

MP Parish Report – September 2026

Summer Tour

As Parliament's summer recess comes to an end, so too does my summer village tour, at least for now. I still have a handful of meetings planned for October, but I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the past few months and the many residents I've had the pleasure of meeting across the constituency.

Wherever I went, certain themes came up time and again, particularly planning, roads, water infrastructure and ensuring that local services keep pace with the needs of growing communities. Alongside these wider issues, each village raised its own unique concerns, from the disappearance of Plumpton's post box to the ongoing challenges at Bishopstone Junction. The meetings also provided an opportunity for me to update residents on the national and international issues I have been working on in Parliament, including climate policy and defence, and to hear your views on matters far beyond the boundaries of our constituency.

I am incredibly grateful to everyone who took the time to attend, ask questions and share their experiences. These conversations are invaluable and help shape the issues I raise with Ministers, government departments and local authorities on your behalf. My thanks also go to the parish councils, local councils and community groups that worked so hard to organise and host these meetings. Their efforts helped bring people together and ensured that residents had the opportunity to make their voices heard.

If you were unable to attend this summer, there may still be an opportunity to join one of my final meetings in October. Otherwise, I look forward to getting back out across the constituency again soon to continue listening, learning and representing the concerns of local communities.

Our Railways

It was impressive to see Network Rail complete the clearance and reconstruction of the line so quickly following the derailment in Lewes. Having visited the site myself, I saw first-hand the scale of the challenge they faced. Their teams have worked tirelessly to deliver the repairs on schedule while minimising disruption to passengers and the local community as much as possible.

I have been informed by GTR that the Eastbourne to London Bridge service has been temporarily suspended while speed restrictions remain in place, and they have assured me that this is only a temporary measure. However, there are still important questions to be answered about why this incident occurred in the first place and I will be paying attention to the investigation carried out by the RAIB.

For too long, the South East has been treated as an extension of London when transport funding decisions are made. Our region has experienced significant underinvestment over many years, and we may now be seeing the consequences of that neglect. I will continue pressing for answers about the cause of the derailment and for the investment needed to ensure our railways are safe, reliable and fit for the future.

Remembrance and Christmas Services

As with previous years, I do try to attend Remembrance and Christmas events held around the constituency. If your parish or town are planning an event and would like me to attend, please contact helen.spearman@parliament.uk with details and I will endeavour to attend or provide a representative in my place.

Advice Surgeries

I continue to hold advice surgeries across the constituency. For security reasons, these cannot be advertised in advance. However, if you are aware of a resident who may need assistance, please encourage them to contact my office at james.maccleary.mp@parliament.uk

I will also be attending further events across our towns, villages and parishes over the next few months and look forward to engaging with residents during these visits.