



Valerie re-elected for third time



I want to thank those of you who voted for me and re-elected me as MP for Walsall South. And to thank those who may not have voted for me but took part in the democratic process. Many more people voted in this election than in 2015. Thank you to everyone who supported me and worked so hard to achieve a result which included an increased majority and a swing to Labour in Walsall South. Turnout was 66%, and with a swing of 2.91% and a win in six of seven wards, the majority has increased to 8,892. Week commencing 19 June saw the opening of parliament and a return to my duties as Shadow Leader of the House of Commons. A sparse Queen's Speech on 21 June offered little respite from Tory austerity. Labour is a government in waiting with a positive and hopeful vision for our country.



The **NHS** has been under a lot of pressure from Tory cuts; A&E and GP appointment waiting times are up. The Labour Party committed to invest over £37 billion in extra funding, guarantee A&E patients are seen within 4 hours, bring safe staffing levels into law, reinstate Nurse Training Bursaries, and scrap unfair NHS car parking charges. Dan Jarvis MP visited the Manor to highlight Labour's policy.



The Tories' failure on **transport** has hit rail passengers hard. Carriages are overcrowded, journeys delayed and ticket prices up 27%. On 1 June I received a great response at Walsall Station. We want to deliver a better deal for passengers by capping rail fares, ensuring safe staffing levels, investing in modern infrastructure and introducing free WiFi across the network.



Air pollution causes more than 40,000 premature deaths, at a cost of £20bn each year. Walsall was declared as having an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in 2006, which is an area where national objectives on air quality are not being met. On 5 June I joined a constituent on Walstead Road and Delves Crescent whilst he took down an air monitoring tube measuring the concentration of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂).



Labour's 6 tests for the **Brexit** deal are: 1. Does it ensure a strong and collaborative future relationship with the EU? 2. Does it deliver the "exact same benefits" as we currently have as members of the Single Market and Customs Union? 3. Does it ensure the fair management of migration in the interests of the economy and communities? 4. Does it defend rights and protections and prevent a race to the bottom? 5. Does it protect national security and our capacity to tackle cross-border crime? 6. Does it deliver for all regions and nations of the UK? I chaired a Q&A session with Keir Starmer MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, and local businesses and councillors.

The government are failing to deliver on **education**. Schools in Walsall face a cut of £505 per pupil or 562 teaching posts. I spoke to parents outside schools across Walsall South, including Hillary Primary, Moorcroft Wood, Old Church, Salisbury, Pinfold Street Primary and others. There is a chronic shortage of teachers, class sizes are soaring and there are not enough school places. Schools are facing a real-term cut of £3 billion by 2020. The Labour Party's higher education policies include the abolition of university tuition fees, reintroduction of maintenance grants, and bringing back nursing training bursaries.



Business Questions 22 June and 29 June



On 22 June, I called for the Leader of the House to schedule a debate on personal independence payments, tuition fees regulations and the rape clause. This wonderful resilient country of ours is grieving—from Manchester to London Bridge, Westminster to Finsbury Park, and Kensington to Batley and Spen. I called for a timetable for a debate on the report-back on the government's Brexit negotiations. On 29 June, I raised the two recent



High Court judgments which overturned government policy. The government's benefit cap was ruled unlawful and the government's plans on air pollution do not meet the court order to cut air pollution in the shortest possible time. The Queen's speech did not explain how the government will ensure fair funding for schools or how much will be available. I asked when proposals on this discredited funding formula will be brought forward.

Valerie writes to Walsall MBC and housing providers on fire safety

Following the tragedy at Grenfell Tower, I have written to the Chief Executives of Accord Group, Sanctuary Group and Walsall Housing Group to ask about fire safety in buildings they manage in Walsall South. Accord and Sanctuary Group have said that they do not manage any high-rise towers in Walsall South, and have reassured me that they are satisfied with their fire safety policy in buildings they manage. Accord Group has carried out an additional assurance review across its buildings. I also wrote to the Chief Executive of Walsall MBC to find out if the Council is satisfied with its fire safety policies for apartment towers and Houses in Multiple Occupations (HMOs).

Unveiling of memorial plaque for Jo Cox

Jo Cox was a talented and valued colleague and friend. It was an honour to attend the unveiling of a memorial plaque in the House of Commons on Saturday 24 June, a year after her murder. The plaque is a permanent reminder of Jo's campaigning zeal, energy and love for humanity.



Walsall Advertiser:

'We have a vision for all stages of our lives'

THREE was the magic number for Valerie Vaz as Labour once again secured Walsall South.

Ms Vaz, who was first elected in 2010, claimed a hat-trick of election wins, reaffirming Labour's grip on her constituency with an emphatic victory.

The re-elected MP polled 25,286 votes ahead of Tory candidate and former Sutton Coldfield councillor James Bird, who received 16,394 votes.

Ms Vaz said: "This result is not just about me, it is a result for Jeremy Corbyn and the Labour Party, setting out a positive vision for Great Britain, which has been responded to by voters in Walsall South.

"I'd like to thank those



Valerie Vaz MP speaks to TV cameras after her victory.

who voted for that vision -- a vision for young people; a vision for those who work; those who are sick and vulnerable; and those who are elderly. We have a vision for all stages of our lives."