

View from the House

An eventful Parliamentary Session came to a close with Prime Minister's Questions on the last Wednesday before recess with the newly appointed Prime Minister RT Hon Theresa May MP.

With an extensive reshuffle of Ministers, there were Machinery of Government changes with new departments created- Exit from the European Union; Business Energy and Industrial Strategy; and International Trade. So out go BIS and Climate Change – in my view an important policy area with an immense impact on future generations but now discarded.

And on the last sitting day before Parliament rose, the Government decided that it was a good day to produce 30 Written Statements. There were some very controversial measures such as the increase of Tuition fees by 2.8% and confirmation that new nursing and midwifery students will no longer receive pre-registration bursaries. Despite protestations from the Labour party that this would result in fewer people taking up nursing the policy has gone ahead. This could result in a shortage of home grown nurses as many are put off by having to take out a loan resulting in more reliance on nurses from outside the UK. It was not possible to question Ministers about these changes.

The University of Wolverhampton produces nurses and health professionals. In the pre recess adjournment debate I called on them to abandon plans to build a road and an exit onto Broadway. It is unnecessary and will cost £1 million. That money can provide bursaries for trainee nurses.

Also during the debate I raised the ongoing saga of the humps on Walstead Road which now effects Delves Crescent. If the intention was to reduce the speed of cars travelling along Walstead Road, adding speed humps at intervals along the road does nothing to slow them down except when immediately in front of the humps. But larger vehicles can "take" the humps without slowing down. Residents have had to put up with damage to cars, abuse when they try to reverse out of their drives and noise. According to a speed survey in 2015 far too many vehicles were travelling over 30 mph. At a well attended residents meeting I arranged at Delves Baptist Church the day after the debate, we discussed solutions. One would be to reduce the speed limit to 20mph and therefore no need for humps. The Faculty of Public health says this speed limit cuts accidents and is safer.

Good wishes to everyone waiting for exam results.

Valerie Vaz MP

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