

# Caroline Dinenage

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Issue 5

Your local MP reporting back from Westminster



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

I hope you all enjoyed the Bank Holidays and the fantastic weather of the past month. Despite the holidays there has been a lot going on in Gosport and in Westminster - and not just in the Abbey!

At the start of the month I had the pleasure of joining the team of Street Pastors helping people on the streets of Gosport late at night. They are famous for handing out flip-flops to young ladies whose party-shoes have bitten the dust, but they do so much more and it was wonderful to have a chance to talk to the volunteers and see firsthand the truly inspiring work that they do.

Another vital resource in our community is the Children's Heart Surgery Unit at Southampton Hospital, which delivers exemplary care to children locally and nationally. I am campaigning against the proposed closure of this world-class specialist unit and met with staff from the Hospital to lend my support.

I have also held a useful meeting with the Head of Children's Services at Hampshire County Council to discuss the protection of Sure Start Centres, along with post-16 education and other issues. I am committed to ensuring that the most vulnerable in our community always have the support they need, and recently spoke in a debate in Parliament to confirm my support for Sure Start.

The Parliamentary recess afforded the opportunity for many more vital meetings in the Constituency;

I met with the Fareham and Gosport GP Commissioning Group to discuss their plans for collaborative work across practices and designing services to meet the needs of patients in the area. It is clear that they know their patients and communities better than anyone, and are best-placed to decide how money should be spent on healthcare locally.



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I also met with Chief Inspector Jason Kenny from Gosport Police for, what we hope, will become a regular fixture, giving us the opportunity to exchange information and discuss the practical implementation of Government policy.

I must admit that I wasn't exactly looking forward to my visit to the Peel Common Waste Treatment Centre. In reality it was about as far removed from my preconceptions of a 'sewage farm' as you can get. It was fascinating to meet Southern Water employees and learn about the amazing work they do – I was especially impressed at how spotlessly clean the Centre was given the very nature of their work!

I also had a good time attending some exciting events in Gosport this month. My family and I had great fun at the World War II event at the Explosion Museum, complete with historical re-enactments and real explosions. It's fantastic to see such an innovative and successful event taking place in our area. It was also a pleasure to be invited to open the new play area at Leesland Park, although I was definitely outshone by the real star guest, Peppa Pig!

Finally, today you will be asked to vote on whether an Alternative Voting system (AV) is used - I take the view that elections should be won by the person with the most votes .... sounds obvious doesn't it? But that is not always the case under AV - the Labour Party used it to elect their leader, so you can see my point .... as can David Miliband! Our current system may not be perfect but, generally speaking, it delivers the country a swift and decisive result in General Elections. AV would lead to more hung parliaments and post-election backroom deals. When the system delivers a hung parliament we make the best of it in the national interest, but a permanent coalition is not good for our country and so I urge you to vote No to AV to ensure they don't become the norm.

Best wishes,

*Caroline*



## 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.

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