



Harborough

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WESTMINSTER Report

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Garnier campaigning against eco-town proposal

EDWARD Garnier recently held a meeting with Housing Minister Margaret Beckett in the House of Commons to discuss the proposed eco-town between the A46 and the A6 in Harborough. He invited Leicester MPs Sir Peter Soulsby and Keith Vaz, whose Leicester South and East constituencies will also be affected by the Co-op's plans to build an eco-town.

Edward said, "We were all able to tell the Minister in no uncertain terms that there is cross party opposition to this new town, from all affected constituencies and local authorities."

During the meeting Edward informed Margaret Beckett about the independent Halcrow Report commissioned jointly by the four relevant local authorities, the County and City Councils, Harborough District and Oadby & Wigston Borough Councils, partly funded by the DCLG, which has poured water over pretty well every aspect of the project.

Edward also stressed that there are 12,000 empty dwellings in the City and County which need to be brought into use before we mess up one of the prettiest parts of the County and block a green lung for the City.

Many Harborough constituents are

opposed to the eco-town and feel that the consultation process has been unfair. Earlier this year protesters gathered at the Royal Courts of Justice in London, after being excluded from the consultation process by being asked what they would like to see in the houses, rather than whether they should be built in the first place.

Edward concluded, "We are not against development or more housing; what we want is for it to be built in the right place. No one apart from the number crunchers trying to make money for the Co-op believes that this site is anything other than wrong. What's more, no rational person believes the Co-op's story that it will bring up to 14,000 new jobs to the new town."



Harborough MP meets local businesses to discuss the economy

EDWARD Garnier has met with fifty local business people working in Harborough, Oadby and Wigston at a lunch organised by Lubenham businessman and consultant Ed Pain at the Foxton Locks Inn. The lunch was provided by Bob and Stephanie Hamblin, proprietors of the Inn.

Edward said, "Clearly people are worried about the state of the economy as a whole, about the lack of credit in

the system and the refusal or inability of the banks to open up lines of credit, even though only a few months ago

they were almost trying to force borrowing onto businesses and individuals. Unemployment is rising and confidence is on the wane. Whilst it is not hard to see what is happening from reading the newspapers it is essential for me as the MP to hear first hand from my constituents about local conditions, about the problems they are experiencing and suggested solutions, both long and short term.

"We are in for a long haul but it is essential for me to take the pulse and to know what is going on. I am very grateful to Ed Pain for organising the event and hope we can repeat the exercise before too long. I will pass on what I heard today so that Harborough's concerns get straight to the top."

Edward also spoke at a conference, 'The Recession Beating Meeting' organised by Harborough District Council on 3rd April.



Local MP meets new Police Inspectors

EDWARD Garnier recently met the two new local police commanders covering his constituency, Inspector Lindsey Taylor, the Commander of Oadby & Wigston Local Policing Unit (LPU) and Inspector Neal Holland who commands Harborough LPU.

Lindsey Taylor has returned to front rank uniformed duties after a spell in plain clothes doing intelligence work - she had been working out of the Police HQ in Enderby - and Neal Holland has been working in Hinckley. Both have already got their feet well under their respective desks and are getting out and about meeting local residents and getting to know the sergeants and constables under their command.

Edward said, "We are fortunate to have such a strong team and dedicated officers in all ranks serving my constituents."

Promoted on his own behalf and paid for from his Communications Allowance by Edward Garnier QC MP, 24 Nelson Street, Market Harborough, Leics LE16 9AY

Getting involved with Woodland Grange Primary School's Skipathon



WOODLAND Grange Primary School recently took part in a skipping challenge as part of 'Sainsbury's Active Kids' healthy living scheme.

Pupils of the Oadby primary school were challenged to skip as fast as they could for two minutes. 350 children took part, and the winner Sophie Mansfield from year three managed an impressive 225 skips.

Garnier opens children's play area in Foxton

LAST August, Edward Garnier MP opened a newly refurbished children's playground next to Robert Monk Village Hall in Foxton. The improvements to the play area were thanks to fundraising by the Foxton Society totalling almost £5,000. This funded various pieces of equipment including a rocking seat, a roundabout and a noughts and crosses board, amongst others.

Edward said, "Thanks to a lot of people's hard work and effort a huge sum of money has been raised to equip the playground. This playground and this new equipment are provided by voluntary donations. They represent something selfless and generous and life-enhancing and it is acts of generosity like this that make living in a village like this one so attractive and worth-while."

HARBOROUGH PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY

If you need help or advice, contact your Member of Parliament

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If you think that a group or organisation would benefit from a visit from Edward Garnier then do get in touch. He would be pleased to hear from you. Surgeries are held regularly. To obtain details please call:

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