

Alan Whitehead MP

7th Annual Report to constituents in Southampton Test

Southampton Test Constituency: Bevois (part of), Coxford, Freemantle, Millbrook, Portswood and Swaythling, Redbridge and Shirley.



Neighbourly help!

This year I was lucky enough to have worked as a Neighbourhood Warden for a day. It was a privilege to see at first hand some of the great work wardens are doing to improve our city's environment.

Days like this are vital in helping me make my job easier. As I spend a great deal of time in the Houses of Parliament whatever I do I try to think 'how is this relevant to our city'? Often the answer comes from the information advice and suggestions you give me.

This 7th annual report highlights the work I have been doing over the past year as your Member of Parliament for Southampton Test. My contact details are on the back so please continue to let me know your views and I will continue to speak up for Southampton.



Becoming a Neighbourhood Warden for a day with Annette Williams in Millbrook

The new Centre for the 3rd Age where Alan now holds one of his surgeries



Advice surgeries

I hold **four surgeries a month** to give constituents the opportunity to meet with me on a regular basis. Here you can discuss issues that you want to raise with me, or any problems you might have. Initial appointments last for ten minutes after which I may make representations on your behalf.

I continue to hold surgeries at Lordshill and Shirley Local Housing Offices but am delighted that my third surgery venue is now the newly-opened Centre for the 3rd Age in Bevois (left).

To book a surgery appointment please phone my office on 8023 1942 or e-mail alan@alan-whitehead.org.uk

Local action all year round

A selection of the events and activities from 2004



January

Celebrating a successful campaign to save threatened local football pitches



February

Petitioning Downing Street on behalf of local charity Leukaemia Busters



Campaigning for the future of St Mary's Leisure Centre



March

Launching Southampton as a Fairtrade City



April

Viewing Southampton's new CCTV control centre



May

Working with residents in Freemantle to save the Civil Service Sports Ground



June

Attending Young Carers Week



July

Opening the mobile toy library for Sure Start Millbrook, Redbridge and Maybush

August

FareShare
Delivering Surplus Food to People in Need

Helping local charity FareShare to secure future funding so they can continue their valuable work distributing surplus food from supermarkets to those in need.

Finding out from you...

Over the past year I have conducted a number of consultations in the constituency to get local views on certain issues. These have included:

- A **tenants survey** in Portswood, Bevois and Swathling to find out to what extent tenants have problems with deposits being withheld.
- A questionnaire asking views on **national identity cards**.
- A survey of residents in the **Outer Shirley Regeneration** area to get views on current projects funded by government regeneration money.

For more information visit www.alan-whitehead.org.uk



September

Debating on the Age Concern 'Question Time' panel



October

Presenting Tesco's 'Computers for Schools'

November

Helping local volunteers to repaint Coxford and District Youth Project in Shirley Warren



Speaking up for Southampton...

All year round!

Westminster report 2004



Alan Whitehead
A full-time MP

Every year, usually from October to July, most of my time during the week is spent in Parliament, debating new laws, amending old ones and examining what the Government, and other bodies such as the European Union do that affects our lives. The 'set-pieces' of Prime Ministers Questions and other big debates are just a fraction of what goes on, often without much in the way of publicity. Listed below are a few highlights from my work in Westminster.

Bills

I've been involved in a number of important Bills that have come before Parliament, have been discussed in detail in committee and have then gone on to become law. In most instances, I've spoken in the initial debates and have then been a member of the committee discussing the Bill often over a period of weeks.

Energy Bill

The Bill sets out the framework for the development of renewable energy, brings in new trading arrangements for electricity supply, and applies new standards for nuclear clean-up. I spent time on the committee looking at such issues as how sites for offshore wind energy might be properly maintained.

Housing Bill

This Bill brings in new standards for rented property and introduces protection for tenants who give deposits to rent homes. It also sets out the arrangements house sellers will have to make to provide a fair account of their house: the 'sellers pack'. I moved a number of amendments about how homes in multiple occupation should be classified and other measures to bring tenants deposit protection forward.

Foxhunting Bill

The Bill seeks to ban the hunting of foxes, stags and other animals for sport. Since it is necessary to maintain a balanced population of foxes and protect farm animals, the Bill discussed measures to allow reasonable 'pest control' without hunting with hounds. I drafted and spoke on a number of proposals to do this.

Higher Education Bill

I was not on the Bill Committee, but spoke in debates and produced papers seeking to improve upfront grants for poorer students, and limit the 'variability' of the fees that would be charged. Most of the suggestions made were incorporated into the eventual shape of the Bill.

Parliamentary Groups

I continue to be Chairman of two Parliamentary groups dealing with renewable energy and waste. This involves asking questions, meeting ministers, discussing developments and making recommendations.

Select Committee

I am a member of one of the committees that looks closely at what Government is doing and proposing - the Select Committee on Constitutional Affairs. This covers all aspects of our justice system, constitutional issues such as reform of the House of Lords, and how we cast our votes in elections.



Shaking hands with Steve Cram having completed the Westminster Mile for Sport Relief



Meet the team

My constituency office is based at 20 -22 Southampton Street and is staffed by Sam, Chris and Rose - researcher, caseworker and diary secretary respectively. These titles do not in anyway give a full description of the work that the staff actually do in the office. No two days are ever the same and they have to be extremely resourceful.

The office is open from 9-5 and is always extremely busy. My staff often work over and above their contracted hours for which I am very grateful.

Casework report

561 people met with Alan at one of his advice surgeries in the last financial year. The types of issues dealt with at surgeries included:

- 148 council services cases
- 54 benefits cases
- 38 government department cases
- 34 health cases
- 150 immigration, visa and asylum cases

The office deals with around 150 individual cases a month which are also generated from the many letters, e-mails and phone calls we receive each day.

We recently wrote to people who dealt with our office with casework issues to see if we could have done better to help them. We were pleased to find that of the replies we received over 80% were favourable.

Financial information

Alan Whitehead MP	£
Parliamentary salary	56,358
Additional costs	11,367
London supplement	127
Member's travel	5,508
Staffing Costs	68,023
Incidental Expenditure	£
Office costs (includes rent, insurance, office equipment, service charges)	8,926
Phones & fax	1,343
Data + IT management	3,390
Office sundries & publications	4,917
Room hire	146
Total	18,722
Parliamentary postage & stationery	5,045

*Information as of last financial year -
April 2003 - March 2004*

How to contact Alan Whitehead

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