



Alex Brewer MP

Monthly Newsletter

October in Review

Hello everyone!

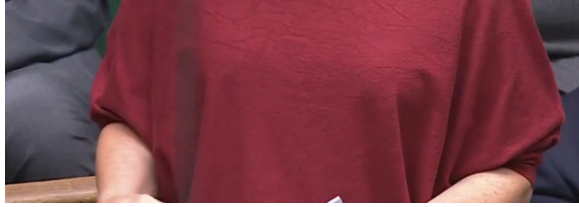
October was big.

- **We've had some big wins in Parliament:** on military homes, bereavement leave, and human rights.
- **My team and I have had some big wins in the constituency:** helping to save a wedding and a community hall roof.
- **I've had some big meetings with pillars of the community:** including schools and environmental groups.
- **And some big newsworthy events:** publishing a Select Committee Report and appearing on BBC Politics South.

In fact, it's been too big to mention it all, but keep reading to find out more!

October Highlight: Big Win for Military Families





Alex asking the Defence Secretary whether he'd support bringing military accommodation in line with the Decent Homes Standard.

Our military personnel, and their families, make huge sacrifices for our country, and yet far too frequently they are let down on the basics, like access to decent housing.

For far too long, too many service families across the country have had to put up with dire conditions including pest infestations, black mould, damp, flooding, and unreliable heating and hot water.

I know from my correspondence with service members at RAF Odiham that this issue has affected some members of our local community. Our area's deep military ties are a source of pride for many local residents, myself included, and so this came as a real shock.

Consequently, I urged the Defence Secretary to correct this injustice, asking him in the Chamber whether he'd support bringing military accommodation in line with the Decent Homes Standard.

Truthfully, I was not especially optimistic. The Lib Dems have been campaigning hard on this issue in recent years, but had so far been met with nothing but resistance from the current and previous parties in government.

Therefore, I'm thrilled to say that the Government will be following through on this change. This is a very pleasant surprise that will make a huge difference for military families, helping them live with the dignity and security they deserve.

Those who serve our country shouldn't have to write to their MP asking for help with mould or damp. Going forward, I'll be pushing for any required upgrades or repairs to commence without delay, as well as for further improved housing standards for all local residents.

Casework Highlight:

Victoria Hall Nears Fundraising Goal



The problem

- The Victoria Hall charity forms the heart of the Hartley Wintney community, bringing together people of all ages for on-screen entertainment, live music events, family and community gatherings, and regular clubs and classes.

- However, after it was discovered that the Hall's roof had suffered some serious damage, the charity found itself having to raise £40,000 to pay for the cost of repairs.
- Without these repairs, it would be forced to shut down due to health and safety concerns, and so its future was suddenly put at risk.

How we helped

- The charity's fundraiser was spotted by a member of my team, who reached out to offer some support, having researched and prepared a bespoke list of grant options.
- From these grants, the charity was able to raise £10,000, bringing its total collection to more than £38,000 to date, after the wonderful local community raised an amazing £28,000.
- As a result of this astonishing success, Victoria Hall has been able to continue serving as a safe, functional, and welcoming space for local residents, with repair work set to start soon.

Reflections

- It's been a pleasure working with the Hall's team, and I'm so glad we've been able to help them with their target, helping to preserve an invaluable community institution.
- If you know anyone else who might need my help, please do get in touch by emailing **alex.brewer.mp@parliament.uk**
- Due to the volume of cases I receive, I have to prioritise responding to those who require my most urgent assistance. If you are currently waiting for a reply to your question, please know that I will get back to you as soon as I can.

14 Days, 7 Schools



During Autumn recess, I had a big focus on schools, visiting 7 local schools.

I went to a wide variety of schools to get as full a picture as possible, with a mix of state and private, primary and secondary, and mainstream and special needs.

There were consistent themes:

- Children always ask great questions!
- SEND need is rising.
- The curriculum needs

Environment Roundtable



I hosted my second North East Hampshire Environmental Roundtable this month, following the success of our inaugural event earlier this year.

These events bring together groups and organisations from across our community who are working together for the good of our environment, fostering the collaboration we need to produce meaningful change.

It's always interesting to learn

Basingstoke Canal Society



I always appreciate being able to get involved and engaged with our local community, and so I gladly took the chance to speak with trustees and volunteers on one of the Basingstoke Canal Society's action days.

Serving as a site for all sorts of local leisure activities, North East Hampshire wouldn't be the same without the Canal, and it's one of my favourite parts of the constituency.

- to be more engaging.
- Schools are being asked to be it all for kids.
 - Staff are working hard, but circumstances are tough.
 - Underfunded buildings are causing expensive problems.
 - Local teachers strive to deliver quality teaching.

more about what these groups are doing, and to discuss ways in which we can continue to work together including how I can help in Parliament.

They always cover a huge range of topics from how we can promote nature and biodiversity, and combat issues like sewage dumping, which has had such an impact on our area.

As such, I enjoyed getting to help with, and learn more about, the Society's invaluable work to ensure local people can continue to enjoy this treasure.

While there I bumped into Accessible Boating, and got to see how they enable people with mobility or socialising difficulties to enjoy the Canal as well!

Want to Get in Touch? Contact Me!

It's an honour and a privilege to serve as your MP for North East Hampshire, and I'm committed to working hard to repay this trust by being the best MP I can be.

My number one priority will always be helping and supporting my constituents. If you live in the North East Hampshire constituency, you can contact me via the channels listed below, and my team and I will get back to you as soon as we can.

- You can email me at: **alex.brewer.mp@parliament.uk**

- You can leave me a voicemail at: **020-7219-7560**

- You can write to me at: **Alex Brewer MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA**

I'm here to represent you, and this monthly update is just one way I hope to keep you informed and engaged.



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