



GETTING BRITAIN BACK ON TRACK

David Cameron's decision to form a coalition was a difficult one but I am convinced it was the right choice: two parties have come together to clean up the mess left by Labour and we're already delivering on our agreement.

It was a great honour when the new Prime Minister invited me to become a member of the Government and a Privy Councillor. I have been working hard as Transport Minister, in addition to my local campaigns in Barnet.

The Coalition's first priority has been the economy. We promised to tackle Labour's record borrowing and we're doing exactly that. In May the Chancellor made immediate in-year savings of £6 billion. In June, his Emergency Budget brought Britain back from the brink with a plan that the markets have welcomed to eliminate the structural deficit. And the Spending Review in October set out measures needed to deliver that plan and put the public finances back on a sustainable footing.

We've also been working to get the economy moving by scrapping the worst elements of Labour's jobs tax, investing in apprenticeships and transport infrastructure, cutting corporation tax and supporting small businesses.

We promised radical reform of our public services and we're delivering with a big expansion of the academy programme in our schools - four schools in Chipping Barnet have already benefitted.

We're keeping our promise to raise spending on the NHS as well as delivering reform. £1 billion of bureaucracy cuts have been identified, pointless targets have been scrapped and whole tiers of bureaucracy are set to be abolished, giving real power for GPs and patients. We've introduced an Interim Cancer Drugs Fund to help cancer patients get access to vital drugs and started recruiting thousands of extra health visitors to support families.

We've set out plans for tough but fair welfare reforms, meaning that no family on out of work benefits will get more than the average family gets by going out to work. We're also ending the unfair situation where people can claim over £100,000 a year in housing benefit.

We're helping the poorest and most vulnerable in our society by restoring the earnings link to state pensions, increasing Child Tax Credit and setting out plans for a 'Pupil Premium' to support the children from the lowest income families.

Immigration is always a difficult issue, but we are keeping our promise to introduce a cap on



*Theresa Villiers
MP for Chipping Barnet*

immigration from outside the EU. And we have set out our plans to bring immigration under control, reducing it from hundreds of thousands, to tens of thousands.

We also promised we'd look after our troops fighting in Afghanistan. Since May, we've established a National Security Council to make sure we have a clear strategy on Afghanistan, and we've doubled the Operational Allowance for our Armed Forces. We're also delivering on our election promise that the children of British military servicemen killed in action would be offered subsidised university education.

Locally, we're putting real power back in the hands of our local council and communities, as well as freezing council tax and abolishing Home Information Packs. We have also put in place measures to give extra planning protection to residential gardens to resist 'garden grabbing'.

Our approach couldn't be more different from the Labour opposition. They hoped that the election of a new leader would signal a fresh start and new ideas. Instead, all we've seen is more of the same. Where Labour have Ed Miliband's 'blank page', we have practical common sense policies that are making real progress.

The tough decisions needed to put the public finances back in order will mean difficult times ahead. But we are determined to deliver on our promise to do this in order to secure the economic stability we need for jobs and growth in Barnet and across the rest of the country as well.

LOCAL COUNCILLORS WELCOME NEW POWERS TO PREVENT 'GARDEN GRABBING'

Probably the biggest source of correspondence your Oakleigh Ward Councillors receive is from residents who are understandably concerned about the loss of green space and over development in their streets, known as 'Garden Grabbing'.

Councillors up and down the Country have been constantly frustrated in their efforts to prevent residential development on existing gardens. However, the Conservative-led Government has reclassified gardens by removing them from the 'brownfield' planning category, therefore increasing local councils ability to reject unwanted planning developments where there are objections from local people. The changes also make it harder for developers to get local decisions rejecting backland development over-turned on appeal.

Councillor Sachin Rajput said, "This change in planning policy is great news for the residents of Oakleigh as it will empower Councillors to challenge and hopefully prevent planning applications for inappropriate garden development in Oakleigh and beyond."

TESCO EXPRESS UPDATE

Your three local councillors share the concerns raised by local residents about the impact of the New Tesco Express Store, which recently opened on the former site of the Rising Sun Public House on Oakleigh Road North.

Your local councillors are working constructively with local residents and Tesco to address these concerns in the best way possible for the community's needs.

Councillor Brian Salinger said, "I recently oversaw a traffic survey in the Tesco Express area to monitor the impact of traffic flow caused by the store's opening and will be liaising with both Tesco and local residents once this survey has been completed and the results known."



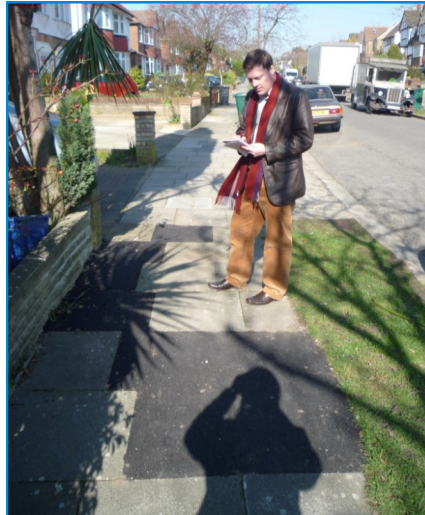
REPORT HAZARDOUS PAVEMENTS TO CLLR SOWERBY

Whilst your newest Oakleigh Ward Councillor, Councillor Sowerby, was canvassing residents during the run up to last May's Council elections, he was quick to note the repeated concerns he heard on the door step about the poor state of repair of many of the Ward's pavements.

Due to budgetary restraints, Barnet Council cannot afford to replace all pavements suffering from cracking, lifting or general wear and tear. However where a pavement's condition has deteriorated to the extent that it may raise a Health and Safety concern (potentially cause a person to trip and fall), the council's highways budget will allow for the section of paving to be repaired or replaced.

Since his election, Councillor Sowerby has spent much of his time personally locating and responding to resident's concerns about poor paving and has had some success in facilitating much needed repairs in both Manor Drive, Chandos Avenue and Raleigh Drive.

Councillor Sowerby said, "If residents have noted any potentially unsafe paving in their neighbourhood, they should email me its location (opposite which house on which street etc) and I will personally endeavour to facilitate its repair or replacement."



Cllr Stephen Sowerby checks repairs have been made to pavements in Manor Drive.

THE 'AV' REFERENDUM: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



David Cameron: 'Our current voting system is simple and works well. This change would not be progress.'

What is it? On 5th May 2011, there will be a nationwide referendum to decide whether we should scrap our current voting system and replace it with one called the 'Alternative Vote' (AV).

Why are we having it? The referendum was something the Liberal Democrats wanted as part of the agreement to form a Coalition with the Conservatives.

The Conservatives will campaign for a 'No' vote and the Liberal Democrats will campaign for a 'Yes' vote.

HOW DO THE TWO SYSTEMS COMPARE?

This year's referendum will offer a choice between two voting systems:

1. Our current system (sometimes referred to as 'First Past the Post'). Everyone gets one vote. You put an 'X' next to the candidate you want to support. The candidate with the most votes wins.

2. The 'Alternative Vote' system. Instead of using an 'X', voters rank candidates in order of preference using '1, 2, 3' and so on. If one candidate has more than 50% of the first preference votes, they are

elected outright. If that doesn't happen, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated and the second, third or later choices of the people who voted for them are allocated to the remaining candidates. If there are no choices for a candidate still in the race, those votes play no further part.

If still no candidate has 50%, the next lowest candidate is eliminated and their votes are redistributed.

This process continues until one candidate has over 50% of the votes which remain in the count.

5 GOOD REASONS TO VOTE 'NO' TO AV

1. AV is not a fair system.

Supporters of fringe parties can end up getting five or six votes while people who backed the mainstream candidates only get one.

2. AV is an obscure and unpopular system.

Only three countries in the world use AV for their elections: Fiji, Australia, and Papua New Guinea. In Fiji, they're about to get rid of it. In Australia, 6 out of 10 voters want to return to the British system.

3. AV is complicated and expensive.

Because elections will take longer to count, it can take longer to figure out who has won, leading to more expense and uncertainty. And taxpayers will end up footing the bill.

4. AV is not a proportional system. Many supporters of AV really want proportional representation. But an independent commission run by the senior Lib Dem Roy Jenkins concluded that AV was 'even less proportional' than our existing system.

5. Even the 'Yes' campaigners don't really want AV.

Ben Bradshaw, the Labour MP and Yes campaigner, said only last year: 'I've never supported AV' because it would not help to rebuild public trust in politics.

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SURGERY DETAILS:

First Saturday every month, 10.30am-12noon at Friern Barnet Library, Friern Barnet Road, & the third Saturday of the month 10.30am-12noon at Barnet House, 1255 High Road, N20. No appointment necessary.

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Theresa holds an advice bureau on the first Saturday of every month between 10.30am and 12 noon at her Constituency Office, 163 High Street, Barnet EN5 5SU. No appointment necessary.

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK

On 5th May, there will be a referendum on changing our voting system. Which system do you think you will vote for?

- The current system (where you vote for the candidate you want with an 'X' and the person with the most votes wins)?
- The 'Alternative Vote' (where you rank candidates using '1, 2, 3' etc. and votes may be redistributed until one candidate has more than 50% of the vote)?

Name

Address

Telephone*

Email*

Please send me information about ways I can help campaign with the Conservatives.

Please return to: 163 High Street, Barnet EN5 5SU

How we use your information Any personal information that you provide in response to this survey will be collected and stored by the Conservative Party in accordance with the principles set out in the Data Protection Act 1998. We will use the contact details you provide to send you Party communications including, for example, updates on policy and special member offers, either by post, telephone, email or SMS. We would also like to share your information with The No Campaign Ltd for the referendum on the parliamentary voting system so that they may send you information about their campaign, by post, telephone, email and SMS. If you do not wish your information to be used by the Conservative Party to contact you or being shared in this way, please tick the box: Printed and promoted by C. Dowson on behalf of Oakleigh Ward Conservatives, both of 163 High Street, Barnet EN5 5SU.