



VALERIE SPEAKS OUT AGAINST NHS PLANS



On 9th May, Valerie spoke out in Parliament against the Government's much criticised plans for the future of the NHS.

Speaking during the Opposition Debate on the future of the NHS, Valerie said "I am staggered by the uncertainty surrounding how much this reorganisation will cost the taxpayer" and went on to accuse the Government of having "lost control" of the NHS budget.

The controversial Health and Social Care Bill contains measures to give GPs budgets worth £60 billion to commission services for their patients.

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Valerie Presents Pleck Library Petition to Parliament



On 27th April, Valerie presented a petition to Parliament urging the Government to "take all possible steps to protect Pleck Library for the future".

1,108 people signed the petition against any plans to close Pleck Library in the future.

Valerie Expresses Concern About Local Unemployment Figures

Valerie has expressed concern at the latest unemployment figures for Walsall South. The number of unemployed claimants in Walsall South in April was 4,145—an increase of 215 since March.

Valerie said; "These figures show that the Government does not have the answers on the economy. It must urgently look at how to get people back into work."

NEVER ON A SUNDAY



Smalltown by Cameron Galt

Valerie has challenged the decision to close the New Art Gallery on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays – the only days that many people are able to attend. The move follows a substantial reduction in funding from Arts Council England and Walsall Borough Council.

Following the announcement of the changes – which will save just £35,000 a year – Valerie wrote to Culture Secretary, Ed Vaizey to ask him what could be done to avoid these closures. He refused to intervene.

Valerie raised the issue with the Leader of the House during Business Questions on 27th April and is continuing to explore further funding options.

Surgeries

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