

A259 Ministerial meeting

Traffic in Newhaven has become unbearable recently and I have had enough. The town is brought to a complete standstill, I have sought to work with East Sussex County Council to address residents' concerns but have been met with resistance to take any steps to alleviate pressure on the roads. During Oral Questions to the Department of Transport recently, I secured a commitment from the Minister to meet with me to see how the government can work with us to bring this traffic crisis to an end.

Assisted Dying

The biggest debate that has been taking place in the chamber recently, is that on Kim Leadbeater's bill on Assisted Dying. Hundreds of constituents have written to me with their very personal stories from both sides of the debate. Whilst I have been a long-term supporter of people's right to choose, I remain committed to reviewing the amendments as and when they are proposed and voted on to ensure this bill is fit for purpose.

Exceat Bridge

I recently attended the County Council cabinet meeting, where they agreed to proceed with a new plan to spend a further £11m to build the new bridge on top of the original commitment. It is baffling that the project has already spent nearly £5m without anything to show residents and I remain deeply concerned about how this project's costs have spiralled out of control. A simpler scheme that retained traffic lights did have its merits, as it would have lessened the financial cost and allowed for better investment in provisions for pedestrians and cyclists whilst also addressing speeding concerns.

UK-EU Summit

I recently represented my party in the opposition day debate on the UK-EU Summit. We discussed at length, the impact Brexit has had on our local fisherman, farmers, import and export businesses. I remain of the view that closer ties, through a customs union would provide a route to economic growth that our country so desperately needs. A youth mobility scheme is also in the best interests of our young people, as we should at a minimum be seeking to give our children the same opportunities that I was able to enjoy as young person. I will be scrutinising the detail of the government's "reset" as it emerges.

Broadband and Fibre Optic rollout

Thank you to the many constituents and local parish councils that have written to me about fibre optic rollout in their local areas. I have written to both the relevant minister and the BDUK, the agency responsible for bringing reliable broadband and mobile network coverage to rural areas, seeking reassurances that our part of Sussex will not be left behind. The current rollout plans leave our area with a patchwork of coverage that often excludes our rural villages, hampering our local businesses and residents from accessing the high-speed internet that we rely on in the 21st century.

Votes

I have voted on many bills and amendments over the past weeks, including various amendments to the Data Bill as it goes through parliamentary 'ping pong' between the Lords and the Commons and have supported a motion that would tackle sewage and pollution of our waterways.

Summer Tour

I have recently met with Rodmell Parish Council as well as the Chair of Westmeston and am looking forward to visiting as many of our Town, Parish Councils and Meetings over the summer recess as possible.