



VALERIE WELCOMES ZAK THE ZEBRA TO WALSALL SOUTH



Valerie with Zak the Zebra and local campaigners.

Valerie has welcomed Zak the Zebra to Walsall to call for a safer crossing on Darlaston Road in Pleck. Zak made an appearance with Valerie and local campaigners at the existing Zebra Crossing, near the junction with Hough Road, on Friday 20 April 2012. Valerie also presented a petition of over 300 names to Parliament on Monday 23 April 2012.

Valerie said: "On 16 April 2012 I wrote to Walsall MBC to request that a signal controlled crossing is installed in place of the existing Zebra Crossing on Darlaston Road in Pleck. Residents have provided me with details of five incidents that took place on the crossing in five months between September 2011 and February 2012."

"Drivers tend to travel fairly quickly along this busy road and the large number of parked cars means that visibility can be limited both for drivers and pedestrians, particularly chil-

children. In one incident, on 8 September 2011 a four year old boy was hit by a car on the crossing and sustained serious head injuries. The driver of the car was recently sentenced to 10 months in prison for dangerous driving. A woman was also hit by a car on 25 November 2011. There are several schools nearby and the potential consequences of similar incidents are far too great for immediate action not to be taken."

To Contact Valerie:

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Valerie Acts as Teller for Food Labelling Bill



Sunday Trading

On Monday 30 April 2012, Valerie voted against plans to suspend Sunday Trading Laws for a period covering the Olympic Games.

Speaking during the Bill's Second Reading in the House of Commons, Valerie said: "The workers are against the Bill, small businesses are against it, and it is against family values. No one wants it, and the majority of the British people will gain no benefit from it. I urge Members to vote against the Bill."



The Bill was passed at Third Reading by 272 votes to 125. Valerie acted as a Teller for the Noes.

Valerie Publishes Report into Obesity and Diabetes

This month Valerie published her report on 'Obesity and Diabetes Programmes in England'. The report gives an overview of the status of obesity and diabetes and related programmes in England, using data collected through Freedom of Information (FOI) requests sent to Primary Care Trusts Clusters in July 2011.

Valerie said: "Diabetes and obesity are growing public health concerns in our society. The aim of the Survey was to analyse PCT initiatives in controlling the levels of obesity and diabetes in England and to highlight possibilities for further improvement. This report draws together the information in a way that is useful to a wide audience including healthcare providers, patients, policy-makers and organizations seeking to reduce diabetes and obesity in England, and interested members of the public. It is clear that stronger action is needed from the Government."

The report can be downloaded [here](#).

New Art Gallery Petition

Valerie has launched a petition calling on Walsall MBC to immediately reopen the New Art Gallery on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays. This follows news that the New Art Gallery is due a substantial rebate on the Business Rates it paid from 2005 to 2010. [Please click here to sign the petition.](#)

Valerie said: "I have launched this online petition, calling on Walsall MBC to reverse the decision to close the Gallery on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays immediately. This move would cost just £30,000 per year and would enable the people of Walsall to enjoy the full benefit the Gallery can bring."

Surgeries

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