

Nick HERBERT

A strong and experienced voice
for Arundel & South Downs



Dear Resident

I am writing to update you on a number of the key issues on which I have been working on your behalf.

I am fortunate to have served as MP for the fantastic rural constituency of Arundel & South Downs, which covers 250 square miles.

We are all very proud of the villages and small market towns in which we live, and I am determined to do what I can to look after their interests. I work for everyone locally, regardless of party or politics, to do the best for our area.

Over the past twelve years I have worked at Westminster from Monday to Thursday each week, and from Friday to Sunday I have worked in the constituency, based in Arundel where I live.

I hope that you will find this report a useful source of information about local issues, as well as what I have done to represent you in Parliament.

I pledge to work hard for everyone in the constituency, to stand up for local people, and to be a strong voice at Westminster for your concerns.

Yours sincerely

Nick Herbert

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MAY 2017

Promoted by Gary Markwell on behalf of Arundel & South Downs Conservative Association and Nick Herbert,
all of 38 High Street, Steyning, BN44 3YE. Printed by Dynamic Office Supplies, Dynamic House, Turners Hill Rd,
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Conservatives

PROTECTING OUR VILLAGES AND MARKET TOWNS

We need more affordable housing, and I worry that young people cannot get their feet onto the housing ladder. But we also need to protect the beautiful West Sussex countryside, and ensure that new development is sustainable. Our villages have already grown significantly, and there is pressure on local infrastructure.

The Localism Act abolished housing targets, instead requiring our councils to introduce local plans to meet housing need - but this need is growing. It also introduced neighbourhood planning, which should put communities in control of where housing should go and enable our villages to protect green spaces from development.

I am a strong supporter of neighbourhood planning, and am pleased that West Sussex villages were amongst the first of these plans in the country to be passed through local referendums. However, the plans have often

been undermined by developers. After I raised my concerns about this, the Government announced new measures to strengthen neighbourhood plans. I have also succeeded in asking for some developments to be rejected by the Secretary of State.



I have strongly opposed unsustainable major new developments, including the Mayfield new town between Henfield and Sayers Common and a new settlement between Barnham, Eastergate and Westergate. I continue to urge that the green space between villages is maintained.

I have spoken out strongly at Westminster about the need to protect the countryside, promote localism and ensure that development is sustainable, and I will continue to do so. The South Downs, its surrounding villages and small market towns are very special, and I will continue to do everything in my power to protect them.

CONSERVING OUR PRECIOUS ENVIRONMENT

The production of shale oil or gas through fracking has the potential to be an important new domestic energy source in the UK. However, protecting our most important landscapes is in the national interest, too. After I raised these concerns I was pleased that the Government agreed to a ban on fracking on sites throughout the South Downs National Park.

New laws do not permit access to the surface of private property or to the land immediately underneath, but only allow lateral drilling which takes place far below the surface, over fifty times below the deepest underground tunnel. New conditions have been set before fracking can take place, including an environmental assessment.

I opposed an application by Celtique Energie to drill near Wisborough Green, because it would have meant excessive lorry movements through the village,

and I welcomed West Sussex County Council's decision to reject the proposal, and the company's withdrawal of its appeal.

There are existing local oil wells which do not cause public concern as they are sensibly located. However, we need to ensure that new forms of drilling on existing sites are properly regulated.

Other means of energy production, including large scale solar farms or waste plants, must also be located with sensitivity to our precious landscape and local communities. The beautiful countryside of West Sussex must not be carelessly industrialised.

I believe that we need airport expansion, and that Heathrow is the right option for this. I was concerned that proposals for a second runway at Gatwick, meaning more than two and a half times as many passengers as now, would have put even greater pressure on local infrastructure and housing.



FIGHTING FOR BETTER TRANSPORT LINKS

I have been deeply concerned about the performance of the local rail service and the impact which serious disruption over more than a year has had on local people.

This issue has been a priority for me. I have held numerous meetings with ministers and GTR/Southern's senior management, as well as with leaders of the rail unions, and repeatedly raised the issue in the Commons.

GTR/Southern's performance has been totally unacceptable, but infrastructure issues (which before the current industrial action were causing 60 per cent of delays) also need dealing with by Network Rail.

However, the service became far worse as a consequence of industrial action involving strikes and an effective 'work to rule'. This action was wholly unjustified since no members of staff were to lose their jobs or pay. As industrial

action has diminished the service has got better, but it is still not good enough.

Rail lines in Sussex need major new investment, and the train operator and Network Rail need to work more effectively together and be held accountable for driving up performance.



Delays on the A27 are harmful to the local economy and to the environment, with 'rat-running' through the historic town of Arundel and the South Downs National Park. Downland villages suffer from heavy traffic as a result. Storrington has a serious air quality problem.

For this reason I lobbied hard for the A27 to be upgraded, and was delighted when the Government announced a major investment of up to £250 million for an Arundel bypass, with work due to start by March 2020, and up to £100 million for improvements to the A27 through Worthing and Lancing. I support the OneArundel campaign - www.onearundel.co.uk

PRESSING FOR FAIR SCHOOLS FUNDING

I have strongly made the case for fair funding for West Sussex schools. It's not right that our children receive less funding than others in similar parts of the country.

I welcome the Government's commitment to introduce a new fair National Funding Formula. However, the proposed extra funding for West Sussex of 2.9 per cent – an increase of £14.3 million, or £122 per pupil – will be insufficient to meet rising costs faced by schools.

Nationally, schools funding is at a record £40 billion a year despite the need to reduce the deficit, and funding per pupil has risen, but in recent years cost pressures on our schools have outweighed these gains.

While most of the secondary schools in the Arundel & South

Downs constituency will receive an increase in funding under the proposed new Formula, a number of our primary schools will lose out.



I am concerned that 'additional needs' is given a disproportionate weight relative to core funding. I have urged that the Formula is redesigned to provide a minimum level of funding for schools, ensuring that all schools have sufficient resourcing to deliver the curriculum.

I have made the case for fair funding at the very highest level, and will continue to fight the corner for our local schools. The Government has made a step in the right direction with its proposed new Formula, which will mean extra resources for West Sussex, but it needs to go further.

SUPPORTING LOCAL SERVICES

Soon after I was first elected in 2005 there was a battle to retain Accident & Emergency and maternity services in our local hospitals.

I helped to set up and lead the local campaigns to save our hospital services, and I remain committed to ensuring the best NHS services for local people.

After a number of young people raised the issue of mental health with me in my surgeries, I have decided to hold a special constituency summit on the issue later this year. A previous summit I held on autism with local parents helped to draw attention to the issue and enabled me to raise their concerns.

I have led the campaign for better broadband in West Sussex, holding a second summit on the issue last year. With funding from the Government and the County

Council, superfast broadband has arrived at our bigger villages and small market towns, but is still unavailable in many of our more rural areas.

Nick speaking in the House of Commons



The Government's aim is to provide superfast broadband (speeds of 24Mbps or more) for at least 95 per cent of UK premises by the end of this year and universal access to basic broadband (speeds of at least 2Mbps). I will

continue to urge measures for the remaining rural areas to be given superfast, and to improve mobile data services, to close the 'digital divide'.

I've been concerned about the loss of banks from our villages. While there is a trend towards internet banking, businesses and many people, especially the elderly, still need local banking. I have pressed for post offices in our villages to be able to provide a greater range of these services.

WORKING LOCALLY AND AT WESTMINSTER

I take a strong interest in public services. Before I became an MP I set up and ran the respected independent think tank, Reform, and I was Minister for Policing & Criminal Justice in David Cameron's Government for two and a half years.

I am passionate about the countryside, rural communities and farming. I helped to set up the Countryside Movement, which became the Countryside Alliance, and was Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs.

I was Chief Executive of Business for Sterling and launched the successful 'no' campaign against joining the euro. The Arundel & South Downs constituency divided 50:50 in the referendum, and I voted to remain, but I believe that the overall result must be respected, and that we must now come together and work for the best possible deal for Britain.

I lead a global campaign to fight tuberculosis, working with charities and aid agencies to beat the world's deadliest infectious disease which tragically claims 1.8



million lives a year worldwide. I have also set up a project, GovernUp, to promote the far reaching reforms needed in Whitehall and beyond to make government more effective.

I try to support local groups and charities in my constituency as much as I can. I am Patron of St Barnabas House, the Mary How Trust for Cancer Prevention, Cancervive, Cancer United and the Sussex Snowdrop Trust, and Vice President of the West Sussex Community Minibus Association and the Wey & Arun Canal Trust.



Conservatives

CONTACT NICK HERBERT

Do please contact me if you have any issue - whether local or national - which you would like to raise, and I will try to help. In the last Parliament I personally responded to thousands of e-mails from constituents every month.

I also held 'surgeries' in the towns and villages around my constituency, and I am always delighted to meet constituents who have an issue to discuss or a problem that needs solving.

I travel all around the constituency to meet individuals, businesses and local organisations. If you would like me to visit you, or to support or attend an event, please let me know.

You can contact me by e-mail at nick@nickherbert.com

Or telephone me on 01903 816880.

FOLLOW ME

Here are some of the ways you can find out more about my work:

See my website: www.nickherbert.com

Like me on Facebook: www.Facebook.com/NickHerbertMP

Follow me on twitter: [@nickherbertmp](https://twitter.com/nickherbertmp)



Read my blog: www.nickherbert.net

Nick Herbert's Facebook and Twitter names were established while he was an MP. As Parliament has been dissolved there are no MPs until after the Election on 8th June 2017. The photographs in this leaflet illustrate the past work of Nick Herbert as the Member of Parliament. They do not imply that non-politicians shown with Nick either endorse or oppose his re-election to Parliament.

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