



# Parliamentary News



January 2007

**Phyllis Starkey MP's Report to Constituents**

## Safeguarding the Environment

**Climate change threatens every one of us and is the biggest challenge facing Britain today.**

The Government's Climate Change Bill will help tackle the problem by enshrining in law for the first time Britain's commitment to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 60% by 2050, with interim targets.

But there is much more to do. I would like to hear your ideas on what we should do to best protect the environment. Please get in touch with your thoughts, either by writing to me or commenting on my website.



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON, SW1A 0AA

Dear Constituent,

What a difference a year makes! Last year lots of you wrote to me about the difficulties of getting an NHS dentist locally, but after lots of hard work from the local health service and £500,000 in extra support from Government, the problem has been largely solved.

New or expanded practices at Whaddon Way, Central Milton Keynes, Walnut Tree, Furzton, Stony Stafford and Woburn Sands are all taking NHS new patients.

The waiting list backlog for an NHS dentist is being cleared, but if you are still without an NHS dentist then you should phone the PCT on 01296 310102 or e-mail [pcss@bssmail.nhs.uk](mailto:pcss@bssmail.nhs.uk)

Phyllis Starkey MP

## Building for the future



**Phyllis visits the regeneration of old railway buildings at Wolverton**

**Housing is one of the top issues raised with me when I talk to local people; usually first-time buyers struggling to get a foot on the ladder, or families stuck in council houses that are too small for their needs.**

The growth of Milton Keynes will help. There is more affordable housing being built every year like that in Ashland, and regeneration schemes such as the one in Wolverton are bringing new life to derelict areas.

In the House of Commons I have urged the Government to build an extra 20,000 social rented homes a year nationally to tackle homelessness and help those in temporary accommodation.

**Phyllis Starkey MP** – Working for you in Milton Keynes South West

## Newsflash

### GILES BROOK SCHOOL

You may have seen the problems of the collapsing ceiling at Giles Brook School in Tattenhoe. I have been in constant contact with the school governors and supported them in their demand for temporary classrooms and for independent guarantees on safety of the repaired school building.

### STAY WARM AT WINTER

It is vital to keep warm over the winter months, especially for the elderly and the vulnerable. As well as the Winter Fuel Allowance for the over-60s, the Government has made grants available to subsidise the installation of extra insulation to reduce fuel costs.

If you would like advice about keeping warm, ring the Home Heat Helpline (0800 336699) and for detailed information on grants available call 0800 3166 011 (quote MK 550).

### FREE BUS TRAVEL

The Government has announced that from April 2008 everyone aged 60 and over, and disabled people, will get free off-peak travel on all local buses anywhere in England, including across council boundaries.

### TRAINS FROM MK CENTRAL

I recently met the Rail Minister Tom Harris and was assured that the new platform at Milton Keynes Central Station will be delivered on time (end of 2008), and will guarantee fast rail services between Milton Keynes and London as well as faster and more regular services to Manchester and the North.

## More money and more health services

**Health services in Milton Keynes are getting more money than ever – £247m this year, and £277m in 2007/08 – and it is being put to very good use.**

I recently visited the new Walk-In Centre at the hospital which is an excellent alternative for those who

are not registered with a GP or who can't be seen by their own GP quickly enough. All the people I spoke to were very enthusiastic about the service provided.

The Grove Surgery in Netherfield has also recently been expanded, with new facilities and services for local people including mother and baby classes and a regular young persons' drop-in, which offers help on a whole range of issues for youngsters.

There have been issues about restructuring and the distribution of healthcare funding in recent months, as resources need to be shifted for example from A&E to improve cancer services. I am confident the PCT and the Hospital are in a strong position to provide the services Milton Keynes needs.



**Dr Starkey at the new Walk-In Centre at MK General Hospital**

## Better care at Bletchley Community Hospital

**Bletchley Community Hospital is to be transformed into a Centre of Excellence for older people and those with disabilities. The hospital site will be completely rebuilt to provide modern facilities and a better quality of care.**

Local NHS services are hoping to start work in 2008 to redevelop the Whalley Drive site. To ensure there will be no loss of service for Bletchley whilst building work takes place, the current services will be provided at Dovecote Manor, next to the hospital.



**Phyllis congratulates Ashbrook School in Two Mile Ash on excellent Ofsted report**

## Ways to contact Phyllis Starkey MP

① **PHONE** 01908 225522

② **FAX** 01908 320731

③ **WRITE** to Labour Hall, 112  
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Milton Keynes, MK13 0AA

④ **EMAIL** [starkeyp@miltonkeynes-sw.demon.co.uk](mailto:starkeyp@miltonkeynes-sw.demon.co.uk)

⑤ **WEB** [www.phyllisstarkey.labour.co.uk](http://www.phyllisstarkey.labour.co.uk)

⑥ **VISIT** one of my surgeries at Netherfield,  
West Bletchley and Wolverton by appointment.  
Please call 01908 225522.