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Anna Soubry MP working hard for Broxtowe

www.annasoubry.org.uk

E-newsletter | September 17 2013

"If only all ministers answered questions like Anna Soubry does." *David Aaronovitch, The Times*

"she has a record of unusually free speech" *Simon Carr, The Independent*

"part of the beating heart of the parliamentary Tory party" *Quentin Letts, The Daily Mail*

Hello again,

Having spent a hugely enjoyable morning at the Heritage Open Day events in Beeston, I was looking forward to joining the great Stapleford litter pick in the afternoon. Sadly, it was cancelled due to some problem with the various Councils - enquiries are underway! They did have a very successful morning though, so well done Richard MacRae and team. I also enjoyed Friday evening's prize night for Awworth Cricket Club and Saturday's Headcase Ball (reports below).

I shall be in the Madhatters Cafe, Kimberley, for a drop-in surgery on Saturday morning, so please come along for a chat, tea and great cake from 10am onwards.

as ever,

Anna

Let the Bull and Monkey do the business!

It was pleasure last night to sample (again) the delights of the New White Bull in Giltbrook which is now officially an "asset of community value". This follows a decision by the current owners, Greene King, to sell this excellent Broxtowe pub. However, they have refused an offer from the Blue Monkey brewery over the road, to match the price offered by a developer. I make no secret of being a



fan of Blue Monkey and whole heartedly support their plans for the New White Bull.

Accordingly, I have written to Greene King asking them why they have turned down Blue Monkey's offer and asking them to reconsider.

Greene King did the right thing with the Forrester's Arms in Newthorpe. A sale to Blue Monkey would secure the future of the New White Bull, allow a great local business to expand and enhance Greene King's reputation.



Beeston Heritage success and tram meeting update

I opened the Beeston Heritage Day at Barton House on Saturday.

A rich variety of groups gathered to exhibit life in Beeston over the last century and earlier. Old Barton buses and vehicles were on display along with stalls from local Guides and Brownies, the Beeston Photographic Society and the Beeston Historical and Civic Societies.

There were an astonishing number of events on offer over the four days and my wholehearted congratulations to the Beeston Civic Society for such a marvellous event.

[Click here to read more about the Civic Society](#)

Tram work meeting with Nottingham City Council

Yesterday I met City Council leader Jon Collins and representatives from the County and Borough Councils. Unfortunately Broxtowe were unable to provide a Councillor for this important meeting about a hardship fund for businesses and traders affected by the closure of Chilwell/High Road and how to improve life for residents living in the construction site that is Lower and Fletcher Roads.



I do have good news (which I am sharing privately with traders at this stage) in relation to a hardship fund.

Meanwhile, I am prevailing on Broxtowe Borough Council to be flexible on providing residents with 3m fences if they want them! Goodness me it's the least they can do given what people are putting up with.

I think communications are improving though only today I learnt that an opticians had been given no warning of work which has made access to their car park very difficult. Yet another matter I will take up directly. As they say, we keep "begging on"!



Awsworth Village Cricket Club

It was an honour and a treat to assist Sarah Ball and present the prizes at Awsworth Cricket Club's end of season party.

They have had a very good summer - weather wise and game wise.

And on the subject of cricket, even though I can't go to Lord's, I will be cheering on Notts on Saturday in the final of the YB 40.

Headcase Ball

Saturday evening's Black and Red Ball was a great success and congratulations to Colin Speirs and the team. They are now heading off to the Pyrenees for a week-long bike ride to keep up the fundraising. Meanwhile, I have asked to meet Brain Tumour researchers to see what more the Government can do to encourage even better research.

[Click here to read more about Headcase...](#)



Former brewery site needs careful development - as part of regenerating our town centres and "High Streets"

I popped in to yesterday evening's "Save Our Brewery Site" meeting with the owners of the former Hardy and Hanson's brewery in Kimberley to discuss their plans for its future.

Those plans have now been submitted to Broxtowe Borough Council for planning permission and will be available on their website later this week.

We all agree we want to see the site being developed without delay. However, there is widespread concern about plans to demolish the listed Maltings building. I have a number of other concerns.

I'm all for more homes on brown field land like the Kimberley Brewery site and I'm all for affordable housing - which is not the same as social housing. There needs to be the right mix on the site.

My other concern is about the viability of any scheme that includes shops.

There is general agreement that retail is never going to return to its more recent halcyon days and we need to “do” our High Streets very differently.

A recent report, The Grimsey Review, highlighted the reality we must address if we are to save our town centres and High Streets; it also offered up some solutions.

Largely due to the Internet, shopping has changed and the old days will not return. But you can't try on shoes on the Internet nor have your hair cut on the web, so there will always be a need for shops and the like. But the harsh truth is that many people nowadays go for something to eat or drink and happen to shop, as opposed to only a few years ago when we went to shop and happened to have a coffee or a meal.

I am coming to the conclusion we need to make our town centres and High Streets “hubs” - places where transport links converge bringing people together; spaces where people live and work, eat and drink, where they access leisure and health services and yes shop and spend money. But they need all these elements to survive. So instead of rushing to allow housing on our Green Belt, our Borough Council should be looking at more homes in our towns for people of all ages and all pockets and taking a radical, realistic and modern approach to our town centres!

With the Retail Park on its edge, Kimberley Town Centre faces an additional burden so it is vital any development at the Brewery Site complements the existing shops, businesses and cafes. And the “hub” idea based on public transport links, will resonate with Beeston residents who long for a better town centre. The Grimsey Review singled out the redevelopment of Nottingham Station as a huge wasted opportunity - let's not repeat the mistake in Beeston!

These are all matters I will be raising in next week's meeting with Broxtowe Borough Council.

[Click here to read the Grimsey Review...](#)

Equitable Life - more good news

The Equitable Life collapse in 2000 left many policy holders with vast losses and many constituents contacted me to ask for compensation. After the 2010 general election, the Chancellor announced that compensation would finally be paid to those with policies starting after 1992. Then in this year's Budget, compensation was extended to people whose policies pre-dated 1992. A few days ago George Osborne announced those payments will be made earlier than planned - this financial year.

Working for you in Parliament

Expenses and Costs

MPs' costs and expenses have been published. When you add up all the costs and expenses I am 5th out of the 11 Notts MPs with a total spend of £154,488 for 2012-13 this compares with my predecessors 2008-09 total of



£169,199 under the old expenses regime.

My office, travel and personal accommodation costs total £50,109. My constituency office cost is £24,197 because all my team now work in the constituency office at Barton House, High Road, Chilwell.

This meant I had to increase my office space (you are more than welcome to come and see us as many constituents do) and that means my office rent, approved by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, has gone up.

On the positive side for the tax payer my staff salary bill is lower.

[Click here for my web site with more details and links on the Expenses and Costs page...](#)

[Click here for the IPSA web site...](#)

Making sure your views count

Earlier this year constituent Carole Cooke contacted me after she was left stranded on the platform at Beeston Station when her pre-booked “assistance” failed to help her onto the train on her mobility scooter.

I took up her complaint with East Midland Trains and then suggested Carole give written evidence to the Transport Select Committee inquiry into Disabled Access to Transport, which she did.

The Committees report has been published today (link below). One recommendation is that disabled rail passengers, like Carole, should not have to book assistance to get on or off a train - it should be there in any event.

The Select Committee Chair, praised Carole on BBC Radio Nottingham today for her evidence which she said had been considered by the Committee. As her MP I am pleased to have helped Carole have her say.

[Click here to read the full report...](#)

[Click here to read the recommendations and report summary...](#)



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