



### VALERIE DEBATES WALSALL PLANNING IN PARLIAMENT



On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2011, Valerie took part in a pre-recess Adjournment Debate in the House of Commons on Planning in Walsall South and the National Planning Policy Framework. Following the debate, Valerie presented a petition of 263 signatures from residents living near the controversial One Woodside Close development to Parliament.

During the debate, Valerie said: "In my constituency, the green belt is already under threat. The residents in the Cottage Farm Residents Association feel that their views have not been taken into account regarding the development at One Woodside Close."

"The National Planning Policy Framework will relax brownfield targets; relax the requirement to plan for the efficient and effective use of land; reduce the protection of the green belt; remove the direction to direct offices to the town centre; and reduce sustainable economic development. The combination of those things will push development away from where it is most needed."

#### To Contact Valerie:

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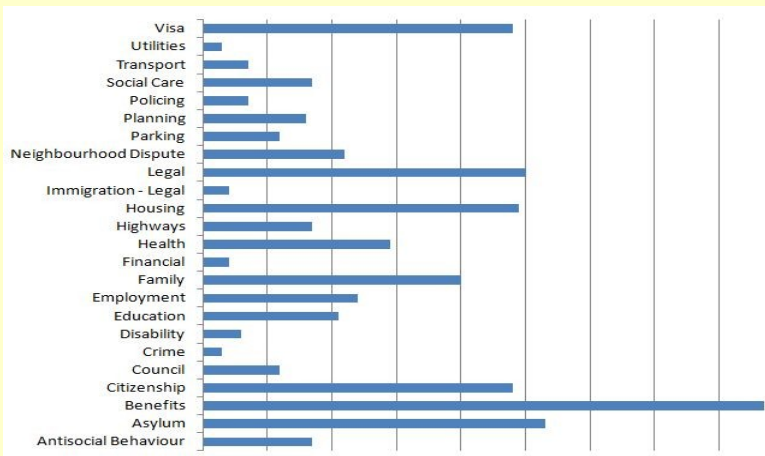
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### Work to Date in Parliament

Since being elected to Parliament in May 2010, Valerie has:

- Held Adjournment Debates on Libraries in Walsall South, Parking and Enforcement in Walsall, Human Rights and Planning in Walsall South.
- Presented Petitions to Parliament on Pleck Library, Education Maintenance Allowance, Parking and Enforcement and the One Woodside Close development.
- Asked questions to the Prime Minister on buildings at Joseph Leckie School, Human Rights, the Health and Social Care Bill and provision for people with Epilepsy.
- Introduced 10 Minute Rule Bills on Epilepsy and Related Conditions and Adoption (Leave, Pay and Allowance Arrangements).
- Spoken in the House of Commons on 88 occasions.
- Asked 190 written questions.
- Was the primary sponsor of 53 and signed 464 Early Day Motions (EDMs).
- Sat on the Public Bill Committee for the Public Bodies Bill.
- Contributed to 12 Reports of the Health Select Committee.
- Valerie has worked on 3,309 constituency cases:



#### Valerie Calls for Rethink over BBC Cuts

During a House of Commons debate Valerie called for a rethink of the proposed 20% cuts to the BBC budget.

Valerie said: "I am dismayed about the proposed decimation of BBC West Midlands. Factual programming for BBC television and Radio 4 will be moved out of Birmingham. The £15 million that is spent on the region is worth £28 million to the local economy."

#### Treasury Questions

Valerie asked the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury about the steps the Government is taking to address tax avoidance and close the stamp duty tax loopholes. The Minister replied that more resources would be allocated to addressing the problem.

#### Darlaston Road Crossing

Valerie was contacted by a local resident who was concerned about the safety of the Zebra Crossing on Darlaston Road in Pleck. A four year old boy and a woman were knocked down on the crossing during 2011. Valerie wrote to the Council to request that a signal controlled crossing be installed. The Council is considering the request.

#### Ring and Ride Charges

During Business Questions in the House of Commons, Valerie asked the Leader of the House to intervene to bring an end to discriminatory charges for the Ring and Ride Bus Service that mean that people over 60 with disabilities are unable to access free public transport.

#### Surgeries

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