

Christopher Fraser MP: Working for you

Your MP: what the papers say

CHRISTOPHER FRASER SPEAKS OUT FOR NORFOLK FARMERS

FRASER WORKS HARD WITH GATEWAY A11 EAST TO GET SUPPORT FOR DUALLING

FRASER MOVES FORWARD TO SAVE SWAFFHAM HOSPITAL

NORFOLK MP HITS OUT AT HOME INFO PACK SCHEME

MP WORKS WITH COUNCIL TO IMPROVE ROADS

FRASER: 'RURAL RAIL NETWORK MUST NOT BE SIDELINED'

MP WANTS MORE DONE TO HELP POORER FAMILIES

Thetford schools' specialist status bid backed by local MP

CHRISTOPHER FRASER CALLS FOR ACTION ON FLOODING MEASURES

FRASER: " WE MUST TACKLE PENSIONER POVERTY"



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Your MP: what the people say

"It is comforting to know we are not without a "champion" in the vast corridors of Parliament." Mr W, Watton

"Thank you for the work that you have done" Mr M, Upwell

"We cannot express how much your help means to us" Mrs S, Downham Market

"Thank you for taking the trouble to reply to my pre-printed cards. Many MPs have not bothered in the past." Miss D, Thetford

"Your prompt action has helped a great deal. Thank you" Mrs C, Swaffham

"The speed with which things started happening was unbelievable, after your intervention" Mr and Mrs G, Downham Market

"Christopher seems genuinely interested in his constituents" Mrs S, Garboldisham

"I am reassured that you are keeping a close eye on this situation" Mr S, Shipdham

"Thank you very much for helping my daughter" Mr P, Outwell

"Many thanks for your continued personal involvement" Mr T, Mundford

"I am very pleased you are my MP and take this so seriously" Mrs M, Thetford

"Just the fact that you tried to help means more than you will ever know" Miss C, Attleborough

"The work you have carried out on my behalf has far exceeded my expectations" Miss C, Watton



Christopher Fraser MP

South West Norfolk

Report

2008 Newsletter

'Coming to a town or village near you!'

Christopher Fraser uses a converted horse trailer as his mobile office to visit the 45 villages and 5 towns in the South West Norfolk constituency, spread over an area of more than 1,000 square miles.

"It is very important for me to get out to meet the community and listen to your concerns. But I have one of the largest constituencies in England, so I cannot have a base everywhere. My mobile office is a modest but comfortable place for people to meet me and discuss issues that they want to bring to my attention. I also take it to local events such as village fetes. I will be locally advertising my programme of dates, to give people advance notice of when I will be in their neighbourhood. Please call me if there is a need to see me and we will coordinate that request with my ongoing programme. My contact details are on the back page."

Christopher Fraser



STANDING UP FOR THE RURAL ECONOMY

Christopher has spoken many times in the House of Commons calling on the Government to recognise that farmers and **those living in our rural towns and villages are being penalised for the benefit of people in metropolitan areas.** He told Ministers "Norfolk so often gets a raw deal in Government spending. To make matters worse, DEFRA chooses to gold-plate EU Directives, proving how out of touch they are with farmers and the agricultural sector. We are paying more for food and fuel. It is time that Ministers recognise that for us living here, using a car is a necessity not a luxury.

"To add insult to injury, Ministers plan to impose restructuring of local government in the county, with council tax payers picking up the cost. **I shall continue to press home the point that a one size fits all urban policy is entirely inappropriate for Norfolk.**"

SAVE OUR LOCAL POST OFFICES



The fight to keep our local post office network is coming to a head. Post offices are a vital part of our social fabric and local community which must be preserved. The Government has announced that 2,500 branches will be shut over the next two years. In a cynical and highly political move, it has recently emerged that the consultation that precedes the closures will be suspended in the run up to the local elections in May. However, by the time of the next General Election this Government will have closed over one third of the entire Post Office network.

"There is a better way which would prevent wholesale closure," says Christopher Fraser.

"We should give sub post offices the freedom to offer a wider range of products. Our pensioners and families without transport rely on the post office for their everyday needs. I am fighting for every post office under threat in my constituency, because I know how vital they are to rural community life. Please sign up to my campaign."

Support Christopher's campaign - see back page.

See inside for more on:

Our emergency services ... Speed limits ... Raves ... The A11 upgrade ...

JOIN CHRISTOPHER'S CAMPAIGN TO SAVE OUR POST OFFICES

Save Our Post Offices!

Over the last decade, the current Government has closed 4,000 post offices across the country - another 2,500 are earmarked for closure by 2009. Post offices are a vital part of our social fabric and local community, which must be preserved.

I/we support Christopher's campaign, calling on the government to reverse the funding decision to keep your local post offices open.

Name:

Address:

Telephone number:

Email:

Please fill in and send this coupon to Christopher Fraser MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.





"Time for progress on the A11", says MP

Christopher is still working hard to pressure the Government to upgrade the A11 between Thetford and Fiveways at Barton Mills. The success of this campaign would bring huge financial benefits to the region. It is estimated that the project could generate £135 million from productivity benefits to local firms and over £500 million from time savings for road users. Local businesses would be boosted by more outside investment, which would in turn create the level of economic growth that the region deserves.

Christopher says: "Following an encouraging meeting last year with the Transport Minister, the Highways Agency was instructed to start statutory preparation work, but there is still much to do. The Government must be convinced to act now and not later, so that we can unlock the true economic potential of Norfolk. I have secured a second meeting with the Transport Minister and will be urging her to give the upgrade the national priority it deserves."

"Lower speed limits past schools", says Christopher Fraser MP



One of the most frequent complaints that Christopher receives from parish councils and constituents is about the speed and weight of traffic through villages, where there are no calming measures, no cameras and no police presence to enforce safety. Many local residents live in fear of serious or even fatal accidents because of reckless and entirely inappropriate speeding by a few irresponsible drivers hurtling past their door or along roads that children use to walk to school.

"My own view is that speed limits should be reviewed," says Christopher, "I think it crazy that I can legally drive at 60mph on a rural single track lane while many dual carriageways are limited to 50mph. I would welcome a reduction in speed limits on village roads. I have given my support to a campaign started by local parish councils which calls on the Government to treat roads past schools as a special case and to impose a national speed limit of 20mph.

"I shall be presenting a petition to the House of Commons, which urges the Government to take action. It is a small measure which might just save lives."

EDP Endorses Fraser's call for new powers to crack down on Raves

"I am delighted that the Eastern Daily Press has expressed its support for my campaign" says Christopher Fraser. "Nearly every weekend, winter and summer, another rave takes place with resultant damage and destruction. I receive countless letters from distressed constituents who face unbearably loud music, anti-social behaviour, "hundreds of revellers just yards from their front doors and the prospect of clearing up drug paraphernalia and human waste afterwards".

"These events trample on the rural economy, which is already struggling as a result of extreme weather conditions and animal disease. Rave organisers reap the benefits of minimised costs and no tax, yet landowners and farmers constantly have to pay huge amounts of money in clean-up costs after raves on their land".

"Last summer I secured a Parliamentary debate on this issue. Although the Minister was supportive, there has been little progress, so in February I presented to Parliament a Ten Minute Rule Bill that seeks to amend the current regulations. If successful, my Bill would expand the definition of a rave, and would create two new offences of organising a rave and transporting sound equipment for use at a rave. By clamping down on the organisers it will be much easier for the Police to use intelligence gathered to prevent raves and penalise appropriately those who see raves as a get-rich-quick formula, irrespective of the nuisance they cause".

"I have urged the Government to support my Bill. It is high time the rights of the law-abiding majority were protected".



Swaffham Community Hospital - the campaign heats up!

Last year, local people played a vital role in convincing Norfolk Primary Care Trust just how important our community hospital is to Swaffham and to the west Norfolk area. Christopher presented a petition to Downing Street and made certain, through public and private meetings, that the PCT was aware of massive public support for continued intermediate care at the hospital. The campaign won the hospital a reprieve but the PCT decided that the current hospital will be too small as the population grows.

Christopher says: "Before Christmas, I called together the PCT, Breckland District Council, Swaffham Town Council, Swaffham GPs and the Friends of Swaffham Hospital to discuss the next step. Since then the PCT has been working with all the stakeholders to assess the needs of the local population and to develop firm proposals.

"I strongly believe that public consultation is vitally important on community projects like this, and I am delighted that the PCT Board agrees. As soon as firm proposals are on the table, a 3-month consultation will take place, with final recommendations going to the PCT Board in July. This is two months quicker than originally expected, and means that stakeholders and local people will have clarity in the near future."

Fraser: "A fair deal for our emergency services"

Christopher is continuing to campaign for a fair deal for our emergency services. Christopher says: "Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service tell me that it is not unusual to have as many as ten fire engines unavailable during the working day due to problems in the recruitment and retention of retained duty fire fighters, upon which the Service depends. This is just one of many issues faced by the county's Fire & Rescue Service that I have raised with the Minister responsible. I will not stop pressing the Government on this until the Service feels it has adequate resources to carry out its work."

Christopher has also given his full support to the Police Fair Play campaign. "Not only has the Government let the Police down on pay, the Home Office has failed to meet the funding requirement identified by Norfolk Constabulary that would enable them to put officers where the public want them," says Christopher, "Yet again, the hard-pressed Council Tax payer will have to pick up a greater share of the bill. I am urging the Government to address these funding shortfalls proactively to ensure our Police Service is in the best possible shape to meet the heavy demands placed upon it."

Working for Local Groups



Sport relief: Raising money for charity



Promoting Biofuels



District Council briefing



In our villages

Awards to schools



CHRISTOPHER FRASER MP

Working for You



Official visits



Talking to the media



At Westminster



Addressing a school council

Working for South West Norfolk



Speaking up for charities



With our emergency services