

Westminster Report



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A view from Westminster: Brooks Newmark learning the ropes



Brooks Newmark Speaking in the House

Of course, new Members of Parliament have to spend much of their time in Westminster, just to learn the ropes. But my priority in the coming months is to meet with as many members of our community as possible.

That's why I particularly look forward to welcoming school children and voluntary groups who are interested in visiting me at the House of Commons.

However, my serious business in Parliament is to put my business background to good use by challenging the Government's financial policies.

In addition, I will continue to be a strong voice in Parliament for our community. I am glad to have been able to speak in several debates since being elected, on subjects ranging from pensions and healthcare to regulation and taxation, and I will continue to do so.

Brooks

I would like to be able to tell you all that my view on Westminster is one of gothic splendour and all the bustle of a modern democratic government in action. But, regrettably, Charles Barry (the architect) neglected to provide my office with a window when he designed our most recognisable public building.

Playtime to go on...

St. Agnes Day Nursery, which has been popular for 40 years, has recently found a new site to avoid having to close next year. Brooks said, "This is great news, and just what we have all been waiting for. We should all acknowledge the hard work and commitment of the Management Group, friends and staff at St. Agnes, and Braintree District Council."

"I wish them well in the future and would like to encourage the local community to offer them all the support they need to make the new site a success."

Council Tax - is it fair?

Brooks has been pleased to present a petition to the House of Commons, on behalf of the IsItFair Campaign, which calls for Council Tax reform.

He said "I had no reservations about supporting this petition, particularly in light of the Government's recent decision to delay a reassessment of Council Tax for the foreseeable future. I think it is long overdue that we should have the 'fair and equitable tax' which the petition calls for."

"Despite the Government's promise to improve the uptake of Council Tax benefits by pensioners, which I welcome, there are still too many people who don't know their entitlements."



Brooks takes a keen interest in pensioner issues

A Strong Voice for Braintree, for Witham, for ALL our Communities



STANSTED EXPANSION

Speaking recently at a public meeting against night-flights Brooks told the audience,

“As a father of 5 children I feel very strongly that all our families should have the right to an uninterrupted night's sleep - a night which lasts the traditional eight hours, and not the 6 which the Government now allows us.”

ID CARDS: The case against

Explaining why he voted against the Bill, Brooks said, “I believe very strongly that the legislation infringes our most basic rights. Not the rights cooked up by the Human Rights Act or the European Union, but those to which we have been long accustomed as British citizens.”

The real danger which our society faces is from legislation like this which will cheapen the rights of ordinary people. I only hope that our objections, and those which are sure to be made by the House of Lords, will still give the Government pause for thought.”

STANDING UP FOR PENSIONERS

In his maiden speech to the House of Commons in June, Brooks Newmark singled out pensioners as those most let down by the Government since 1997.

Two weeks later Brooks questioned Tony Blair about the Government's failure to honour its pledge to end the means-testing of benefits for elderly people.

The Prime Minister's evasive answer confirmed the Government's commitment to a confusing system of extra payments and tax credits. Brooks went on to say “I believe that reform of the state pensions and benefits system is desperately needed. I believe in two priorities for reform.

First and foremost should be to restore the link between average earnings and pensions. The basic state pension is now worth only 15 percent of average earnings, compared with 25 percent in 1980.

The second priority should be an end to means-testing for pensioners. The current system can only lead to uncertainty and unfairness.

We are all indebted to the many voluntary groups which support pensioners within our local community.

I will show similar dedication while I am at Westminster.”



Brooks goes to see the new Farleigh Hospice



Brooks visits the WJC Maternity Unit

Out and about with Brooks Newmark MP - Some of the people I have met and places I've been:

- Alec Hunter School • Beckers Green Primary School • Braintree Care Trust • Braintree District Business Council • Braintree Jobcentre Plus • Braintree District Voluntary Support Agency • Braintree Rotary Club • CJD Support Network • Farleigh Hospice • Braintree Mencap • Broomfield Hospital • John Bramston School • Kelvedon Rail Users Association • Rivenhall Primary School • Rural Community Council of Essex • St. Agnes Day Nursery • St. Andrew's School • Stop Stansted Expansion • Tabor Centre • Terling and Fairsted Parish Council • The Children's Trust • University of Essex • Witham Citizens Advice Bureau. • WJC Maternity Unit • Meeting with local hauliers and **many more...**

Brooks Newmark MP
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Brooks visits the Childrens Trust



Brooks visits the Tabor Centre in Braintree



Brooks with a local Pharmacist