

# Westminster Report



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## BROOKS NEWMARK DRIVES A120 DEBATE

Earlier this year I had the opportunity to hold my own debate in the House of Commons on the proposed upgrade of the A120. The Adjournment Debate, which was held on January 20th, enabled me to have a one to one debate with Dr. Stephen Ladyman, the Minister for Transport.

The upgrade of the A120 is not a party-political issue and I felt that it was important that I should encourage the Government to work with local people to find the best possible solution. In particular, I pointed out that the way the public consultation was handled has left local people feeling that their views don't count.

The Minister admitted that some mistakes had been made. He gave me his assurance that all the responses to the consultation would be taken into account before any decision is made.

I look forward to working with the Minister, the Highways Agency and residents to ensure that the proposals are in the best interests of our community.



Brooks being interviewed after the Debate on the A120

If you would like to read my full speech in the House of Commons or you would like more information about any of my work then please visit my website at: [www.brooksnewmark.com](http://www.brooksnewmark.com).

### COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Brooks is committed to securing a new community hospital in Braintree. He said, "Local people have been waiting over a year for building to begin on a new community hospital in our area. Yet it seems that a full business plan hasn't even been presented to the Strategic Health Authority."

"Our local Primary Care Trust is facing a huge deficit", he said. "Notwithstanding the current funding crisis, I have questioned the Government on the future of the new hospital and I will continue to push for action. It is essential that local people have access to the facilities that they desperately need as soon as possible."

### ESSEX POLICE AND REGIONALISATION

Brooks has joined other Essex MPs in signing a pledge to protect the independence of Essex Police Force. He said, "There is overwhelming support throughout Essex for retaining the Essex Police as a single force. I will vigorously oppose the merger of the Essex Police into a regional force."

"I believe that a police force should reflect the community it serves - and this is best achieved on a county-wide basis." Brooks is also concerned that regionalisation of our emergency services is part of a plan to introduce unwanted regional government and he will fight to protect local government and the rights of local people.



Brooks with other Essex MP's campaigning to save our police

## SAVE OUR POST-OFFICES!



Brooks supports our local Post Offices. He has pressed the Government to confirm support for rural Post Offices. Brooks said, "The Leader of the House has assured us that the Government support rural post offices, but in my constituency they are being closed year after year."

All that we are asking for is a debate on the subject, so that we can agree on whether there is or is not a problem."

Brooks went on to say "I will fight to preserve the Card Account, which is so important to sub-Post Offices and pensioners alike."

## DISABILITY RIGHTS, CHILDREN'S CARE & HOSPICES

Brooks has introduced his first Early Day Motion in the House of Commons, calling for more funding from the Government to support Children's Hospices. He said, "Early Day Motions are one method that MPs can use to focus attention on important issues and press the Government for action."

I am delighted to have been able to promote such an important cause."

Brooks has also sponsored a Private Members' Bill which aims to improve the support available to disabled children and their families.

The Bill will give local authorities a duty to assess children and provide them with the services they need. It will also give children and their families a right to respite care.

## SCHOOL VISITS & NEWS

Recognising the achievements of local schools is one of Brooks' priorities.

He was delighted to launch John Bramston School's bid for specialist status as a business and enterprise college.

He is continuing to visit local schools regularly and has enjoyed welcoming students on tours of the Houses of Parliament. If your school would like to visit the House of Parliament then please contact Brooks' office on 0207 219 3464.



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

Witham in Bloom • North Essex Mental Health Partnership • Braintree Football Club • Postwatch • Powers Hall Junior School • Barnardos Charity Shop • Earls Colne Parish Council • The Royal British Legion • Tabor School • Essex Strategic Health Authority • White Court School • Fairview Residents Against Development • Hatfield Peverel Parish Council Traffic Working Party • Braintree Choral Society • Witham United Reform Church • Essex Ambulance Service • Essex Police • Braintree Pensioners' Action Group • Witham and Braintree Rail Users' Association • Southview School • Honywood Community Science School • Howbridge C of E Junior School • Braintree Community College • Braintree Community Centre • Essex County Council • Edith Borthwick School • Stisted C of E School • NFU Members and **many more...**

### Brooks Newmark MP

holds regular constituency surgeries.

You can contact him at

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Brooks handing a cheque to Shafford Parish Council



Brooks visits a local school



Brooks grills the Chancellor in committee

