website I am promoting various sports associations and clubs and would like to invite clubs to upload their details onto the link.

<http://www.adamholloway.co.uk/Sports/index.php>

(Don't worry, we will be independently verifying every entry before it goes up) Boys in particular benefit from sports, particularly when they leave school and sports activity is no longer compulsory. If they can vent their energy into some form of exercise perhaps they will not be tempted into binge drinking, drugs and anti-social behaviour. Whilst I am not suggesting that anything anywhere near all inactive teenage boys indulge in this sort of behaviour, there is a growing minority that do. And it would be great for the others too.

Fair Trade lunch invitation



I was invited to the Fairtrade Lunch Stop at the Emmanuel Baptist Church on Windmill Street to sample the delights of Fairtrade food during Fairtrade Fortnight. With kind donations from local businesses and supermarkets the organisers were able to offer a free lunch with all donations going to Tearfund, a Christian relief charity. They raised £261.

If you would like to join the lunch events at the church ^ and I can vouch that they are fantastic value and great food will be served, details are: 2008 lunch dates are: April 4th, May 23rd, 18th July, 17th October and Christmas special on 12th December

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Windmill Street, Gravesend DA12 1BB
Tel: Judith Wenban at the church on 01474 568498

Whilst I cannot feature all charities who would like volunteers, please take a look at my website which features many of our local charities all of whom are very welcoming to new volunteers.

www.adamholloway.co.uk

Gravesham Volunteer Bureau
t: 01474 322729



Dial North West Kent. Northfleet Veterans Club
The Hill, Northfleet, Kent DA11 9EU
t: 01474 321761. e: dialnwkent@btconnect.com
www.dialnwkc.co.uk



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