



Alex Brewer MP

Monthly Newsletter

January Highlight: Carrying on the fight for local hospitals

This month I continued my work pushing for the Government to do right by local people on our hospital rebuilds. This came as both Frimley Park Hospital and Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital saw major announcements regarding their future.

Frimley Park Hospital

With Frimley Park Hospital in phase one of the new hospitals programme, I'm pleased our community is getting the new space it needs, particularly as the cost to secure the current buildings that have RAAC concrete is so high.

However, as with any property deal, the three most important factors for the new Hospital are: location, location, location, and this remains an area of significant concern.

Access and transport to the current site is challenging at the best of times. Whether it's the lack of public transport options, or long car park waits for those who are able to drive, making appointments on-time is too often left up to chance.

I have worked with the Hospital's team on these issues, and I'm pleased that they have, for example, provided some additional car parking spaces. However, these problems must not carry over to the new site.

The new hospital must come with the transport and infrastructure funding to make it accessible for everyone. I have raised this with the Hospitals Minister and New Hospitals Programme team, and continue to work closely with them and other MPs on the developments.

Basingstoke Hospital

Meanwhile, we had more bad news for Basingstoke Hospital. The Government's plan is to start the re-build around 2037, but a National Audit Office Report revealed that it's unlikely to open its doors until 2045 - 15 years later than its original 2030 target.

This is a delay that the current buildings simply cannot sustain, and it will cost £52.9 million just to clear the current maintenance backlog. Now, taxpayers will end up spending more to maintain the old buildings than they will to build the new ones.

The Prime Minister assured me that he would "see the hospital built", but he didn't say when. Given that he hasn't seen the state of the buildings, he clearly doesn't think that this is a priority, but local people cannot afford any more delays.

Conservative chaos and Labour inaction has brought our hospitals to their knees. It has to stop, and so I'm pushing the Government to bring this timetable forward.

You can support this effort by signing my petition below:

alexbrewer.uk/campaigns/rebuild-basingstoke-hospital

Casework Highlight: Grange Estate Clubhouse



Alex speaking to Grange Estate residents at a community meeting held at the Clubhouse.

I'm thrilled to share that demolition of the Grange Estate Clubhouse, which was due to take place on 2nd February, is now on hold.

The residents have spent tireless hours working, researching and liaising with many organisations to protect this building. They contacted me, and my team and I helped advance the case.

After a conversation with the site's Trustees, they have agreed to work with me, local residents and the management company on a solution that works for everyone.

Meanwhile, appropriate ecological surveys will also be conducted to safeguard any bats that may be inhabiting the current building.

This is likely to take several months, and so I have asked the developer to ensure that the clubhouse remains open to residents during this period.

On the 26th, I met with affected residents who told me how much they use and value this community space, so I'm very pleased to have been able to help them retain a vital local hub. I will share any further updates as and when I receive them.

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.

Social Media Safety



Two important, interconnected issues affecting children are social media and phones in schools, and there's been much debate about whether these should be banned.

There's a lot to consider, and so I wrote a letter to constituents explaining my views. This also outlined the Lib Dems' new plan to restrict access to social media platforms based on the risk they pose to young people, and give Ofcom the teeth to take on big tech and ensure swift compliance.

Troublesome Trains



So many of us face regular commuting challenges and I raised these issues when I visited the SWR operating centre in Basingstoke and spoke to operational staff.

I've called for better timetabling and will be feeding into the consultation on this matter soon. I've also called for a railways passenger charter to ensure higher standards and better accessibility for rail users. Missing appointments because of rail delays should be rare, but it's currently far too common.

Help for Hospitality



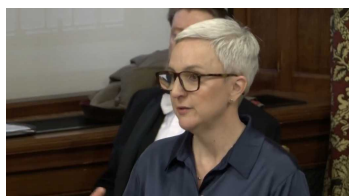
Small businesses are the backbone of our high streets, bringing people together and providing vital jobs. But the Government has let them down and many are struggling.

I have joined my colleagues in calling on the Minister to provide a better taxation system because business rates are not fit for purpose. To discuss this and more, I visited the Spice Merchant pub to hear about the challenges they are facing in the wake of last year's disastrous budget decisions.

Working for All Women



Dementia in Hampshire



Local Tech Triumphs





Thousands of local WASPI women have been betrayed by the Government yet again, and so I wrote to the Secretary of State to urge the Government not to continue this injustice.

Internationally, I worked with politicians from the UK and the Gambia on issues for women in the Gambia, from health to representation, as part of a Commonwealth Parliamentary Association delegation.

Listening to Local Farmers



It was my pleasure to host a roundtable meeting with Danny Chambers MP and local farmers to discuss the Family Farm Tax, rural crime and environmental protection measures.

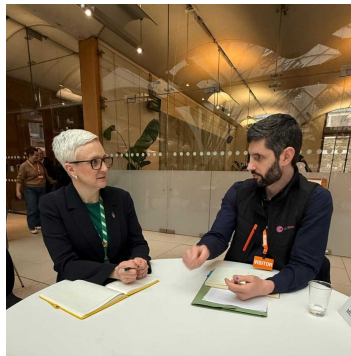
Danny grew up on a farm and, as a professional vet, has worked on farms all across the South of England. I appreciated having his expertise available when navigating such vital issues for our farmers.



Dementia care in Hampshire is under significant pressure; I have personal experience with a relative who could not get a diagnosis, and I know many of you will have similar stories.

This can cause immense hardship and suffering, and so I pushed for the Government to provide greater support for local Dementia care, during a Westminster Hall debate on Dementia in Hampshire.

Better Local Broadband



To keep up with the growing demands of our digital age, rural communities need urgent access to high-speed broadband and I raised this with the Minister in a debate on the topic.

I then met with CityFibre to hear an update on their gigabit broadband rollout in our area. As more commercial services are installed, CitiFibre is reviewing where its network is best placed.



North East Hampshire is a thriving local tech hub, and so I met with tech businesses, in Hook, to learn what more can be done to support this growth, and how I can help.

I visited Surface Technology International, who support our critical military infrastructure, and officially opened StorTrec's new office, which will provide local support to other nearby tech firms.

Advocating for Animals



From their own personal pets to our wide selection of wonderful wildlife, local people care a lot about animals, and so I've been working to ensure that their wellbeing is looked after.

I visited Elanco Animal Health, in Hook, to learn more about their work, attended a debate on animal welfare, and registered my concerns about weakening protections for important habitats.

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**
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- You can leave me a voicemail at: **020-7219-7560**
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- You can write to me at: **Alex Brewer MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA**
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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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