

A strong voice for East Northamptonshire

## More Affordable Homes

Being invited to open new affordable housing in Thrapston was a great way to start 2007. These homes have been built as a result of the successful partnership between Rockingham Forest Housing Association and Circle Anglia. I particularly welcome this development as people on low incomes will benefit directly. Shared ownership gives people the opportunity to purchase a home at an affordable price.



Phil opening new homes in Thrapston

## Better Transport

It was a pleasure meeting the staff and volunteers of the Oundle Volunteer Action's Community Car Scheme. I have pressed our local councils to give more help to projects like these that provide a valuable car and bus service to local people – particularly older people and those with disabilities who don't have their own transport.

I was delighted that my campaign for a better system of bus passes for East Northamptonshire residents has been successful. Now local pensioners and

people with disabilities can travel outside of the district on a flat rate concessionary fare of £1 per journey. However, I shall continue to press the council to allow those in areas where fewer buses are available, to benefit from travel tokens in addition to their bus passes.

I was also glad that my representations to resolve the bus route problems in Thrapston were successful. But I was disappointed that the new county council took away the money earmarked for improving the Barnwell roundabout on the A605. I am concerned about road safety along this busy stretch of road and will continue to press them to change their mind.

**“people with disabilities will now be able to use their bus pass to travel outside of the district”**



Phil with volunteers from Thrapston Area Community Transport

## Protecting Our Environment

It is good news that recycling has improved so much in recent years.

In 1997 only 7% of England's household waste was recycled. It has almost quadrupled to 27% – a tremendous achievement by the public and local authorities. East Northamptonshire council has a good record on recycling but I will continue to press them to introduce a free green waste collection scheme.

Locally I was pleased that the Landfill Communities Fund gave £24,475 to enhance the woodlands at Glapthorn, Short Wood and Southwick Wood to protect rare species including butterflies.

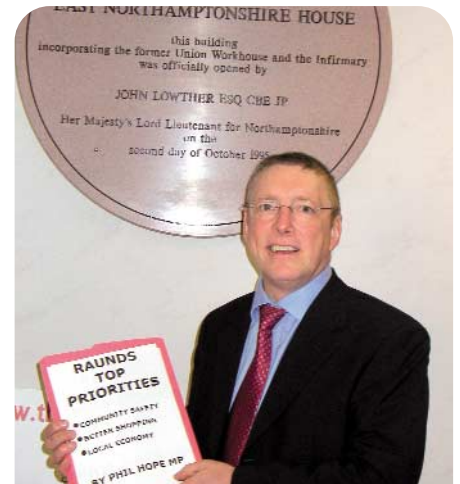


Phil at Stanwick Lakes

# Improving Our Town Centres

An extra £1.5 million in Government funding for the regeneration of the Raunds and Irthlingborough high streets is much welcome. This is on top of the £1 million for helping Thrapston to be a successful market town serving local businesses.

Extra Government cash to improve planning services locally is also helping to identify improvements to Raunds and the surrounding area. My survey of local residents so far has identified the top three issues of concern as community safety, better shopping and jobs. I am keen to know your views about what the priorities should be for action, so do write to me with your views.



Phil presenting Raunds Area Plan responses

## Investing in Children and Young People

This year saw Huxlow Science College achieve record results. This is a tribute to the hard work and commitment of the pupils, staff, parents and governors of the school. I am continuing to work with all the schools in Irthlingborough on a plan to create a single 3-18 years all-through school in the town.

It was a real pleasure opening the new computer suite and extension at King John school last year and to open the new library facilities at Stanwick primary. The fire at Glapthorn primary was a sad blow after so much had been invested in the school but I'm sure the re-build will provide top quality facilities for the children.

Children in Raunds and Irthlingborough will also benefit from the new government funded Children's Centres that will be created this year. I believe it is vital to give the best possible start to young families.

Students at Prince William school were on good form when I met them all recently for a vigorous debate on everything from Iraq to local youth facilities. It's good to know that our young people have so much confidence to debate these issues and a real commitment to international action to help the poorest in the world.



Phil opening new computer suite at King John School

**“the re-build will provide top quality facilities for the children”**

# Better Sports and Leisure Facilities

We are very lucky to have Stanwick Lakes in the constituency – a unique countryside attraction in the heart of the Nene Valley. I was pleased that the government along with many other bodies has helped to fund the development of this lovely area.

I will continue to support local residents and press for a footbridge to be built from Stanwick village across the A45 to allow easy and safe access. Now that the Countryside Access – Rights of Way Act is in operation there are many more places that everyone can enjoy.



**Phil with Stanwick Lakes ranger**

I very much welcome the extra money in 2006 from the Landfill Communities Fund that is paying for new changing facilities and ground improvements for the Thrapston Sports Association (£10,000), refurbishment of the Irthlingborough Pavilion (£25,000), drainage of the Titchmarsh Playing Field, and improvements to the swimming pool and new multi-purpose hall at the Frontier Centre Development Project (£25,000).



**Phil walking with the Irthlingborough Ikers**

## Supporting Rural Post Offices

I recently wrote to the Government to express the views of over 80 local people that rural post offices should not have to close. Many of those who responded to my survey of 26 post offices in the constituency were pensioners who often rely on their village post office which has social as well as economic value.

I will continue to press for continued subsidies and am pleased at the government's recent commitment to provide £150 million to support the network and that there will now be a successor system to the Post Office Card Account.

## Support for Rural Businesses

I have been pleased to help farmers locally overcome difficulties they have been having in receiving the government's subsidies to sustain their businesses. If you or someone you know is having similar problems then please let me know.

I have also written to persuade some of the East Midlands Members of the European Parliament to change their minds and support the rules that will allow the government to provide rural development funding to support farmers and businesses in the constituency.



# Safer Communities



**Phil with local PC at Number 10 Downing Street**

**Although crime is relatively low and falling locally I will continue to press the police to respond rapidly to specific problems when they arise.**

I was pleased that extra government funding means that the police can introduce two new Safer Community Teams this April covering Thrapston/Raunds /Irthlingborough, and Oundle and the surrounding villages.

However the continued reluctance of East Northamptonshire Council to co-fund new Police Community Safety Officers with the police to help tackle Anti-Social Behaviour remains a real source of frustration for me.

# How to contact Phil Hope MP



**PHONE** 01536 443325  
(Constituency Office)

**WRITE** to House of Commons,  
London SW1A 0AA or: Room 222,  
Chisholm House, Corby NN17 1PD

**EMAIL** hopep@parliament.uk

**ONLINE** www.philhope.org.uk

**MEET** Phil at an MP surgery in Corby,  
Irthlingborough, Raunds, Oundle or  
Thrapston (ring Corby office for details).

## What next for East Northamptonshire?

East Northamptonshire is changing for the better. It is a beautiful area of the county and now has better schools, better health services, new safer community teams, better rural transport, more affordable housing and better sports and leisure facilities.

Much has been done over the last ten years but there is always more to do. I want to know what your priorities for action are now to improve the quality of life in the towns and villages of East Northamptonshire.

Please tick up to five of the boxes below and return this form by fax or post to the address below. You can also reply online through my website: [philhope.org.uk](http://philhope.org.uk)

### My top five priorities for action in East Northamptonshire are:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reverse the Youth Service cuts               | <input type="checkbox"/> Cleaner streets and pavements             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reverse the cuts in disability care services | <input type="checkbox"/> Improve road safety                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Restore free green waste collection          | <input type="checkbox"/> Raise local skills/jobs                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Funding more uniformed officers on the beat  | <input type="checkbox"/> Redesign our town centres                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Funding for rural development                | <input type="checkbox"/> More support for children and families    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Subsidies for village post offices           | <input type="checkbox"/> More support for older people             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New buildings for our schools                | <input type="checkbox"/> More support for people with disabilities |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)                    |
|   | _____  |
|   | _____  |

POST TO:  
**Phil Hope MP, Room 222 Chisholm House,  
Queens Square, Corby NN17 1PD**  
or  
FAX TO: 01536 269462

Name (capitals please) \_\_\_\_\_

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