



Alex Brewer MP

Monthly Newsletter

November Highlight: The Budget

The biggest story in British politics this month was, without a doubt, the Budget.

It dominated the news cycle all month and, even in October, the papers were full of discussion and speculation.

And, all in all, I think this was a real missed opportunity for the Government to deliver some real change for those who are struggling.

We did see some big Lib Dem wins:

We've campaigned for the removal of the 2-child benefit cap for many years:

- This policy resulted in more children growing up in poverty, and so its removal was part of our manifesto.
- I'm glad to see it scrapped; this is estimated to lift around 350,000 children out of poverty.

I'm also pleased to see increased taxes on online gambling:

- Online gambling companies are making enormous profits from something that can cause harm.
- We should tax them at a high rate to fund services to help with addiction and other negative impacts, just like we do with other harmful products, like tobacco.

But, there was a lot of disappointment as well:

The Government is not doing enough to help our high streets:

- Small businesses' face soaring costs due to the rising price of energy, exorbitant business rates, and last year's hike in Employer National Insurance Contributions.
- I would have liked to see the Chancellor listen to our campaign to cut VAT by 5% for hospitality venues, and boost spending by removing the renewable levy from people's energy bills.

It also fails to recognise the damage it's done to farmers:

- The Family Farm Tax, cuts to the farming budget by £100mn, and closure of sustainable farming schemes have cut deep this year for our local farms.
- We'll continue to campaign for the Government to reverse these damaging decisions, and provide proper support for farmers; this would have made for a much better Budget.

And it refuses to build a constructive, mutually beneficial relationship with the EU:

- The Government constantly talks about growth as its top priority, and this is something it could achieve if it looked to deepen our ties with the EU.
- The elephant in the room is that a new customs union with our biggest trading partner is the most logical step towards achieving this aim.
- We're missing out on £250 million per day in tax revenues due to Brexit; starting to put things right could have been a big boost for the economy.

Casework Highlight:

Local Carer's Bureaucratic Nightmare

The problem

- We all know how stressful it can be when suddenly you find your finances thrown into disarray by something you weren't expecting.
- For almost half a year, my office has been working to support a constituent whose Carer's Allowance was denied when a payroll error showed them as having 2 incomes.
- HMRC and DWP were taking months to resolve the problem, failing to communicate properly with each other all while the constituent was left short of the money she needed to support her loved one.

How we helped

- A member of my team got involved to liaise between HMRC and DWP, requesting that HMRC correct the constituent's details so that DWP could issue their Carer's Allowance.
- These requests were then fulfilled, and the constituent was able to obtain the funds they were owed, totalling almost £2500.

Reflections

I was pleased that our team was able to help with this problem, especially when we received a kind message from the constituent:

"Thank you so much for your help and perseverance, I wouldn't have got there without you. You don't know how much this means that somebody is actually willing to listen and try and help me here!"

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.

Honouring Our Service Members



Our area has a proud military tradition and it was an honour to attend services in Odiham and Fleet this year, laying wreaths to remember those who fought and died for our freedom.

We must never forget their sacrifice.

Calling for More Women in Politics



Did you know only around one third of Councillors are women?

On Ask Her to Stand Day, I called for us all to help support more women get into politics, to continue the push for equal representation.

If you know any brilliant women who you think could make a difference on a local council, or in Westminster, please encourage them to get involved.

Raising Awareness with a Smile



I coaxed my fellow Lib Dem MPs into wearing fun moustaches, crocheted by a constituent during their chemotherapy sessions, to raise awareness of men's health issues.

This was done as part of Movember, an awareness and fundraising campaign focused on major health issues affecting men, such as prostate cancer, testicular cancer, and suicide.

Celebrating Nationwide's Commitment to our Area



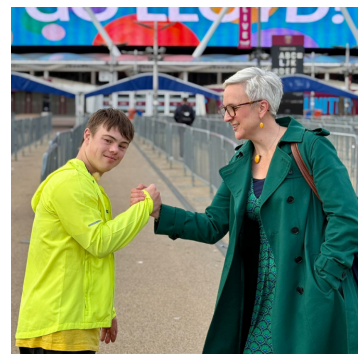
It was my pleasure to reopen the new Nationwide branch on Fleet high street, speaking with the bank's staff to learn more about how they support our

Working to Make Frimley Park More Accessible



I asked the Secondary Care Minister to ensure that the Frimley Park Hospital rebuild location has appropriate transport links for local

Supporting a Heroic Local Charity Fundraiser



Lloyd the Legend ran a triathlon to raise money for BBC Children in Need and Stepping Stones DS, a local charity that I used to work for.

local community.

Recent bank closures are meaning there are far fewer places to attend a branch, pay in or take out cash.

As such, I'm glad that this new branch will ensure that the option of an in-person banking service remains available to those who need it.

residents.

With RAAC concrete a major concern, it's important that this rebuild progresses quickly, but it must also be done correctly.

Having worked with the Hospital to improve some of the most pressing transport issues reported to me by many of you, I know that accessibility is key to the new site's success.

Lloyd has Down Syndrome, and is a shining example of how, with the right support, we can all achieve amazing things.

It's been such a joy to see Lloyd's journey and to encourage him on the last day of his triathlon. I couldn't be prouder of him or Stepping Stones DS.

Protecting our Rivers from Sewage Dumping



I spoke in a debate on the Planning and Infrastructure Bill to continue my push for greater environmental protections for our chalk stream rivers.

North East Hampshire is home to 3 chalk stream rivers, which are incredibly diverse, but fragile, ecosystems that have unfortunately suffered greatly due to sewage dumping.

This is why I'm campaigning to ensure they're protected from further harm.

Pushing to Help Small Businesses with Energy



Many small businesses like hair salons are struggling with continuing high energy bills because they can't reduce consumption.

So, I asked the Energy Minister what plans he has to support small businesses struggling with the high cost of energy, calling for greater support for local enterprises.

Salons and hospitality bring people to our town and village centres. We need to be supporting them.

Talking Politics with Greenfields School Pupils



I met some students from Greenfields Junior School, in Hartley Wintney, during their trip to Parliament to answer their questions about politics; what it is, and why it matters.

It's so important that we get young people involved in politics and, from their thoughtful questions, it was nice to see that our future is in good hands!

Thank you to the students for their questions, and to all the teachers and staff involved.

Do You Need Help with an Issue? 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.



Published and promoted by Mike Dixon on behalf of the Liberal Democrats, 66 Buckingham Gate, London,
SW1E 6AU

Hart Liberal Democrats
66 Buckingham Gate
London, England SW1E 6AU
United Kingdom

(Unsubscribing is not supported in previews)