



VICTORY IN DARLASTON ROAD CROSSING CAMPAIGN



Valerie said: "Residents first contacted me following an alarming series of 5 incidents in Autumn 2011. On 8 September 2011 a four year old boy was hit by a car on the Crossing, sustaining serious head injuries that required the air ambulance."

"I first made representations on behalf of residents to Walsall MBC in December 2011 to ask that the existing Zebra Crossing was upgraded to a Signal Controlled Crossing. Over the past 3 years I have made numerous representations to Walsall MBC, presented a petition of over 300 names to Parliament and raised the issue in the House of Commons."

"Everyone will now be much safer crossing Darlaston Road and will no longer be in doubt that vehicles will stop when they step onto the Crossing. I am delighted with the outcome, which shows what can be done when we work together and persevere."

HEALTH COMMITTEE

The Health Select Committee, of which Valerie is a member, is conducting an inquiry into Public Expenditure. Witnesses the Committee heard evidence from included the Secretary of State for Health, the Chief Executive of NHS England, the Health Foundation, King's Fund, the Nuffield Trust, Foundation Trust Network and the BMA.



Valerie said: "I was surprised by the Secretary of State for Health's response that awarding the recommended pay rise would be 'bad for patients [and] I do not think it is what front-line nurses want either'. NHS staff are entitled to a pay rise after two years of a pay freeze. The failure to award one shows how the Government values NHS staff. Anita Charlesworth questioned the usefulness of non-recurring one-off winter payments that are given every year. This does not help hospitals plan efficiently for the long term."

"During our accountability hearing with Monitor I asked about the new Emergency Care Tariffs. Monitor have redesigned the Tariff system into three parts. The current proposals do not address the underfunding of emergency care or recognise complex cases."

URGENT QUESTION ON EMERGENCY CARE

At the Urgent Question to the Secretary of State for Health, Valerie asked the Health Secretary which of the College of Emergency Medicine's 10 point plan set out in 2013 to deal with the Emergency Care crisis had been enacted.

Valerie said: "The crisis in Emergency Care was no surprise to NHS Staff, but it was to the Department of Health."

VALERIE SECURES MEETING WITH HEALTH MINISTER FOR JOHN'S CAMPAIGN

"I heard about John's Campaign when I met Julia Jones and Francis Wheen. Julia talked about her mother and her friend Nicci Gerrard, whose father had recently died. While the doctors and nurses provided excellent treatment for John, they did not have the time to provide a continuation of his normal life such as reading to him or playing chess. Nicci believes this led to his dementia getting worse."



"Nicci, Julia and Francis started John's Campaign. The aim is to extend to family representatives of patients who suffer from dementia the same rights as parents who have children in hospital and are encouraged to spend as much time as they can with their children. I tabled an EDM 586: John's campaign and the right to stay with Dementia Patients in Hospital which has been signed by a cross party group of 43 MPs."

"The House of Commons Library found best practise already exists in the NHS. The University Hospital Bristol has taken a lead on this. Ward staff have an initial and daily conversations with the carer who is allowed to care for the patient outside of visiting hours. This should be adopted across England"

"After raising John's Campaign in the Christmas Adjournment Debate, the Minister of State for Care and Support agreed to meet with myself, Nicci, Julia, Francis and other members of John's Campaign." Valerie said.

Surgeries

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

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PARK HALL DENTIST PETITION



On Thursday 11 December 2014 Valerie presented a petition to Parliament signed by over 400 local residents calling for The Dentist Surgery on Liskeard Road in Park Hall to offer NHS Dental Services.

Valerie said: "Local people should be entitled to dental treatment on the NHS."

CROWN WHARF PARKING

"Many people have been issued tickets for parking at Crown Wharf Retail Park in the Town Centre. The car park uses a camera system to recognise a car's number plate. The system issues a ticket to a driver's registered address if they have not entered the last 3 digits of their car registration number at the ticket machine."

"It appears however that Parking Eye, who operate the car park at Crown Wharf, has no way of distinguishing between cars which share the same final three digits of the registration number. I have written to the owners of Crown Wharf and to Parking Eye to ask them to investigate."

TOWN CENTRE WALK-IN CENTRE

Following the response to the consultation, Walsall CCG has said that it will keep the Walk-in Centre in the Town Centre until December 2015. Valerie has called for a long term commitment to keep the Walk-in Centre in the Town Centre.

Valerie said: "I am surprised that Walsall CCG is considering moving the Walk-in Centre to the Manor Hospital in the long term. The consultation showed that residents were clear that the Walk-in Centre should remain in the Town Centre. People from across the Borough can easily get to the Town Centre. I have written to Walsall CCG to request a full break-down of responses."

"The Walk-in Centre should be distinct from A&E at the Manor Hospital as it offers a different range of services and risks being subsumed under these long term plans. There is already an Emergency and Urgent Care Walk-in Centre at the Manor Hospital. A&E at the Manor is under pressure from an increase in patient numbers resulting from the overnight closure of A&E at Stafford Hospital."

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY



Valerie said: "During a debate on Small Business Saturday in Westminster Hall earlier this month, I intervened to highlight the contribution made by Small Businesses whose contribution is often understated in our communities. "

"For every £1 spent locally 60p stays in the local economy. Many MPs from all parties spoke about their local high street and the many excellent businesses which drives the economy. Small Business Saturday is an excellent initiative to highlight this contribution and to encourage people to use their local small businesses."

CHRISTMAS ADJOURNMENT DEBATE

During the Christmas Adjournment Debate on Thursday 18 December 2014, Valerie raised Local Government Grants, the NHS and Dementia Care in Parliament.

Valerie said: "There is much discussion about the private and public sectors, and in my view the public sector comes off worse. £375bn was given to bankers under quantitative easing while most local authorities that provide vital services are having their budgets slashed by more than a third. We have an outstanding Sure Start centre in Palfrey that has an innovative fathers club. Libraries can raise standards and aspirations. All that is under threat. Vital services can affect the long term needs of society. Budget cuts are short term thinking that in the end undermines society."



"In the NHS, the Secretary of State and the Chief Executive of NHS England do not have a grip on the service. £3bn was spent on a wasteful reorganisation and there was an underspend of £3.6bn from 2011-13. This money was sent back to the Treasury without giving NHS staff a pay rise or addressing the crisis in A&E."

THE GREAT BRITISH SELL OFF

"I was concerned that there was a big sell of public land so I tabled a series of Parliamentary Written Questions on the selling off of publically owned buildings by Government departments. These buildings belong to the British people, and this Government is selling them off to pay down the deficit as their economic plan is not working as they hoped."

"The MOD has sold off 410 buildings since 2010 with the FCO selling off 83 buildings overseas. These are public buildings that the Government are selling off for short term gains rather than planning for the future. This is yet a nothing example of this Government rolling back the state to 1930s levels."

GOVERNANCE OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE

The House of Commons Governance Committee, of which Valerie is a member, was set up to look at the running of Parliament which has not been done in over 40 years and the appointment of the Clerk and other officials.



Valerie said: "The way the House of Commons is run is very important to allow MPs to efficiently represent their constituents. The Committee lasted 9 weeks and there were as many as 3 sessions a week. The Committee heard evidence from MPs, as well as staff from all Departments of the House."

"The Report sets out a coherent management and strategic leadership structure. Clarity is brought to the respective roles of Members and officials. Taken together, our proposals provide a framework which enable the House of Commons to operate more effectively and efficiently and provide reinforcement to the development of a unified House Service."