



16th June 2017

Hello

Welcome back to my Parliamentary E-bulletin. The last 6 weeks have been somewhat hectic as you can imagine but now I am getting back to business as usual and continuing my on-going work for Taunton Deane in Westminster.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being back on the ground full time and personally meeting so many of you. It is hugely valuable to be able to talk to so many people, to hear their thoughts, concerns and ideas for both Taunton Deane and nationally.



Election 2017

Once again I am honoured to have the privilege of being re-elected as the Member of Parliament for Taunton Deane and I must thank the 33,333 people who put their trust in me to continue representing my home area in Westminster. A huge thank you too to all those who got

involved in the campaign in so many ways, it was wonderful to know that I had such a body of support behind me.

I fought this campaign the same way I did in 2015, positively, honestly and without resorting to personal attacks. I was heartened to see that the people of Taunton Deane embraced this style of campaigning and I would like to assure everyone that this is the way I will continue to operate throughout my time in Parliament.

If you want to see the full local result, with all the figures and changes, it's [here](#) on the BBC website.



What now?

For the past two years I have given this job my all, speaking up for the constituency and working with relevant stakeholders, to raise Taunton Deane up the national agenda and this will not change.

I have delivered, or set in motion every one of my 2015 election pledges. Working with a team I have attracted £300m of central Government funding to Taunton Deane for a wide range of infrastructure projects, many of which will help to address congestion issues. These include the upgrade of the Toneway, the Creech Caste junction and expansion of J25 on the M5. Attracting funding for key projects continues to be a priority especially in terms of infrastructure around the much needed new housing developments locally where getting the Garden Town

framework established is crucial with an emphasis on such areas as provision of green spaces and improved cycle ways where possible.

The business community is the lifeblood of the area and I'll keep working to ensure businesses small and large can thrive. Part and parcel of this will be making sure this Government's welcome commitment to broadband and mobile coverage is seen on the ground. I shall also continue to champion the natural environment and rural areas. My work with local stakeholders and local authorities to increase the art, culture and sport offer is ongoing with ambitions for an iconic artwork in Taunton and more to do on the Wellington Monument Restoration project.



The National Result

In terms of the election, the Conservatives achieved more votes and more seats spread right across the UK than any other party so it is right that we form a government. It is essential to provide security and stability and to maintain the buoyant economy the Conservatives have presided over, with its record employment levels, low taxes, and increased living wage. However, having listened to concerns on the doorsteps of Taunton Deane I am convinced that more attention must be given to our schools, to social care, our public sector and our young peoples' futures. Crucial to this is securing the right deal for Britain as we leave the European Union. Without this our economy will be jeopardised and the

services we all want and need will be affected. I'm informing debate on this in Westminster and in particular engaging on policy relating to the environment, food and farming, which represents the largest sector in the region with a remarkable 45% of EU law relating to it. We must get this right.

A358



So, back to business.

Due to both the County Council and General Election the consultation for the proposed upgrade of the A358 has now been extended to 16th July.

I urge all my constituents to complete the consultation and let Highways England know what you think. You can do so [here](#).

I worked hard to secure the money for the upgrade (which has been called for over many years), with a lot of both public and private lobbying, and this has only been possible with a strong economy.

However it is now vital that we get the route right, delivering the right outcomes for Taunton Deane and the wider region.

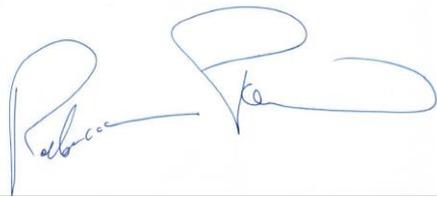
I have already met with many constituents regarding the consultation and received much correspondence. I am meeting with the Secretary of State for Transport to raise a number of concerns next week.

Continued Commitment

In my maiden speech I vowed to be a hard-working constituency MP and I believe I have been, dealing with over 10,000 emails, sending over 20,000 letters and meeting hundreds of constituents since being initially elected two years ago. I shall continue in this vein as I strive to help make Taunton Deane the very best place it can be in which to live and work.

My office is fully functioning again now so do get in touch and as ever share your views with me as they really matter.

All the best

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca', written over a horizontal line.

Rebecca

PS In case you missed it – check out Pickles the alpaca [HERE](#) out on the campaign trail – and yes he really did bring me luck!