



I would like to wish everyone a happy and peaceful Diwali. Valerie Vaz MP

VALERIE WELCOMES STAFFORD ROAD SUCCESS

Residents of Stafford Road, Darlaston, contacted Valerie in 2010 because the number of buses using this quiet residential street was both dangerous and disturbing to residents. Ever since, Valerie has campaigned for changes to be made. Following a recent meeting with residents and Centro, organised by Valerie, it was confirmed that the 327 would be removed from the road and that a new 310 service would connect Darlaston to the Merry Hill Shopping Centre, avoiding Stafford Road. It was also agreed that the bus companies would not run out of service buses along Stafford Road.



Valerie launches the 310 service near Darlaston Asda

Valerie said: "I am delighted that Centro and Arriva have agreed to divert the 327 service. Residents want and need bus services but should not have to endure the disturbance that residents of Stafford Road have experienced. I was delighted to launch the new 301 service in its place, connecting Darlaston to the Merry Hill Shopping Centre, whilst avoiding Stafford Road. Residents can board the 310 at the end of Stafford Road."

Gala Baths

Valerie has welcomed the decision by Walsall MBC to undertake £1 million of renovations and improvements at Walsall Gala Baths, which will keep this vital asset in the Town Centre.



Valerie said: "My constituents and I are delighted at the success of our campaign to keep the Gala Baths in Walsall Town Centre. I raised the threat to the Gala Baths at Leader of the House Questions, presented a petition to Parliament signed by 1,938 users of the Gala Baths and raised the issue with the Chief Executive of Walsall MBC."

"The brine pool at the Gala Baths is a unique resource for the people of Walsall, the only one in the region and well used by many of my constituents, for its health benefits."

Recycling Facilities

Valerie said: "Since the withdrawal of recycling facilities from Walsall Town Centre in 2012, I have campaigned for them to be reinstated. At Communities and Local Government Questions, I asked the Minister what help the Government can give Walsall MBC to restore this vital service. I was alarmed that the Minister failed to answer to my question. He referred only to domestic recycling collections. I have written to him to say that his response did not answer my question and to ask again what support the Government can give to Walsall MBC to reinstate this vital facility."



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Planning Debate



Valerie took part in a Westminster Hall debate on "Planning, Housing and the Countryside", raising the issues of protection for the Green Belt, land banking and permitted development rights.

Valerie said: "The Green Belt should be protected and it is not. We fought against development on the site of the Three Crowns pub. Against the planning officer's advice, permission was granted for 14 flats with three detached houses on the Green Belt. The development was clearly out of character for the area. Since then, nothing has happened, except for the development of a car wash."

"We have the extraordinary situation where a phone mast has been placed in a high street. The council refused permission, but because it sent the rejection by second class post, the company was deemed not to have been given notice of the refusal. Residents will have to put up with this phone mast, as there has been no compromise from Vodafone. I want to maintain the spirit of Octavia Hill and Beatrix Potter and balance the need for housing with a protection of the countryside preserved for future generations."

The full text is available from the Official Report [here](#).

Three Crowns School

Valerie met with a group of local residents opposed to Walsall MBC Outline Planning Application to construct 8 large houses on Green Belt Land, ahead of the Planning Committee Meeting at which the case was to be considered.

Valerie said: "Residents do not wish to see a housing development on this important part of Walsall's limited Green Belt. Unfortunately, the Planning Committee resolved at its October meeting to grant Outline Planning Permission, subject to referral to the National Planning Casework Unit. I will continue to oppose these plans."

Surgeries

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

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Burma Adjournment Debate



During the Summer Recess, Valerie took part in the Speaker's Delegation to Burma. On 8 October 2013, Valerie secured an adjournment debate on the Government's policy on Burma.

Valerie said: "Burma knows that it is at a unique place in her history. Having met the Burmese people, I can see why Daw Suu could not leave them to suffer, and although

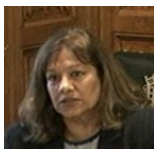
there is progress, people are still being displaced and there are conflicts. However, there needs to be an irreversible move to democracy and the rule of law, so that the Burmese diaspora feel they can return to their country, and those who live there, eager to serve their country, can do so and live together in peace."

"In the debate I outlined a 10-point plan of action for the British Government. One of these points was that there should be a new Panglong conference—along the lines of the Northern Ireland Good Friday agreement. You will recall the number of times we said we had sorted things out in Northern Ireland. We know that people who were involved in Northern Ireland, who can help, are active in Burma. We need to get people into a room and draw up a schedule and heads of agreement. Perhaps someone like Mary Robinson could play the role of a George Mitchell character. She could chair such a conference.

"Another key point was that the rule of law needs to be firmly established, with an end to arbitrary arrests. People need to know the case against them and to have a fair hearing before an impartial court."

The full text of Valerie's speech is available from the Official Report [here](#).

Health Select Committee



The Health Select Committee heard evidence on the management of long term conditions. Valerie asked Baroness Young, Chief Executive of Diabetes UK, about diabetic specialist nurses. Walsall has the 7th highest rate of diabetes in England.

Valerie said: "Diabetic specialist nurses play an essential role in supporting patients with diabetes, who need that specialist treatment to address their complex health needs. I asked Baroness Young whether the number of diabetic specialist nurses is dwindling or going up. She said that she is worried about diabetic specialist nurses because the current squeeze is having several effects."

Speaker of the Indian Parliament



On Thursday 10 October 2013 Valerie attended an event held by the The High Commission of India in Honour of Madam Speaker Meira Kumar.

Valerie said: "It was a pleasure to meet Meira Kumar who is the first female Speaker of the Lok Sabha,

the lower house of the Indian Parliament. She is an inspirational person and politician whose achievements serve as a wonderful example to people all over the world. "

Darlaston Town FC



Following news that Darlaston Town FC was to close at the start of the 2013/14 football season, Valerie wrote to the Chairman of the Football Association Greg Dyke asking what assistance can be provided to re-establish the Club.

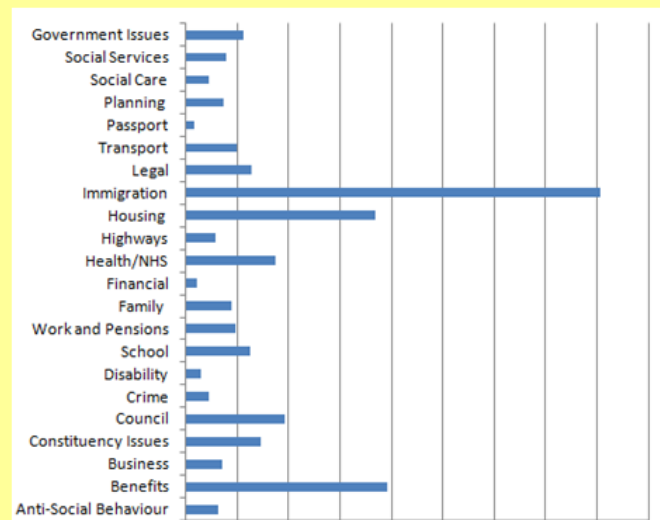
Valerie said: "Darlaston Town FC has been an important part of the community in Darlaston for well over a century, having been founded in 1874. It is a vital community asset and is central to the local identity of Darlaston. I welcome the decision by supporters to re-register the Club with the Birmingham FA and to look to raise £5,000 so that the Club can compete again next year. The FA has agreed to meet with me and the Club's Chairman."

Questions in Parliament

In September and October, Valerie asked:

- The Justice Secretary how many of the responses to the Government's Legal Aid consultation were in favour of the earlier proposals. Valerie's question and the Minister's response are available [here](#).
- The Leader of the House for an urgent debate in Government time on Burma, where Daw Baw Ja, a land rights activist, was arrested in July. Valerie's question and the Minister's response are available [here](#).
- The Health Secretary when he will act on the 10 point plan for emergency care devised by the Royal College of Physicians and the College of Emergency Medicine. The Official Report transcript of Valerie's question and the Minister's response are available [here](#).
- The International Development Secretary about rape and sexual violence against women by the Burmese Army. Valerie's question and the Minister's response are available [here](#).
- The Deputy Prime Minister if he would give assurances that the Human Rights Act will not be repealed before 2015. Valerie's question and the Deputy Prime Minister's response are available [here](#).

Casework Statistics



Valerie has worked on 1,613 cases to date. This is equivalent to 10 new cases every week since 6 May 2010.