



Oliver Dowden CBE MP End of Term Report



2015 has been an important year for me, my family, the constituency and the country. In May I was humbled to be elected as the Member of Parliament for Hertsmere. This report and the attached photographs are intended to give you an update on what I have been doing on your behalf as your elected representative to the Westminster Parliament. Since my election I have set about doing three things.



First, I have sought to raise the profile of Hertsmere- its people, its industries and the policy that matters to us. In my maiden speech, I drew attention to what a fantastic place Hertsmere is to live, work and raise a family- something that was even picked up by BBC News. Just this week, I raised the profile of Elstree film Studios directly with the Prime Minister at Prime Minister's Questions. I have continued this in numerous broadcast interviews, news and magazine articles, and press releases.

I have taken a particular interest in transport, education and protecting our green spaces.

On transport, I have relentlessly kept the pressure up on our train operating companies to provide a better service for our hard pressed commuters. I have campaigned on: **Reliability, cost and capacity**. As a commuter, I know that the service offered by Thameslink during the past year has been inadequate. I have taken these concerns directly to their executives and the Transport Secretary, and am organising a public meeting with them in the New Year. In Parliament, I have supported Government proposals to fine train companies directly for delays and cancellations.



I know that train travel is often expensive. Since being elected, I have launched a campaign with Richard Harrington MP to reassign Bushey station from zone 8 to zone 6 and for Oyster PAYG to be extended to Radlett station. I am also putting pressure on the Department for Transport to fund works at Borehamwood and Elstree station to increase its capacity.

On education, I have been a strong advocate of the Yavneh College Primary School. I was delighted when permission for the school was granted in the summer and made it clear to the Secretary of State for Education that I would like to see the school open in September 2016. I am delighted that this is now the case.



There remains extreme pressure on school places and I will continue to campaign for more investment to increase capacity, as well as backing plans to improve Hertswood Academy.



On the green belt, I have done everything I can to oppose the Radlett Rail Freight Terminal. I have questioned the viability of the scheme through eleven written Parliamentary Questions and have put pressure on the County Council not to sell their portion of land to Helio Slough. Even at this very late stage, this will continue to be one of my top priorities.



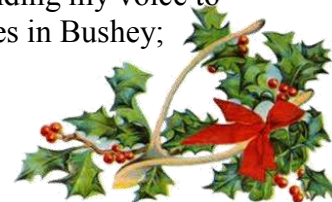


Second, I have tried to be a strong voice and a champion for local people. I now hold regular surgeries across the constituency, including in Potters Bar, Radlett, Borehamwood and Bushey. My office receives between 100 and 200 pieces of correspondence from constituents every week, all of which receive a personal response.

I spend an average of two days a week out and about in the constituency, meeting local people and businesses and attending community and charity events. This helps me better understand what matters to the people of Hertsmere.



Over the past six months I have sought to champion a wide variety of issues raised by my constituents. These range from helping a local family champion the release of a political prisoner in Iran; to lending my voice to resisting inappropriate developments in Borehamwood; to helping restore telephone services in Bushey; and arguing the case for a fairer deal for business rate payers in Potters Bar.





Third, I have sought to support the Government in the vital national mission in continuing to turn our country round, creating security and stability for the hard working people of Hertsmere.

I have been a regular guest and contributor on a wide variety of national broadcasts, including BBC 1's Budget and Autumn Statement Specials, BBC 2's Daily Politics, Sky News, BBC News 24, Radio 5Live, the World at One and Westminster Hour.



Daily Politics



BBC One



In all of my work, I draw on the values and experiences I have had living and growing up in our area. I try to bring these values of decency, hard work and determination to provide for ourselves, our family and our community to the national debate in Westminster. I am very grateful for all the support that I have received in doing this, from so many constituents.



Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very merry Christmas. I look forward to the opportunity in 2016 to continue to advance the interests of our community.

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Come to one of my surgeries: In Borehamwood, Bushey, Potters Bar or Radlett.

Please contact my office on 020 7219 3415 to make an appointment.

