

View from the House

With Parliament rising on the 29 July, I managed to have a week's break with my family in the countryside in Pembrokeshire, Wales. This beautiful coastline was made one of the UK's National Parks under legislation brought in by the 1945 Labour Government. Now everyone can enjoy this very special coastline. The area boasts blue flag beaches, a 186 mile coastal path and St David's, the smallest city in the UK.

Three Crowns Special School.

We are fortunate to have some countryside within the constituency and recently I have received correspondence from constituents about the change of land use of the site of the former Three Crowns Special School in Skip Lane. I am concerned that some of you have not been informed that there is an ongoing consultation process about this. I am keen to hear your views about the best use for this building and land.

Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill

This is one of the most important pieces of legislation and will affect the way we vote in the next election. Constituencies will be increased to 75,000 voters and may even cross local government boundaries. The Electoral Register that is used to count the number of voters will be the one as at December 2010. It is important for everyone to make sure they are on the Register. The Bill will also allow for the Alternative Vote system where the voter can rank the candidates in their order of preference – the Government is proposing to hold a referendum about this on 5th May 2011. The Bill's second reading debate is on 6th September, the first day of the next sitting of Parliament.

Pakistan Floods

Many people in Walsall have a link with Pakistan. The southern part of Pakistan has been devastated by floods. Through no fault of their own, the people have seen their homes and livelihoods swept away by the rising water. We are all concerned at the human suffering we are witnessing. The Disasters Emergency Committee will channel donations to those in need. Please go to www.dec.org.uk to help in any way you can.

Exams

Finally, best wishes to everyone waiting for exam results this August, success comes in many different ways.

Valerie Vaz MP