



MESSAGE FROM YOUR MP

WWW.NICKHURD.COM



This newsletter is designed to keep you in touch with some of the issues which I think will have a big bearing on quality of life in Ruislip, Northwood and Harefield. It is also a chance for you to come back and tell me what is important to you.

I am sorry that there has been such a long delay since the last edition. Anyway, we are back and aiming to deliver it to you at least every other month.

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77,780 SAY 'HANDS OFF MOUNT VERNON'

In March 2007, I launched a cross-party campaign to keep Cancer Services at Mount Vernon Hospital.

This was necessary because Hertfordshire Health Authorities wanted to move it to Hatfield.

Community Voice responded magnificently by organising a petition, which a staggering 77,780 people signed across Hillingdon, Harrow and Hertfordshire.

Thank you to everyone who signed the petition, which we have now delivered to the Minister of Health. As a result of your actions, we were able to send the strongest possible message to him and all the decision makers that the community wants to keep cancer services local. We cannot be complacent but the discussion was reassuring.



Delivering Mount Vernon petition to Ben Bradshaw MP, Minister of State, Department of Health

Update on Northwood Pinner

Many residents were upset at the decision to close Northwood Pinner Cottage Hospital. I met recently with the Chair and CEO of Hillingdon PCT to get an update on their plans and remind them of their promise to replace the Hospital with new community medical facilities on the site, and respect the war memorial. I will continue to hold them to account.

EUROPE TREATY

A large part of the last month in Parliament has been taken up with debates on the so called Lisbon Treaty, which replaces the rejected EU Constitution.

I took the view that this Treaty was effectively the same as the Constitution on which Tony Blair promised a referendum. While I believe that the EU and the Single Market does have an important role, I think we should have had a say about transfers of powers to Brussels on this scale. So I voted against the Treaty and in favour of a referendum.



NO TO THIRD RUNWAY AT HEATHROW!

I am opposed to a third runway at Heathrow, and am working closely with the MPs across West London to try and win the argument.

In February 2008, I wrote to the Department for Transport in response to their consultation document "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport".

In opposing any further expansion of Heathrow, I made the following points to the Department of Transport:

1. The impact on local residents' quality of life.

In effect the proposal is to bolt a new airport the size of Gatwick onto Heathrow. This will be devastating for communities that will be destroyed in the South of the Borough, but we will also be affected in the North. We can expect increased congestion on the roads and noise pollution from new flight paths over Northolt, Harefield and Harrow. Across London millions of residents will suffer the tyranny of noise pollution.

2. The business case is dodgy.

We are told that a third runway will be good for the economy. But when we fly abroad we spend £15bn more a year there than visitors do here. And the economy has not suffered over the last decade as other European airports have grown faster than Heathrow. Business is calling for "a better Heathrow", not "a bigger Heathrow".



3. Let's get serious about Climate Change!

We keep getting told that climate change is the "biggest challenge of our times" but we go on and ignore the 'carbon cost' associated with unchecked expansion of an industry that is the fastest growing source of greenhouse emissions. Expansion also ignores the more logical green option of directing public policy at making the rail alternative more attractive for the 25% of flights out of Heathrow that go to short haul destinations.

We were told that Terminal 5 was going to be the end of expansion. That was not true. This time we can take nothing on faith. It is time to say NO.

A FAIRER DEAL FOR HILLINGDON

Hillingdon Council Tax has had to rise to fund the cost of supporting asylum seekers who have exhausted all appeals and legally have no right to be in the country.

These costs should have been met by Government, which is a point that John Randall and myself have made in Parliament and in writing to the Home Secretary. We will continue to campaign for a fairer deal this year.



PROTECTING OUR SKIES

We are asking a great deal of our Armed services at the moment, and the Armed Forces Parliamentary scheme has allowed me to learn at first-hand some of the pressures that the RAF is currently under.



I recently visited a squadron that does the vital job of providing our air defence in this country against risks such as 9/11. It was a privilege to take to the skies in a Tornado, and a great relief for everyone that I avoided being sick!

WE WANT A REAL VOICE!

I find that people are becoming more and more frustrated about our lack of say in decisions that really shape the communities we live and work in.

Whether our concerns are about overdevelopment or the loss of key local services, too often we find that our voice is ignored.

Last year, I succeeded in taking through Parliament the Sustainable Communities Bill. This new law will address these very issues. Communities will be asked to put forward new ideas to make them more sustainable. Government will have to listen. We will have the chance to make the local voice heard more clearly. Over the next few months, I will be consulting you on what you think the local priorities are. In the meantime you can find more detail on the Act at:

www.nickhurd.com



I am opposing the closure of two post offices in the constituency. One on the High Street, Northwood. The other on Station Parade, Ickenham.

This seems all wrong. Neither is loss making. Both are highly valued by the community, not least the elderly and local businesses. And in the case of Ickenham, they are building a large new housing estate on the RAF West Ruislip site!

GREEN COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP

An appeal by Nick Hurd MP to residents of Eastcote and Northwood



I know many of us share a deep concern about climate change and the damage we are doing to the planet. I also know that many residents are frustrated by the condition of our local environment—streets and green spaces that are too often blighted by litter and graffiti.

I do not think we should leave everything to Government and business. We need to engage our community with the opportunity we all have to make small changes that will make a positive difference. Thinking more carefully about energy for example is good for the planet and good for our wallets. We need to build a sense of collective action that will make these changes seem normal.

Do you share this view? Do you live in Eastcote or Northwood? If so, I would like your help.

My plan is to set up a 'Green Neighbourhood Watch'.

A new grassroots, community action network that will:

1. Help residents reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by supplying good information, ideas and advice
2. Ensure that the local environment – our streets and green spaces – are looked after properly.

I am looking for pioneer members of this network. People who recognise the value of the environment and want to make a difference.

If you are interested in becoming a founder member of this network, I would be grateful if you could contact me in writing (either by email or letter).

I have many ideas on how this network could make a difference locally, and I very much hope that you will join me in this initiative.

ACTIVE IN PARLIAMENT

Over the past few months in Parliament I have:

- Taken my Sustainable Communities Bill through Parliament so that it is now a Law
- Been Promoted as an Opposition Whip
- Served on several Bill Committees, including the Joint Parliament Climate Change Bill Committee; the Criminal Justice Bill and the Housing and Regeneration Bill
- Ranked above average or well above average for the number of speeches I have made and the number of questions I have asked in the House
- Served on the Board of the Quality of Life Policy Commission, looking at Climate Change Policy
- Served as a member of the Environmental Audit Committee that holds the Government to account for its environment policy
- Secured a debate on the blocking of Harefield Hospital's application for Foundation Trust Status
- Served on a cross-party inquiry into nationwide epilepsy services
- Served on cross-party inquiry on the link between childhood leukaemia and high voltage power lines



Nick Hurd being interviewed by Adam Boulton of Sky News about the Quality of Life Policy Report on Climate Change

CONTACT NICK

Want to know more about what I am doing?

Go to:
www.nickhurd.com

to find out more about the work I do for Ruislip, Northwood and Harefield

Promoted by Nick Hurd MP of
128 Hallowell Road, Northwood,
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As your MP, I am here to help you whether you voted for me or not. If you need help or advice, please contact me.

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I hold Surgeries by appointment.
Please contact Ann at the constituency office to arrange a time.

