

# Caroline Dinenage

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Issue 4

Your local MP reporting back from Westminster



## MP for Gosport, Lee-on-the-Solent, Stubbington and Hill Head

Welcome to the March edition of my newsletter reporting all my news from Westminster and the Gosport Constituency.

It's certainly been a busy month in our area with the unveiling of some fantastic new projects. I recently attended the launch of the Greening Campaign in Lee-on-the-Solent, which aims to show how everyone can play a part in tackling climate change. By getting local schools, community groups and businesses to champion small lifestyle changes, this campaign proves that individuals really can help to save our planet. I was also inspired by the philosophy of the newly founded Gosport Older Persons Forum. This organisation urges us all to 'grow old disgracefully' by providing support and services to allow older people to live life to the full.

These grassroots groups show just how much we can achieve as a community. This thought stuck with me when I opened the new extension at Rowner Bowling Club. It was built in response to escalating demand for membership, with club members themselves contributing the skills & resources to get the job done. With such a great ethos of teamwork it's easy to see why the club is so popular!

Another great venture in Gosport is the 'Beyond Horizons' family learning project, which has organised activities for children and given their parents more confidence in helping them to learn. At the recent celebration of its work, my own children had a brilliant time joining in with all the fun.

I was reminded of how important it is to provide support for parents when visiting the Haven Early Years Centre. I'm committed to protecting the Sure Start Centre there, which provides crucial help for local families. My tour of our schools has continued, they are always informative, allowing me to understand the needs of pupils and teachers at schools in Peel Common, Elson, Lee-on-the-Solent and Bedenham.



*Caroline with Jeremy Hunt, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport*



*On her tour of local schools*



*Asking about the no-fly zone over Libya in the Commons*

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*At the opening of the Rowner Bowling Club extension*

Yet despite all this great work, further challenges lie ahead for Gosport. I recently met with the CEO of the Maritime Coastguard Agency to discuss the future of the Coastguard in our area. I'm working to secure a commitment that the Coastguard will continue to be based around Gosport. I also held a very constructive meeting with Babcock, who manage our military estates, to see how we can maximise their use. I had a useful meeting with the Detention Forum regarding Haslar Immigration Detention Centre. And I took the chance to quiz the Secretary of State for Culture, Media & Sport, Jeremy Hunt, about the School Sports Partnership, when I spoke at a breakfast meeting for him in Farnham.

Another big issue for our constituency is transport. We all know what a nightmare the roads onto the Peninsula can be, so I've been looking into establishing a lift-share system to ease congestion. I've also started a project with local firm, Lucketts Travel, using their state of the art road monitoring equipment to work out where traffic flow could be improved on the A32, and we will present our findings to the County Council. They can use this information to improve the flow of traffic. I hope that these innovative approaches may start to address the awful congestion on our roads, but I'm committed to exploring further possibilities to make your commute better.

The plight of Gosport commuters was also highlighted in a debate in Parliament, where I supported Portsmouth MP, Penny Mordaunt, in calling for improvements to the Portsmouth-London train service. Debates this month have also focused on the intervention in Libya, and I took the opportunity to stress the proven and ongoing value of Type 22 frigates in such conflicts. I've also held valuable discussions with the Home Secretary on tackling drug abuse and the issues caused by late night licensing, and with John Hayes, the Minister responsible for skills and apprenticeships.

Finally, I was delighted to welcome an excellent beer from Gosport's very own Oakleaf Brewery into the House of Commons Bar this month. It was great to be able to promote a unique Gosport product here in Westminster, and one which everyone certainly enjoyed sampling!

Hopefully that has given you a brief insight into my projects and campaigns. Please feel free to contact me at any time about any issues or comments you have.

Best wishes,

*Caroline*



*Introducing Oakleaf Brewery's beer into the House of Commons*

## GET IN TOUCH

I receive a huge amount of emails, calls and letters every week – I have built up a super little team in Westminster and Gosport who help me respond to people as fully and as quickly as possible. I spend most Thursdays and every Friday working in the constituency and have a weekly surgery which has proved to be very popular! Feel free to contact me on any issue, or to find out when my next surgery is.

**Constituency Office:** 02392 522 121

**Westminster Office:** 020 7219 7078

**Email:** [caroline.dinenage.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:caroline.dinenage.mp@parliament.uk)

**Website:** [www.caroline4gosport.co.uk](http://www.caroline4gosport.co.uk)

**Address:**

House of Commons,

Westminster,

London,

SW1A 0AA.