Listening to Corby & East Northamptonshire

LET ME KNOW YOUR VIEWS &

I am very keen to hear your views and concerns as part of my 'Listening Campaign'. Please take just a few minutes of your time to let me know what issues matter most to you and return your completed form to TOM PURSGLOVE MP, CENCA, **FREEPOST NAT20178, CORRY, NN17 1RR**

| What three national issues are of most concern to you? | | | | | |
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| What local issue concerns you most in East Northamptonshire? | | | | | |
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| I strongly support the right of local communities to determine scale and nature of development in their area. Do you suppo | | | | | |
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| 2 | to keep local people up-to-date with the work I am doing as your MF Would you like to receive it? | | | ork I am doing as your MP. | |
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| PLEASE ENTER YOUR DETAILS BELOW, TEAR OFF PAGE AND POST BACK | | | | | |
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HOW WE USE YOUR DATA: Some data we receive from you will probably comprise personal data about you and may include sensitive HOW WE USE YOUR DATA: Some data we receive from you will probably comprise personal data about you and may include sensitive personal data. The types of information we may collect about you will probably include your name, address and contact information and information about your ethnic origin, political opinions, and religious, philosophical and other beliefs. The data you provide will be retained by Tom Pursglove MP and Corby and East Northants Conservative Association ("the data holders") in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998 and related legislation. The data holders will use the data we collect for the following purposes: (i) to improve our understanding of political life in the United Kingdom; (ii) to compile and provide anonymous statistics about voters in the United Kingdom; (iii) to facilitate our operation as a political party; (iv) contact you in the future by telephone, text or other means, even though you may be registered with the Telephone Preference Service, without asking for further permission. Your data will not be sold or given to anyone not connected to the Conservative Party. If you do not want the information you give to us to be used in these ways, or for us to contact you, please indicate by ticking the relevant boxes: Post Email SMS Phone. Promoted by Robert Gough on behalf of Tom Pursglove, CENCA, Cottingham Road, Corby, Northants, NN17 1SZ. Printed by DATS Print Services Ltd, 30 Victoria Street, Irthlingborough, Northants, NN9 5RG.

THIS REPORT HAS BEEN PAID FOR WITH THE HELP OF LOCAL SUPPORTERS AT NO COST TO THE TAXPAYER

GET IN TOUCH with TOM

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

- t: 0207 219 8043
- e: pursglovet@parliament.uk
- w: votepursglove.co.uk
- fb.com/TomPursgloveMP

CAMPAIGNING FOR BETTER BROADBAND

The lack of broadband coverage in some areas is a source of great frustration to many of my constituents, especially as recent figures show that 90% of homes in the UK now have access to a superfast connection. For the remaining 10%, including villages such as Denford, Lutton and parts of King's Cliffe, it is vital that we keep campaigning for this important utility, and I will continue to take up local broadband challenges that are raised with me, and meet regularly with BT, Northamptonshire County Council, and Ministers, to ensure that connectivity is achieved as soon as possible. I also continue to make the argument that new developments should have appropriate broadband coverage in place from day one – this is now a crucially important utility from both a life and work perspective and it should be installed as standard.

PRIMARK

In recent months. I have been in regular communication with Primark, regarding their new warehouse at Islip. Whilst



good for jobs, a number of Woodford and Denford residents contacted me with concerns about landscaping and lighting around the warehouse.

In light of these concerns, I set up a meeting with all interested parties, and was impressed by the way in which Primark were willing to listen to the concerns of residents, and attempt to alleviate their concerns. To my mind, it is essential that businesses are good neighbours and I will continue to monitor progress around mitigating the environmental impact of this development.

I also visited the site to see it first-hand. This new unit is bringing ground 650 jobs to the local area, with more at peak times, and I invited the Employment Minister, the Rt. Hon Priti Patel MP, to the opening, which will happen later this year.

TheyWorkForYou

TOM PURSGLOVE (SINCE JOINING)

Debates spoken = 103 Voted = 96.50%

LAST LABOUR MP (IN FINAL YEAR)

Debates spoken = 49 Voted = 78.25% *Independent figures as at 3rd May 2016

Tom Pursglove MP's

Westminster Report

EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE EDITION

Dear Constituent,

It's a huge honour and a privilege to be your Member of Parliament for Corby and East Northamptonshire. At the end of my first year in Parliament, welcome to my Westminster Report for 2015-16, where you can find out more about what I've been doing as part of my 'Listening Campaign', both in Parliament and the constituency, over the last year.

As always, if I can ever be of any help to you, please feel free to contact me at any time using the following details:

Address: Tom Pursglove MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA Email: pursglovet@parliament.uk Telephone: 020 7219 8043

I also hold weekly advice surgeries in both Corby and East Northamptonshire, and as I said in the run up to the General Election, I remain committed to being Corby and East Northamptonshire's voice in Westminster and not Westminster's voice in the constituency.

Now, for some of what I've been getting up to!

With best wishes,

Tom

Tom Pursglove MP Member of Parliament for Corby and East Northamptonshire



Discussing issues and concerns at one of my weekly advice surgeries.



Making my Maiden Speech in June 2015 the most nervous I've ever been!



At the Women's Tour start line in Oundle last year.

RUSHDEN LAKES – **WELL UNDER WAY.**

As someone who first supported the campaign as a local councillor, I was delighted when the Rushden Lakes development got the green light back in 2014. This development is arguably the biggest single investment East Northamptonshire has ever seen, bringing new shops including Marks & Spencer and House of Fraser to our area. An estimated 1,900 new jobs will be created for local residents and it will also bring new leisure facilities too, complementing the retail offer. I was pleased to raise local excitement about Rushden Lakes

during Prime Minister's Questions back in September and I invited him to the opening, which is anticipated to take place early

With work now picking up pace on site, the Prime Minister agreed with me that you simply do not get £50 million investments come forward without economic confidence in the area, and I will ensure he receives his invitation through the post!

THE FIGHT AGAINST UNWANTED **OVER-DEVELOPMENT:**

PROTECT OUR VILLAGES

Protecting our rural areas against unwelcome over-development has been one of my top priorities as your local MP, and an issue which has dominated my postbag. In East Northamptonshire, we have seen many unwanted planning applications come forward and I have done everything I can to help support the objections of the many brilliant local campaigns launched to oppose them, including in Brigstock, Stanwick and Yarwell. I have also been actively supporting the excellent local campaigns against the unwanted cold store at Kettering Energy Park and the proposals for Fineshade Wood. Alongside this work, in Westminster, I continue to make the case that the planning system should respect the wishes



of local residents - to mu mind, if an application is refused by the Council, then the developer should listen to this judgement and let the matter rest there.

isiting the fantastic King's Cliffe Active project a remarkable community run sports facility.

WINNING THE FIGHT AGAINST UNWANTED WIND FARMS



Championing local concerns about unwanted wind farms on the floor of the House.

Given my longstanding involvement in the national anti-wind farm campaign, last summer, I welcomed new measures announced by the Government which changed the law to give local communities the final say over planning decisions for new onshore wind farms, delivering on the Conservative manifesto commitment.

In the past, local people rallied to stop the dreadful proposals which would have blighted Lyveden New Bield. Now, wind turbines will only get the go-ahead if the local community has made it clear they support onshore wind projects in their area.

This means that communities in East Northamptonshire now have the final say over planning applications for onshore wind turbines, whilst I am also pleased that Ministers have overhauled the subsidy regime, stopping bill payer subsidies for new onshore wind farms, helping to keep energy bills down.

PROGRESS ON RAIL ELECTRIFICATION

In October 2015, I was delighted to hear the Secretary of State for Transport's announcement that work will commence on the electrification of the Midland Mainline.

As part of Network Rail's Route Upgrade Plan, they will be delivering a programme of work to enhance the Midland Mainline between now and 2023. The work will include the electrification of the line, as well as alterations to station platforms, remodelling of signalling and track and a variety of other improvements to railway infrastructure that will mean it will be possible to run more trains, longer trains, and faster trains, as well as reducing carbon emissions. In our area, these upgrades have already started with track improvements between Kettering and Corby.

Network Rail have announced that electrification of the line north of Bedford to Kettering and Corby will be completed by 2019 and the line north of Kettering to Leicester, Derby/Nottingham and Sheffield by 2023, thus, continuing the biggest investment into our railways since Victorian times. I will certainly continue to keep a close eye on progress.



Boris boarding the train at Corby. Next time, the journey should be quicker!

ENTERPRISE ZONE BID



Taking local business leaders to Downing Street to meet the Chancellor to celebrate their success and raise concerns.

Late last year, I was disappointed to learn that the local bid for a new Enterprise Zone on the boundary between Corby and East Northamptonshire had not been successful, after months of enthusiastic lobbying in the House of Commons in support of it.

As such, I was determined to identify where the Government perceived the weaknesses in the bid to be, in order that more work can be done to address these concerns.

I met with the Minister for Local Growth and the Northern Powerhouse, James Wharton MP, in January, to discuss this matter. Whilst it is clear that Corby and East Northamptonshire is in a fantastic strategic position, the competition was fierce. Officials agreed, therefore, to meet with Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership, Corby Borough Council and East Northamptonshire Council, amongst other partners, to discuss the bid and what improvements could be made to any future submission, to ensure it has the best possible chance of success.

Going forward, I will continue to work with all involved to make the case for a new Enterprise Zone – with the housing growth we are experiencing, it is only right that we receive infrastructure boosts like this.

SAVE OUR PLAYING FIELDS!

A major ongoing issue throughout my first year as your Member of Parliament, has been the proposed selling off of playing field land in Oundle. Working with the Oundle Recreation and Green Spaces Group, I have raised this issue regularly on the floor of the House of Commons, and presented two Private Members' Bills - informed by the Oundle experience - which have sought to change the law around the process of selling off playing field land, so that local communities have a greater say, and indeed a veto, over these decisions.

In Oundle, the school playing field land which Northamptonshire County Council is considering selling off, has not featured in the Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Plan, and it is also worth remembering that the town has already exceeded its housing allocation target, meaning further development is not required. Furthermore, Oundle currently has ten times less accessible green space than nearby Raunds, and five times less than Burton Latimer.

The Oundle Recreation and Green Spaces Group's campaign has been extremely well-run, with widespread support from the local community, and I continue to raise local concerns about possible sales with Northamptonshire County Council. As a sportsman myself, I am keen to protect these green spaces for future generations and I will keep a very close eye on the progress of this issue and do all I can to support the campaign.



SUPPORTING LOCAL POLICING



Supporting our local magistrates in the fight to keep Corby Magistrates' Court open, which serves much of East Northamptonshire.
Unfortunately, our efforts were unsuccessful.

Our police have been chronically underfunded over many years, relative to other areas, and this year, we have seen a number of changes to police funding, something I have lobbied the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Home Secretary on.

Not only will the new Police Funding Formula ensure greater funding fairness across the country, but I was delighted when it was announced in the Autumn Statement that overall police spending would be protected in line with inflation - this will be an increase of £900 million by 2019-20.

Whilst I will always press for more police officers out on the beat, catching criminals and deterring crime, I have been impressed by the forward-thinking work that Northamptonshire Police have been doing, particularly to help tackle rural crime - as we all know, crime crosses county boundaries and tackling it must be achieved through coordination with neighbouring forces, and I am pleased to receive regular updates from the local policing teams.

KETTERING GENERAL HOSPITAL URGENT CARE HUB

Along with my two colleagues in North
Northamptonshire, Peter Bone MP, and Philip Hollobone
MP, and indeed my predecessor, I have been very
supportive of the plans for a new Urgent Care Hub at
Kettering General Hospital - a project which has rightly
united politicians on all sides in our area.

KGH has seen increasing attendances at A&E, making the need for a new, innovative, solution even more pressing. Working together, we met with Ben Gummer MP, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Quality at the Department of Health, last year, to discuss the plans, which I have also raised regularly in the House of Commons - if built, this innovative Urgent Care Hub would bring A&E, urgent care, social care, mental health provision and GPs, all under one roof. Rest assured that I will continue to make the case for this important development, and do all I can to help secure much-needed investment in KGH. That said, I also recognise the fact that many East Northamptonshire residents access their health services in neighbouring counties - meaning I have to pay close attention to developments in those areas too!

UNEMPLOYMENT KEEPS ON FALLING

I am delighted that the number of people claiming JSA in Corby and East Northamptonshire has continued to fall by over 63 percent since its 2009 peak.

We are very lucky to have such a variety of employers in our area, and over the past year, I have had the opportunity to visit many different businesses in East Northamptonshire, both large and small. Larger businesses such as Avery, which operates in over 50 countries, employ hundreds of local people and operate on a truly global scale. East Northamptonshire also plays host to a number of smaller businesses, such as Amps Fine Wines and Neneview Dairu.

It has been great to visit such a diverse range of businesses and see first-hand the terrific work that they do - with many highly skilled local people excelling in their specific fields. And, when local firms have got into difficulty, such as Fairline Boats, I have worked with the unions, the employees

affected, other local businesses, along with JobCentre Plus, the local authorities and Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership, to ensure that all of the appropriate help and support has been made available, with the vast majority finding alternative suitable employment locally; including with the newly established Fairline Yachts, which is operating out of some of the longestablished boatmaking units in Oundle. This is testament to the strength of our local business community and what always strikes me is the loyalty of our workforce and the pride individuals take in their work, and in the business as a whole. As the local MP. I am right behind them and I will always shout from the rooftops for more jobs and more investment – as the fastest growing area in the country, it is clear we need more jobs and more investment.

A KEY PRIORITY A45/CHOWNS MILL IMPROVEMENTS

I recently received an update from the Department for Transport on the planned improvements to the Chowns Mill roundabout, and the dualling of the A45; improvements I was campaigning vigorously for prior to my election.

Technical surveys on the roundabout have been completed, and preliminary designs are now underway - there will be a consultation to collect the views and opinions of local residents and businesses later this year, with work expected to start in 2019. The dualling of the A45 between Stanwick and Thrapston will be delivered as part of the second Road Investment Strategy period, due to begin in April 2020. Given the environmental sensitivities involving the Stanwick Lakes SSSI, the associated environmental study must be undertaken first, to ensure the work is carried out in an environmentally sensitive way - something which will happen during this period.

Rest assured that I will continue to press Ministers on both of these vital projects, stressing how important they are for both safety and the efficiency of our local road network, and will make the case for work to commence as soon as possible. It is good, however, that, after years of no progress, these two projects are firmly in the Government's investment plans.



Above: Taking the campaign for Chowns Mill and A45 improvements to the Chancellor. Left: Understanding the improvements needed to the footbridge over the River Nene at Islip.