

eNews

from Valerie Vaz MP

Walsall South

November 2013



Valerie and Chairman of Darlaston Town FC meet with FA

 On Thursday 27 November, Valerie organised a meeting with Mr Neil Chambers, Chairman of Darlaston Town FC and Mr James MacDougall of the FA to discuss what help the FA can provide to secure the long term future of the club. The Club was unable to start the 2013/14 season owing to financial difficulties and has been working to raise £5000 to be able to start the "2014/15 season—a figure it has now nearly achieved."

Valerie said: "Darlaston Town FC has been an important part of the community in Darlaston for over a century. I am keen to keep the pressure on the FA to honour the FA Chairman, Greg Dyke's recent pledge to support grassroots football in order to develop talent for the England team."

Payday Loans Charter

 Valerie signed the Charter to Stop the Payday Loan Rip-Off on Tuesday 12 November and called for tougher regulation of payday lenders.

Valerie said: "Payday lenders are exploiting and misleading millions of people. The Charter calls for proper regulation of lenders to stop them lending to those who can't afford to pay them back."

"Following pressure I am pleased the Government will cap the cost of credit charged by payday lenders. But this is not enough. We need action to protect people from being trapped in debt from unaffordable lending, irresponsible advertising and bank accounts being raided through the use of Continuous Payment Authority."

Remembrance Sunday

 On 10 November, Valerie attended the Remembrance Sunday events at the Cenotaphs in Walsall Town Centre and in Darlaston. Valerie took part in the ceremonies and laid wreaths in memory of the fallen.

Health Question

 Valerie asked the Health Secretary on Tuesday 26 November: "One way to ease the pressure on the NHS is by not handing the £2.2 billion underspend back to the Treasury. Will the Secretary of State consider using it for the NHS?"

Valerie said: "The lack of confirmation from the Health Secretary is worrying. I assume this indicates that there is an underspend and that it has been returned to the Treasury rather than invested in under pressure A&E departments."

Salisbury Primary School, Darlaston

Valerie said: "Last week I visited Salisbury Primary School for Parliament Week. This is an initiative to engage people with democracy. I spoke with Year 6 and asked them some questions about Parliament. The class knew that the Speaker chairs debates in Parliament and keeps control by saying 'Order, order'."

Health Committee

 The Health Select Committee of which Valerie is a member is currently undertaking inquiries into Public Health England, Public Expenditure and the Management of Long Term Conditions.

Valerie said: "I questioned Public Health England on its report on fracking which said the practice does not pose a risk to public health, despite 75% of the chemicals used being toxic. I asked why the research was not peer reviewed, but did not receive a satisfactory response."

"I asked Care Services Minister, Norman Lamb MP minister whether there were any patients or carers voices on the panel which selected pioneer sites to showcase integrated health and social care. He replied that 'I do not think there were any involved on the panel itself.' Patients' voices were overlooked in the selection process."

"At his evidence session, I asked Sir David Nicholson, the Chief Executive of the NHS, to provide additional funding for the A&E Department at Walsall Manor to cope with the additional pressure caused by the overnight closure of A&E at Stafford Hospital. He said that he would look at it."

Diwali Celebration

 Valerie said: "On Saturday 9 November I attended a Diwali celebration at the New Art Gallery, where there were some excellent performances by young people. Diwali is the Hindu festival of light, celebrating the victory of good over evil, light over darkness, and knowledge over ignorance."

Questions in Parliament

In November Valerie asked:

- The Justice Secretary to confirm that there will be no further court closures. Valerie's question and the Justice Secretary's response are available [here](#).
- The Health Secretary what plans he had to address the 50% shortfall in emergency doctors over the past three years. Valerie's question and the Health Secretary's response are available [here](#).
- The Second Church Estates Commissioner what recent assessment he has made of trends in recruitment of clergy. Valerie's question and the Minister's response are available [here](#).
- The Environment Secretary what plans he has to reduce the number of deaths from air pollution. Valerie's question and the Minister's response are available [here](#).

Surgeries

Valerie holds regular surgeries. To arrange an appointment, please call the Constituency Office on 01922 635835

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