

Parliamentary News

Constituency report by **Anne Campbell MP**

No 2 2004

Your local Member of Parliament representing Cambridge

CASH BOOST FOR CAMBRIDGE SCHOOLS



IN JULY, Anne Campbell, MP for Cambridge handed over a cheque for £450,000 from the Department for Education and Skills to the Cambridge Federation of Secondary Schools for teaching resources for city schools.

Federations of secondary schools are a new idea by the Government to allow schools to work together to improve standards and increase opportunities for pupils across the city. One of the benefits is that schools can get together to make full-time appointments and then share the expertise across the schools.

Anne Campbell MP hands over cheque for £450,000 to Cambridge Federation Secondary Schools' heads

Cambridge was one of the first cities to set up a federation. Cambridge MP Anne Campbell worked with the principals at each school to get it established.

The five schools – Chesterton, Coleridge, Manor and Parkside Community Colleges and Netherhall School – set up the Cambridge Federation of Secondary Schools in January 2004, and have received the cash to help run the scheme.

Anne said, "It is so important that government funds are going directly into the schools – and not being siphoned off by the County Council. All this money will directly benefit school pupils in Cambridge."

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COMMITMENT TO CHILD CARE

ANNE HAS welcomed an increase of 5,118 childcare places in Cambridgeshire since 1999. The government has put in more than £3 million of Sure Start funding, and another £11 million has been promised by 2006.

The funding has been used to develop the Fields Early Years Centre in Abbey, which Anne visited recently. The £1 million investment has delivered nursery and childcare places for 110 children.

Anne said, "Through Sure Start all three year olds can now get free part-time, early education. I am also very excited about the new Children's Centres which are being developed to support working parents, where early education, childcare, health and family support services are available.

"The breastfeeding project in Abbey and Kings Hedges is part of the work done by Sure Start to support mothers and their babies."



Anne presents the new Sure Start and Kings Hedges support workers with their certificates

MP SAYS GET ACTIVE

CAMBRIDGE'S CYCLING MP has been promoting the benefits of cycling as an easy way to keep fit and combat obesity. She joined the 2004 Parliamentary Bike Ride as part of national cycle week in June.

Anne has also been fighting moves by cycle helmet lobbyists to make wearing helmets compulsory for children.

She said, "Cambridge has one of the largest populations of cyclists in the country. Many constituents have contacted me with concerns about the Bill."

Anne believes there is a balance to achieve between encouraging cycling and safe cycling. Research shows that wherever helmets have been made compulsory, cycle usage falls. The British Medical Association opposes helmet compulsion because they recognise that the loss in health benefits will far outweigh the potential benefits from head injuries prevented.

Anne said, "Obesity levels in England have tripled in the last 20 years. Creating a more active nation is a priority. I believe that

engaging children in exercise is an important way of setting an active pattern for life.

"I tabled an Early Day Motion in the House of Commons seeking support from MPs not to criminalise young people for not wearing cycle helmets. I believe it is very important to encourage cycling and make it safer by improving cycling facilities and promoting the potential benefits of wearing a helmet. We must not discourage young people from cycling."

Cambridge's Cycling MP, Anne Campbell, says keep fit and fight the flab



SURGERIES & CASEWORK

MP Advice Surgeries

■ **RING 506500 FOR AN APPOINTMENT**

■ **FIRST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH:**

4pm-5:45pm, The Guildhall

6:15pm-7:15pm, Cherry Hinton Village Centre

■ **THIRD FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH:**

4pm-5pm, Holy Cross Church, East Barnwell

5:15pm-6:15pm, ECCHO House, Chesterton

6:30pm-7:30pm, St Luke's Church, Victoria Rd

6 ways to contact Anne Campbell

■ **PHONE** 01223 506500

■ **FAX** 01223 311315

■ **WRITE** to Alex Wood Hall,
Norfolk Street, Cambridge, CB1 2LD

■ **WRITE** to the House of Commons,
London SW1A 0AA

■ **EMAIL** campbella@parliament.uk

■ **WEBSITE** www.annecampbell.org.uk

■ **VISIT** her at one of her regular surgeries.
Ring 506500 for an appointment

PENSION CREDIT

TEA PARTIES and coffee mornings have proved a popular way for local pensioners to meet up with Pension Service advisors and sort out their pension credit queries. Anne Campbell has already organised meetings in Coleridge and Arbury.

If you live in Abbey you can join Anne, the pension service and local community beat officers and other

advisers on 15th October 2004 at 2.30pm at the East Barnwell Community Centre.

East Chesterton pensioners can meet up with Anne for a cup of tea/coffee on 19th November at 1pm at St George's Church Hall.

One Coleridge pensioner said, "It was really useful to spend time

with Wendy and her team. As a result I have got my pension credits sorted out and will be getting over £10 more per week."

Anne Campbell said, "2007 pensioner households in Cambridge are now benefiting from Pension Credit. Make sure that you don't miss out; call Freephone 0800 99 1234."

ANNE SLAMS STAGECOACH CUTS



Anne MP, with local campaigners, promoting concessionary bus passes in Cambridge. Contact Anne for more details of how to get yours.

ANNE CAMPBELL has slammed Stagecoach, and the County Council over lack of consultation as key bus services in Cambridge have been axed.

Anne said, "Anyone could see the chaos that would be caused by cutting these services. Local residents made very clear at the meeting I called in Arbury that they can't get to work or to school - or sometimes even onto the replacement buses."

"I am pushing Stagecoach and the Council to rethink. I have written to the Traffic Commissioner, who was very helpful three years ago with problems on the buses."

"Look out for my feedback forms on my website www.annecampbell.org.uk and let me know if you are having any problems."

No ID No Sale

CITY MP Anne Campbell launched the No ID No Sale campaign at the Select and Save store at Buchan Street in King's Hedges in June.

She visited the corner shop in Cambridge to launch the national campaign to stop youngsters trying to buy cigarettes and alcohol. Anne

was joined by local councillors and concerned residents.

The idea of the campaign is to reinforce the message that cigarettes, alcohol, lottery tickets and solvents are all age-restricted products. A recent survey found that 96 per cent of shopkeepers had been approached by under 16s wanting to buy cigarettes and 83 per cent had received abuse when refusing to serve them.

Mrs Campbell said, "The aim of the No ID No Sale campaign is to create a culture where young people expect to be asked to prove their age before they can buy products such as lottery tickets or alcohol."



Anne launches the national campaign in Cambridge

ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR SUCCESSES

DELIGHTED LOCAL residents have contacted their MP to let her know how pleased they are about the new measures brought in to combat antisocial behaviour.

Anne Campbell has been supporting the work of police and other officials to get problems like drug dens, brothels, street drinking and gangs of hooligans sorted out. There have been successes across the city in King's Hedges, Petersfield, Arbury and East Chesterton.

Anne said, "We need to be tough on antisocial behaviour, noisy neighbours and aggressive begging. Thanks to the new government legislation, the hard work of the police and local communities pulling together, people are beginning to see a difference on our streets."

BATTERY RECYCLING NEEDED

OF THE 25,100 tonnes of batteries sold in the UK in 2002, only 125 tonnes were collected for recycling.

MP Anne Campbell is pushing the government to increase the sites for recycling domestic batteries and has written to the County Council to encourage them to open local facilities as soon as possible.

Anne said, "We need to increase the capacity for recycling these batteries - and we know from a pilot in study in Bristol that if the systems are set up, then people will use them."

STUDENT GRANTS RESTORED

Anne Campbell recently joined local sixth formers as they celebrated their achievements at the end of the academic year. Whilst attending prize giving at Long Road Sixth Form College she praised the hard work from the students and the dedication of their excellent teaching staff, which meant even better results this year.

During the recent debates on the Higher Education Bill, Cambridge's MP campaigned hard to ease the

burden on University students and to increase money for the Universities.

Anne said, "Investing in our universities is vitally important - and making sure that all bright young people who want to go on to study can afford to do so is something I have campaigned for over many years.

"I sat on the Higher Education Bill Committee and took a very active part in making changes to the Bill which would benefit students.

What we finished up with was a very different Bill from that which had been described in the original White Paper.

The new Higher Education Act has brought back student grants. It has abolished upfront fees. It has introduced easier and fairer ways for students to pay off their debts after they graduate."

Anne with Long Road Sixth Form College students at their prize giving



CAMPAIGN FOR SMOKE-FREE CAMBRIDGE

LAST SUMMER when Pizza Hut announced their plans to go smoke free, Anne challenged all restaurants in Cambridge to ban smoking.

Now she has welcomed proposals to ban smoking in restaurants, pubs and public buildings within the next three years - if schemes launched by the city and county councils and the NHS are successful.

Anne said, "As a former asthma sufferer I really appreciate clean air. I am delighted that the Pizza Hut restaurants in Cambridge joined our two Cambridge smoke free pubs.

"Second-hand smoke is a serious health hazard for staff and research shows that over half of all adults want to eat in smoke-free restaurants."

MP VISITS PALESTINE

MP ANNE CAMPBELL visited Palestine in June to get first-hand experience of just what life is like there at the moment. She had been expecting to make a speech at a conference, organised by the Palestinian Council on Foreign Relations. The conference brought together Palestinian women leaders and female European Parliamentarians who contrasted their different experiences of public life.

However, like many other people living in the West Bank and Gaza, the MP found her travel plans disrupted by the ongoing conflict, as she was refused access at notorious Israeli checkpoints to Gaza.

Anne said, "We had to change our plans and we spent the time meeting

local Palestinian and Israeli people."

During her four-day visit, she met many Palestinians including a farmer who has been separated from his land by the security wall being built by the Israelis. She spent time with some of the 400 Israeli women from Machsom Watch, who monitor the behaviour of the soldiers at the check points.

Following her visit she wrote to the Israeli ambassador expressing concern about the destruction by the Israeli army of water cisterns installed with funding from the UK's Department for International Development.

Anne sees for herself the misery brought to Palestinians by the Israeli wall



MPs go the extra Mile

NOT QUITE THE OLYMPICS, but Anne Campbell was cheered on by Steve Redgrave and Tessa Sanderson in June in St James Park, central London, in June as she took part in Sport Relief

Anne went the extra mile by taking part in the Westminster Mile. Participation was the main objective, whilst raising money for Sport Relief.

The money raised from all the events, including the Westminster Mile, will help change the lives of poor and vulnerable people both in the UK and overseas.

Anne said, "I am reasonably fit so I made it across the line OK. The incentive - apart from raising money for good causes - is that I got the other 'Red Sock' saying 'Done It', which

matched the one I got for entering, which says 'Doing It'. I wear my sock with pride."

Anne with fellow MPs, including Fiona McTaggart and Tessa Jowell going the extra mile



MP CAMPAIGNS AGAINST VIOLENT PORN

ANNE CAMPBELL has got support from over 300 women in Cambridge for The Jane Longhurst Campaign Against Violent Internet Pornography, which has been started by MP Martin Salter, with Jane's mother Liz Longhurst.

The campaign, which resulted from the murder of Brighton school teacher Jane, has signalled its strong objection to the presence of extreme internet

sites promoting violence against women in the name of sexual gratification and is calling on the government to take action.

Anne will be presenting the petition to Home Office Minister, Hazel Blears. If you want to support the campaign go to Anne's website at: www.annecampbell.org.uk

MP CALLS FOR HUNTING BAN

IN MAY, Anne Campbell, MP for Cambridge, joined members of IFAW, the League Against Cruel Sports and the RSPCA, who make up Campaigning to Protect Hunted Animals, to mark the launch of their report, 'Time to Deliver the Ban'. The report, produced by CPHA, sets out the reasons why hunting must be banned, and why now is the time to do it.

Anne Campbell MP says: "Hunting with dogs is an

inherently cruel activity, and I firmly believe that it must be banned. The Government made a commitment to reintroduce the Hunting Bill and enable Parliament to bring this issue to a conclusion. Now is the time for the Government to deal with it. Now is the time to consign hunting with dogs to the history books. Now is the time to deliver the ban."

Anne at launch of report, 'Time to Deliver the Ban' in London.

