

"she has a record of unusually free speech" Simon Carr, The Independent
"the beating heart of the parliamentary Tory party" Quentin Letts, The Daily Mail

Hello again,

This is a long newsletter with important news about Toton Sidings and HS2, further public consultation on UK plans for opencast mining, the tram works, why I will be voting in favour of same sex marriage on Tuesday, dates for your diary and much more.

So, please read on!

As ever,
Anna

Toton Sidings and HS2 - let's work together

Further to my last email I have had a very positive conversation with the Labour leader of Broxtowe Borough Council, Milan Radulovic, about the future of Toton Sidings and the implications for the Green Belt land which includes the Sidings (apologies for any misunderstanding in my last email newsletter).



I am very pleased that the Conservative opposition on the Council is working with the Labour/Lib Dem group who control the Council, to reach an agreed policy based on our joint view that an HS2 station/hub at Toton Sidings is to be welcomed and provides a remarkable opportunity for the constituency. I should add that we need to remind ourselves HS2 will not be coming to us for at least 20 years.

I have urged three overarching principles; firstly the Borough Council must work and consult with the people of Toton and Stapleford and must not act with haste.

Secondly, development at Toton Sidings should be primarily about the creation of businesses and therefore jobs.



Thirdly, that we must retain the principles of Green Belt land – namely to prevent coalescence and preserve open green spaces and in particular to protect those areas of land that are especially valued by people in Toton (notably the areas where trees were unlawfully felled and the fields and green spaces adjoining existing homes).

I will continue to oppose plans to build 750 houses on Toton's Green Belt - the huge opportunity HS2 brings to Toton Sidings in the next twenty years, should not be used as an excuse to rush through excessive housing development.



East Midlands Ambulance Service

Following a string of complaints I wrote to the Chief Executive of East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) and as a result we have met.

EMAS accept that they have not been meeting the standards we all expect of a modern ambulance service, notably in relation to those elderly people who have fallen and then waited in pain on the floor for an ambulance.

I then took part in a Parliamentary debate on the subject and raised the issue in the local media.

I am still collecting stories from constituents about the failings of EMAS and will continue to raise them with the service and at a Government level. I am also working with fellow East Midlands MPs. If you have a complaint then please email me on anna.soubry.mp@parliament.uk

Transport matters

The grateful thanks of many motorists are passed on to the anonymous tram worker (the man in yellow) who intervened on Friday to unstick a huge jam in Beeston. I had rung the police but our hero stepped in before they could arrive. I will be asking NET to sort out the lights and barriers opposite Central College (see below) to keep traffic flowing.

I have met the Secretary of State for Transport, Patrick McLaughlin. Despite his concern, Patrick is unable to intervene over plans to close Chilwell and High Road to traffic (the shops and businesses will remain open so please use them!).

In relation to the closure of Nottingham station, this summer, Patrick has agreed to write to the Highways Agency to urge them to make sure their work on dualling the A453 has minimum disruption to passengers using East Midlands Parkway.





BT Complaints

I am accumulating a rather large file of complaints about BT especially following their recent failure to provide a proper service to Chilwell residents in the Cator Lane area. If you have had a problem with BT please email me on

anna.soubry.mp@parliament.uk asap as I will be meeting with them in the next few weeks.

Broxtowe/Castle/South Notts (pew!) now it's Central College

To many it will always be Broxtowe College but it is now officially called Central College. Whatever the name it's a great place and I wish the staff and students (my neighbours) all the best.



Open cast Consultation closes Feb 11

Notts County Council have opened a further public consultation on UK Coal's proposals for opencast mining between Cossall and Trowell. I have made a submission and would ask everyone opposed to the plans to do the same. Please click [here](#) for more details on my web site including a link through to Notts County Council. The closing date is February 11th.

Dates for your diary and surgery details

Saturday 9 February:

Surgery 10 - 12pm, Beeston Library. Please call the office for an appointment.

Saturday 9 February:

Nuthall Green Belt Public Meeting

From 2pm til 4pm at Mornington Primary School.

Saturday 9 February:

Chinese New Year Celebrations

From 10 am til 4pm throughout Beeston. Click [here](#) for more details.

Saturday 16 February:

Drop In Surgery Tesco Toton

From 10 am til 12pm

Out and About

Chamber of Commerce meeting

My thanks to Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Chamber of Commerce for organising a meeting a week last Friday. It was a frank exchange of views from a good mix of local businesses. There was some encouraging news about the state of Broxtowe's economy in the wake of the latest figures which show unemployment continues to fall.



From Parliament

Same sex Marriage/ EU referendum/ Boundary changes

Same sex marriage

Tuesday will see the second reading of the Bill to allow people of the same sex to marry. My intention was to hold a public meeting on the issue between the first and second reading but the short period of time has not allowed that. I will hold a public meeting between Tuesday's vote and the third reading (assuming Parliament votes in favour of the Bill). I have also asked to meet the congregations of a number of pastors and priests.

Regular readers will know that I am in favour of same sex/equal marriage having thought carefully about the issue and having listened to both sides of the debate as advanced by constituents in conversations, letters and emails. I will be voting in accordance with my own views which are in favour of changing the civil law whilst protecting the rights and freedoms of churches, faiths and religions to set their own rules on marriage. No-one will be forced to conduct a "gay marriage" and it will not be imposed on any church, faith or religion.

I have received a large number of emails in a short period of time so will not be able to reply personally to everyone before Tuesday, though I will in the next few weeks.

With few exceptions the emails and letters I have received are well argued and heartfelt.

I have been repeatedly reminded that I have a very slim majority and told by many in no uncertain terms they will not vote for me in 2015 if I vote for the Bill. One church handed congregants a letter this morning saying "As Ms Soubry only narrowly won the seat of Broxtowe at the 2010 General Election, she will probably pay particularly close attention to the views of her constituents, especially on issues that are likely to have a major bearing on how constituents will vote in future elections. You may therefore have a significant influence on how your MP votes on same sex marriage".

If I lose in 2015 because of voting in favour of same sex marriage then so be it, but I place principle and belief before any perceived electoral advantage. In short, I believe a young gay person should have the same expectation and right to marriage as their

straight sister or brother. I respect the views of those who do not agree with me on same sex marriage, I hope they will respect mine.

EU Referendum

I supported the Prime Minister's announcement that a future Conservative Government will hold an EU referendum in 2017. I am a member of a new group of Tory MP's who want to remain in the EU and believe it needs reforming and that we need a better relationship with the EU.

Boundary Commission proposals

I voted for the Boundary Commissions proposals to cut the number of MP's by 50 and make constituency sizes considerably fairer. Labour and the Lib Dems voted against the proposals with the result that I now cannot look forward to representing Gotham, Barton and Thrumpton after 2015 but hope to continue to represent people throughout Broxtowe!

And finally...

I didn't choose the best of words but my message was clear. Obesity and overweight is a serious problem across society and in particular amongst those from the most deprived of backgrounds. 13% per cent of 11 year olds from the most privileged backgrounds are obese; 23% of 11 years from the most deprived backgrounds are obese. In women, of the most wealthy 19% are obese; in the least privileged 30% are obese. It matters in human and financial terms. In human terms - those less advantaged than the rest have enough problems in their lives without the added difficulty of being obese which reduces their chances of a long happy healthy life. In financial terms overweight and obesity is reckoned to cost our NHS £5.2 billion a year.

Contact Anna Soubry MP

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