



MESSAGE FROM YOUR MP

WWW.NICKHURD.COM



NEW SHADOW MINISTER FOR CHARITIES, SOCIAL ENTERPRISE & AND VOLUNTEERING

Dear Constituent ,

Welcome to the eighth edition of my 'in-touch' newsletter. I hope that you enjoy reading about what I am doing on your behalf .

Your input is very important, so do let me know if there are any issues which you think I should give priority to

May I take this opportunity to wish you a very happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

In October, David Cameron asked me to be his new Shadow Minister for Charities, Social Enterprise and Volunteering. I was delighted because I know how important the voluntary sector is to our society. Just think what would happen in our community without our charities and volunteers. Mount Vernon would not be the same without the charities that do such extraordinary work around the Cancer centre. Police stations would be open even fewer hours. Fewer children would get extra help with their reading. Magistrates; school governors; carers; scouts - the list goes on. Charities and volunteers give us so much of the glue that sticks communities together and we need to value them more.

Of course a brutal recession will make life harder for them. We know that demand for their services will rise as the most vulnerable people need more help but what will happen to their income as we tighten our belts?

So, I am delighted to have the chance to play what part I can in making life easier for anyone involved in running a charity or a voluntary organisation. Here in Hillingdon, we have a vibrant sector and I am delighted that the council has adopted a target to increase by 2010 the number of volunteers active in the area by 1,500 .

Perhaps you could be one of them? Why not make it a New Year's resolution to give more time to help other people ? You can contact the Volunteer Centre at HAVS office on 01895 4452730 or visit their website on www.havs.org.uk

SUPPORTING CHARITIES IN PARLIAMENT



In Prime Ministers questions recently I got the chance to ask what support the Government is planning to give for charities facing financial problems as a result of the banking crisis.

For video see www.nickhurd.com/speeches
Image courtesy of the Parliamentary Recording Unit

SUPPORTING CHARITIES IN THE CONSITUENCY



Charity Shops play an important role in raising much needed funds . I recently visited the Barnardo's store in Eastcote, where I was delighted to find one of my father's novels!

If you have a charity event you would like me to support please get in touch.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Charities	1
Heathrow	2
Local Hospitals Update	2
Asylum Victory	2
Sustainable Communities	3
Out and About	3
In Parliament	4
Contact me	4

HILLINGDON MPS UNITED ON HEATHROW

On 11th November, Members of Parliament got the chance to debate the proposed expansion of Heathrow Airport. The idea is effectively to put a new airport the size of Gatwick into the South of the Borough. This will be devastating for the communities involved and I am clear that it will have a very negative impact on our lives in Ruislip and Northwood with the planned new flight path and increase in traffic on the roads. I have worked closely with all three Hillingdon MPs who spoke at the debate to stress the fact that Hillingdon speaks with one voice on this issue.

We were told that Terminal 5 was the end of expansion. However, that was a lie so what are we to believe now? Where will it end? My view is that enough is enough, not least if we are serious about climate change. I think people want a better Heathrow, which is not the same as a bigger one.

The Government have deferred the decision until next year.

MOUNT VERNON UPDATE

It feels like we are winning the campaign to keep Cancer Services at Mount Vernon.

You may recall that in February 2007 I launched a cross-party campaign to counter the risk of the Centre being moved to Hertfordshire. The response was outstanding, with over 78,000 residents standing up to be counted by signing a petition which I delivered to the Minister responsible, together with representatives of Community Voice.

In October I was asked to respond to a discussion document from the PCTs that commission local cancer services. I am pleased to say that of the three options outlined in the document, the PCTs are recommending that 'Option A: Moving the Cancer Centre to a District General Hospital', is dropped.

Although this is a positive response, I argued that it is time to end the uncertainty surrounding Mt Vernon and for the PCTs to commit once and for all to 'Keep Cancer Services at Mount Vernon'.



Debating Heathrow Expansion in the Chamber

For video of speech, go to www.nickhurd.com/speeches

Image courtesy of the Parliamentary Recording Unit

HAREFIELD HOSPITAL

Since being elected, one of my priorities has been to support Harefield hospital, which has faced too many threats to its future. It was good to welcome the Prime Minister to the Hospital recently and I am now working in support of the Trust's bid for Foundation Trust Status, which will give it independence.



Taking part in the Harefield Hospital Fun Run - raising vital funds for the Hospital which enjoys fantastic support in the community.

CHILD ASYLUM SEEKERS VICTORY FOR HILLINGDON

Hillingdon had an important victory in securing £4million of Government funding to cover the historic costs of supporting asylum seeking children who arrive at Heathrow.

This is a result of a long standing, cross-party campaign by the Council, supported by all three local MPs. It allows the Council to set a zero increase in council tax for the next two years.

"I would like to thank our three local MPs... for their consistent and demonstrable support".

Cllr Ray Puddifoot

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT

I am really proud of our campaign to take my Private Members' Bill through Parliament. The Sustainable Communities Act exists because people want more power to protect and shape the area in which they live.

It is now up to Local Authorities to respond to the opportunity. In October, the Government sent out invitations to Local Authorities asking them to put forward ideas for new powers they need to help them promote more sustainable communities. I hope that Hillingdon will be one of many Councils stepping forward.

It is time to hear your voice. What would you like to change in Ruislip, Northwood and Harefield so that we can keep it a great place to live and work? What are your local priorities? What would you like to protect and maintain? Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- Reclassifying gardens as Greenfield sites so that they cannot be bulldozed by greedy developers;
- Giving Post Offices greater freedom to offer products and services so that more can stay open;
- Requiring developers of large housing projects to deliver more green spaces.

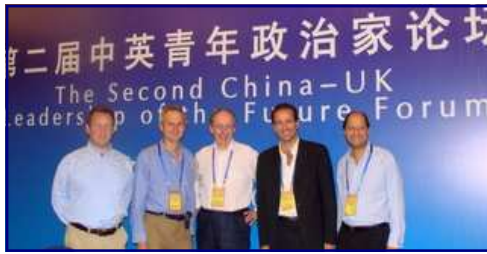
Email or write to me with your ideas (see contact details on page 4). If you would like more information on the Act, go to:

www.suscomms.org.uk

OUT AND ABOUT



Celebrating Harefield Academy with the Headmistress Lynn Gadd, Harefield Councillors and the Sponsors.



I was lucky enough to visit China this summer and participate in an Anglo-Chinese 'Leaders of the Future Forum' in Beijing.



Judging the impressive exhibits at the Ruislip Horticultural Show.



Opening a new business in Northwood.



Over one hundred people completed their vocational certificates at the JGA groups Centre—I presented them with their certificates.



Supporting the Young Savers initiative at Newnham School.

Would you like me to come and visit your school? Contact the constituency office on 01923 822876

Would you like to visit Parliament? Email me at hurdn@parliament.uk

ACTIVE IN PARLIAMENT

Since returning to Parliament after the Summer Recess I have:

- Served on the Committee that scrutinised the ground breaking Climate Change Bill;
- Continued to Serve as a member of the Environmental Audit Committee, contributing to reports on The Export Credits Guarantee Department , Vehicle Excise Duty as an Environmental Tax and Carbon Capture and Storage;
- Received constituents lobbying on behalf of Diabetes UK, The British Beekeeping Association and Breakthrough Breast Cancer;
- Seen the number of constituents helped by us since the Election rise to over 2,700 people;
- Held the Government to account over the use of public affairs agencies by public sector bodies;
- Become a member of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Social Enterprise and the All Party Parliamentary Group on the Community and Voluntary Sector;
- Met with representatives from more than 20 charities, volunteering organisations and social enterprises and spoken at over twenty events;
- Helped launch the Sustainable Communities Act; the Private Members' Bill I took through Parliament..

What issues matter to you? If you have a burning issue you wish me to take up get in touch!

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, Middlesex HA6 1DU
on his own behalf

As your MP, I am here to help you whether you voted for me or not.
If you need help or advice in these difficult times , please contact me.

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I hold Surgeries by appointment.

Please contact Ann at the constituency office to arrange a time.

