

# TOM PURSGLOVE MP's Westminster Report 2018-19

Member of Parliament for **Corby & East Northamptonshire**



## SURGERY DETAILS

I hold weekly advice surgeries in both Corby and across East Northamptonshire. If you would like my help with a problem, an appointment to see me, or to invite me along to an event, please do not hesitate to get in touch using the contact details below.

## CONTACT DETAILS

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To sign up to my fortnightly 'Westminster Report' e-newsletter, go to:  
<https://tinyurl.com/yyforhkh>.



## Tom Pursglove MP

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

*Jean Coniff*

The past twelve months have meant for an unusual year – and definitely a busy one – so I am pleased to update you on what I have been up to both locally here in Corby & East Northamptonshire, and nationally in Westminster, as your local Member of Parliament.

Not only have I campaigned hard on the issues that you have told me matter most through my 'Listening Campaign' and represented those views on the floor of the House and in my discussions with Ministers, but my role is also to assist you with any matters affecting you or your family. I receive thousands of letters and emails each week, all of which are dealt with personally, and some of the things I can help with include issues with tax, the NHS, child maintenance, housing associations, immigration, benefits, pensions, national insurance, school places and any local problems, to name just a few.

I also hold weekly advice surgeries in both Corby and East Northamptonshire, where I see constituents to talk about any issues or concerns that they may have and to offer my help. These usually take place on Fridays and if you want to arrange to see me, please do contact my office on 020 7219 8043 and we can certainly get something organised.

Alternatively, if you're keen to hear a bit more about what I'm working on throughout the year, you can sign up to my fortnightly 'Westminster Report' e-newsletter, here: <https://tinyurl.com/yyforhkh>.

I work tirelessly for everyone locally, regardless of how they choose to vote at an election, and work as Corby & East Northamptonshire's voice in Westminster, not Westminster's voice in Corby & East Northamptonshire. That is why I am out, week in, week out, knocking on doors and talking to you as part of my 'Listening Campaign'. I want to know the issues that matter to you, and it is, as ever, an honour and a privilege to serve our community where I grew up, and of which I am hugely proud.

*With best wishes*  
*Tom*

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**

*Listening to Corby & East Northamptonshire*

## **INVESTING SIGNIFICANTLY IN RAIL AND ROAD**

Ensuring our transport infrastructure and roads are fit for purpose is vital and, quite rightly, when problems arise my constituents are keen to let me know. This year, I have worked hard, alongside local residents and councillors, on a number of highways related campaigns, having levered in significant new investment in rail and road.

Having pressed for the Cottingham Road bridge repairs in Corby to be sped-up, they are now completed, and having got the funding commitment to the Oundle North Bridge repairs and the reinstatement of the Leyland Bridge on Irthlingborough Road, I am now pressing hard for the works on those two projects to be completed ASAP.

Alongside these campaigns, I have worked hard, with real success, to secure major improvements to the A43/Steel Road in Corby and continue to argue for a crossing between Priors Hall and Weldon to be factored into the works. Meanwhile, the Chowns Mill Roundabout upgrade is set to start later this year and we just await the environmental study to be carried out to unlock the A45 dualling between Stanwick and Thrapston.

I have also worked with local residents to resolve a number of local winter gritting issues, and helped to secure more Government funding for much-needed pothole repairs in the county.

It was also great to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Corby Railway Station this year, and to mark that milestone with significant upgrades in our rail services.



It was great to celebrate Corby Railway Station's 10th anniversary and the enormous difference it has made to our town, and to mark that occasion by welcoming our train service going from hourly to half-hourly between Corby and London St Pancras.

In particular, services between Corby and London are increasing from hourly to half-hourly, and the multi-million pounds electrification programme I strongly supported is ongoing and is set to deliver further benefits in future years, most notably providing cleaner, greener, and more reliable journeys. Going forward, I will continue to work with local rail users to campaign for further improvements that they wish to see, whilst I will sustain my case for more northbound services from Corby. ■

## **HELPING YOU TO OPPOSE UNWANTED DEVELOPMENT PLANS**



I always enjoy meeting with local groups campaigning in our community and to advise and support them in any way I can.

**I have been actively supporting a number of local campaigns against unwanted planning applications such as at Elton Quarry, the Shelton Road waste treatment plant proposal in Corby, and unwanted overdevelopment in Gretton.**

Frustratingly, as your local MP, I have no direct power over these decisions, but I am committed to making sure that the local authorities taking the decisions know loud and clear about constituents' concerns and take them into consideration as part of the decision-making process, whilst supporting the local campaigns set up to oppose these proposals in any way I can.

Together, this year, we have fought off a number of unwanted proposals, with one notable case being at the beautiful Fineshade Wood, where it has been a pleasure to work over a considerable length of time alongside the Friends of Fineshade, to ensure its long-term preservation. Through our efforts we managed to prevent Forest Holidays from developing there and then fought off a further adjacent application, thus preserving this site of great natural beauty that brings huge pleasure and leisure and relaxation opportunities to local residents.

I am clear that the rural character of our many distinct and varied communities, both town and village, must be preserved for generations to come, and that any development must be in the right place, should be supported by local people, have the right infrastructure, and be in keeping with its surroundings. ■



## **Keeping Corby Urgent Care Centre Open & Investing More In Local Health Services**

After many months of campaigning, I was delighted when NHS Corby Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) listened to local people and announced that Corby Urgent Care Centre was to stay open exactly "as is" for the next three years - a victory for common sense and testament to the strength of local feeling, and I pay tribute to all those who campaigned for that outcome, particularly the local action group.

The subsequent contract put in place delivers on the commitment to keep it open and I also welcome the additional GP appointment capacity that has been put in place alongside it for local surgeries - I know that ease of access for GP appointments is an important issue for all of us, and is something that I campaigned hard for, and will continue to work on.

It is absolutely right that we invest in local health services and make sure that they best meet local needs, with a real focus on prevention, mental health, and keeping people well for longer - all helped by the significant boost to NHS spending we will be seeing nationally from the Government, of nearly £400 million extra a week by 2023.



It was great to have the backing of my county colleagues in fighting to keep Corby Urgent Care Centre open. All of our constituents rely on our first-class NHS and we work together to lever in more investment and secure ongoing improvements to it.

I am delighted that the future of our urgent care services is secured in the medium-term, and I welcome the fact the CCG has listened and delivered, but I will of course be making the case for these services in the longer-term too. It is also very good news that GP and nurse-based access is to be improved, and we are also working tirelessly to ensure better joined-up working between the NHS and social care services locally; all of which are key priorities for local people. ■

## MAKING SURE WE HAVE MORE POLICE ON THE BEAT, CATCHING CRIMINALS & DETERRING CRIME

Policing is an issue very close to my heart, as someone who grew up in a policing family here in our community, and it is an issue I consistently raise. We all want to feel safe on our streets and in our homes, and that is why I praise the commitment of our new Prime Minister to put 20,000 more police officers on our streets nationally, building on the 200 extra officers already being recruited locally by our Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner, Stephen Mold.

Having pressed for it for several months, I am also very pleased that a deal has now been agreed to locate a new policing base

at the Corby Cube. Given the recent concerns about anti-social behaviour, particularly in the town centre, this boosts frontline officer presence, whilst also providing a more efficient rapid response capability within the town.

Nationally, I also successfully campaigned for the new 'Policing Covenant,' which commits to giving Northamptonshire Police officers, and indeed those across the country, a guarantee in law that, as we have more officers out on the beat, catching criminals and deterring crime, they will be properly looked after and supported in their vital work and

that they will always have the Government's backing. This builds on the law change I helped to get through Parliament, which has toughened the penalties for those who disgracefully assault those who work in our emergency services.

Policing has been very high on my agenda, and will continue to be - not least because it comes up time and time again on the doorstep. Everyone has a right to feel safe in their community and I am also absolutely determined that we



Understanding what our police officers go through day to day in the line of duty is really important to me and I enjoyed spending a day out on the beat with PFCC, Stephen Mold, to see what the job really entails. 20,000 extra police officers nationally will undoubtedly be a huge boost.

have a duty as a society to do right by those who do so much to keep us, our families, and our communities safe, and I know we all appreciate their tireless work.

## IMPROVING OUR ENVIRONMENT - LOCALLY, NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY

Leaving a cleaner, greener, environment for our young people and future generations has always been a focus for me.

In our stunning Northamptonshire countryside, we are so lucky to have so many stunning rolling fields and woodlands. As I take in their beauty, I'm always left feeling that sense of responsibility that we all have a duty to ensure they remain

that way for generations to come.

As such, this has been a theme running through my work - pressing for a zero-tolerance approach to littering in our area, supporting efforts to cut down on needless waste and boosting recycling, including through initiatives such as the brilliant Repair Cafe and Refill Shop in Oundle, and backing

the Government's 'net zero' target for carbon emissions, which leads the way internationally. There is of course always more to do, but we really can all do our bit, and all those young people I meet on my many school assembly visits leave me in no doubt about their expectation that we must - for me, and for them, it's a no brainer. ■



## SERVING YOU AND SERVING IN GOVERNMENT

I was hugely honoured to have been asked to serve in the Prime Minister's first Government as an Assistant Government Whip, when he took office in July.

Whips are appointed by each party to help organise their contribution to parliamentary business and a big part of the role is to ensure that the Government has the number of votes required in order to pass its business. Given the enormous task of delivering Brexit on the 31st October, with the parliamentary arithmetic as challenging as it is, this work is perhaps more important than ever.

In terms of my role as your local MP, the only real difference local people will see is the fact that I am no longer permitted to speak in parliamentary debates, ask questions in the House, or sign Early Day Motions (EDMs).

However, serving in this role is a real opportunity to raise those same issues and concerns my constituents have at the very highest levels of



Government, and be sat around the table helping to shape Government policy in several Departments, and to have enhanced access to Ministers across Government, over and above that which a backbench MP has. Nothing else has changed and I am still working hard on local issues, concerns and constituency cases, day in, day out, and am around and about in our community, taking part in local visits to our schools and businesses, holding my weekly advice surgeries, and getting out there knocking on doors. ■

## DELIVERING BREXIT - NO IFS, NO BUTS

The 2016 EU referendum was an instruction, not a consultation, and like so many local people, I am hugely frustrated by the dither and delay we have seen, and I have consistently opposed any extension to our EU membership - not least because of the uncertainty it creates for both people and businesses alike, who simply want to know where they stand.

Ultimately, it is impossible to please everyone on this issue and I receive emails and letters from my constituents asking me to take just about every position possible on the subject. However, when I voted to hold a referendum in the first place, I voted to accept the responsibility to respect the verdict of the British people and to enact the result, whatever the outcome. In the event, 17.4 million people voted to 'Leave' the EU in the largest democratic exercise ever in this country, including a very significant majority of people here in Corby & East Northamptonshire. I respect their decision and leaving the EU is what we must do.

Regardless of whether you voted 'Leave' or 'Remain', or didn't vote at all, our country needs to come together, and beyond Brexit focus on the things that really matter to us here in Corby & East Northamptonshire. That is why the Prime Minister has my full support in delivering our departure - no ifs, no buts, and in keeping with the result - and then delivering an ambitious agenda for our country beyond it. ■





# Out & About with Tom

Week in, week out, I am out and about knocking on doors with the 'Listening Team' to hear your views - thanks to all those who have taken the time to chat!



I am continuing to work with our school leaders to help drive up standards and press for more additional funding to that we have already secured this year.

You will not find a greater champion of our union of nations in Parliament than me. Given our proud Scottish roots in Corby, I will always make the case that we are better together and oppose divisive second referendums that put it at risk.



It is terrific to see Rushden Lakes expanding, bringing even more new national retailers, new leisure facilities and over 4,000 new jobs to our area.



I was pleased to be there to break ground at the new 'Enterprise Centre' in Raunds – a great step towards making Corby & East Northamptonshire an even more attractive hub for enterprise and investment.



Tresham College do superb work with local businesses to provide quality training and apprenticeship opportunities, leading to rewarding and comprehensive career paths for our young people – something I am always keen to promote and support, and which I believe is an equally valid route to the academic.



I have really enjoyed taking part in so many school assemblies throughout the year - our young people always ask the toughest questions!



I am a regular visitor to the Corby steelworks - hugely important for our town and I have, and will always, do everything I can to support this vital industry.



It was great to run the London Marathon again, this time breaking the 4-hour mark and raising over £5,000 for two great causes in Corby Mind and Care after Combat!

# our plan

## for Corby & East Northamptonshire



- 1 DELIVERING ROAD IMPROVEMENTS & FIXING POTHoles**

I'm campaigning for comprehensive action on potholes across Corby & East Northamptonshire, whilst pushing for the earliest possible start and completion of significant road upgrades, such as the A45 dualling between Stanwick and Thrapston, the Chowns Mill Roundabout improvements, for the repairs to the North Bridge in Oundle to be carried out and for the Leyland Bridge to be rebuilt. I also continue to press for the crossing between Weldon and Priors Hall Park to be factored into the A43/Steel Road works.
- 2 IMPROVING LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES**

I'm delighted that, after a long and sustained campaign, Corby Urgent Care Centre is to stay open, exactly "as is" for the next three years and GP appointment capacity has been boosted. But I continue to campaign for further GP access improvements and new primary care services to ensure better care for local residents when they need it, and to keep people well for longer.
- 3 PROTECTING OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES**

I'm campaigning to protect the rural character of our stunning towns and villages from unwanted development plans and overdevelopment, and maintain vital community assets such as local libraries, banking services, buses and Post Offices.
- 4 CAMPAIGNING FOR NEW INFRASTRUCTURE**

I'm campaigning for the appropriate infrastructure to accompany new homes that are built – including new school places, a new Enterprise Zone in Corby to help further create new jobs and building on the significant fall in unemployment we have seen in what is the fastest growing town in the country, better access to broadband and improved rail services. It isn't just about building new homes - it's about building communities.
- 5 PRESSING FOR EXTRA POLICING**

I'm campaigning to ensure that Northamptonshire gets its fair share of the 20,000 extra police officers that the Prime Minister has promised, building on the 200 already being recruited in Northamptonshire through the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner's local scheme. I want to see more police officers out on our streets, catching criminals and deterring crime - and that is exactly what we will do.
- 6 ZERO TOLERANCE TO LITTERING**

I'm working with our local councils to ensure a zero tolerance approach to littering - we waste around £1 billion a year in this country clearing it up; money which could be far better spent on our public services, such as schools, hospitals and roads. Crucially, we also owe it to our environment to do better on this.