

Phil Hope MP



Report to Constituents

Spring/Summer 2008

Free Bus Passes for All

Welcome to the latest edition of my constituency report. I am working hard to improve the quality of life for all people in East Northamptonshire.

I am delighted that the government have introduced free local off-peak bus travel anywhere in the country for pensioners and disabled people. This is a great boost for older people going on holiday or visiting relatives.

I am disappointed that East Northamptonshire Council are making people choose between the national bus pass to which they are entitled and local travel tokens.

The council receives extra government funding to provide free national bus passes and it is unfair to people in isolated villages, where no buses operate, who want their bus pass but also need the travel tokens.

Pensioners in East Northamptonshire deserve better. East Northamptonshire Council should not make people to choose. They should provide the national bus passes to all who are entitled to them, and continue to provide travel tokens to those who need them.

Please sign my petition below.



Phil wants all older and disabled people in East Northants to be able to benefit from the new national bus pass

"I support Phil Hope MP's campaign calling on East Northamptonshire Council not to make older and disabled people choose between travel tokens and the national bus pass to which they are entitled."

Print Name	Signature	Address	Postcode

Please return petition slip to: *Phil Hope MP, Second Floor Chisholm House, Queens Square, Corby, Northants, NN17 1PD*

Improving our Towns



Phil takes a look at the new town square in Raunds

The regeneration of Raunds town centre is complete and the reshaping of Irthlingborough High Street is quickly taking shape.

The schemes will create new town squares, better pedestrian crossings and extra trees.

My consultation with local residents showed a

demand for better shopping facilities in Raunds and Irthlingborough.

I am pleased that East Northamptonshire Council have finally committed to using government money to make shopping in Irthlingborough and Raunds a better experience.

Phil Hope MP - A Strong Voice for East Northamptonshire

More Help for Families

Irthlingborough and Raunds are set to benefit from the opening of two new children's centres in the area.

The government has set an ambitious target for a children's centre in every community and I am delighted that this is going to become a reality for the people of Irthlingborough and Raunds.

I have campaigned long and hard for children's centres in East Northamptonshire. They will provide welcome support for hard working families in Irthlingborough and Raunds.

The centres will provide a range of information for parents on all aspects of childcare, and will offer facilities such as infant activities, baby massage, health advice and parenting groups.

Raunds children's centre has now opened at Manor School and Sports College.



Irthlingborough families will soon benefit from a new children's centre

Irthlingborough children's centre is being built at Irthlingborough Infants school, and will open its doors in time for the next academic year.

"Over the next three years, every school in Northamptonshire will benefit from a share of £134 million of government money."

Supporting Local Schools

One of the best parts of my job is getting the chance to visit and talk to young people in local schools.

A good education is essential if all of our children are to enjoy a prosperous future. I am delighted that the government is doing so much to improve education in East Northamptonshire.

Over the next three years, every school in Northamptonshire will benefit from a share of £134 million of government money.

It was great to recently visit the new state-of-the-art £630,000 sports hall at Huxlow College. This will be a terrific facility for Irthlingborough students and the wider

community.

It is so pleasing to see the hard work of young people paying off. Standards in our schools are rising, and across East Northamptonshire we are seeing consistently improving exam results.

It is a great pleasure to meet and talk to local students. I regularly take part in assemblies and make visits to schools to engage young people in issues affecting their lives.

I recently went back to school to help set up a student council at Manor School in Raunds. This will help the students gain real life skills such as communication and teamwork.



Phil goes back to school to set up Manor School Student Council in Raunds

Tackling Crime

Increased investment in police has ensured crime is falling in East Northamptonshire. Crime was down 3% in Northamptonshire during the last 9 months of 2007.

Reports of anti-social behaviour were also down 16% in the first 3 months after the county-wide roll out of Safer Community Teams. SCTs provide neighbourhood-based policing in every community in East Northamptonshire.

But I want to see more being done.

I am frustrated that East Northamptonshire District Council refuse to provide funding for more Police Community Support Officers to tackle anti-social behaviour in East

Northamptonshire.

I know that PCSOs are highly effective in tackling low-level nuisance and anti-social behaviour. They also free up police officers to concentrate on more serious crimes.

If you wish to join my petition for more PCSOs in East Northamptonshire, please contact me using the details overleaf.



Phil out on patrol with a PCSO in Raunds

Support for Rural Post Offices

Good services are vital to promote social inclusion in rural communities.

I am pleased therefore that the government are taking the unprecedented step of spending over £150 million each year on subsidising the post office network.

The way people use services is changing, and it is important that the Post Office modernises but I fully recognise the role of post offices in rural communities.

I have lent my full support to keep rural post offices, like Barnwell open, where they have proven to be financially viable, and have not had issues like transport and the availability of alternatives properly factored into the Post Office's consultation.

Strong Rural Communities

I regularly make visits to local organisations, groups and people in East Northamptonshire and am astounded by the strength of local communities in our area.

There are so many exciting community-based projects happening all across our region.

I am delighted that the first Community Social Enterprise Centre in East Northants is due to be set up in Raunds at the parish rooms. It will be a great example of social enterprise, managed by local people, with all profits reinvested into the centre for the benefit of the Raunds community. The centre will provide a range of services including ICT activities and training for young people.

Recently, I held a voluntary sector conference for local charities and voluntary organisations in East Northamptonshire. This was a great opportunity for me, as the Minister for Third Sector to help inform local groups of help that may be available to them, and to listen to some of the challenges they face.

I was very pleased to lend my support to the creation of a community-based shop in Titchmarsh. This



Phil joins forces with Alan Titchmarsh to support Titchmarsh Community Shop

innovative social enterprise will enable Titchmarsh to be sustainable in its services, with local people having a stake in the shop's success. I have also strongly supported the work of SERVE, who do remarkable work to support older people in East Northamptonshire.

There continues to be a terrific amount of investment into our communities. The Landfill Communities Fund has recently helped provide welcome funding to Rockingham Forest Trust, SERVE, St. Peters Church (Oundle) and Thrapston Sports Association.

Leisure Boost for East Northants

I was lucky enough recently to pay a visit to Stanwick Lakes.

This is a real jewel in the crown for East Northants. There are activities for all ages including beautiful walks, play areas and amazing wildlife to see. I am delighted that Stanwick Lakes is set to benefit from a £2.5 million eco-friendly visitor centre.

It was also very pleasing to hear that the East

Northamptonshire Greenway project has won a share of lottery money to boost footpaths and cycle paths across the area.

I am campaigning hard for the creation of a skate park in Irthlingborough. My petition of over 500 signatures has shown there is widespread support, from young and old people alike. This would be a great facility for young people in Irthlingborough.



Phil tries his hand at skateboarding with Irthlingborough skaters

Phil at the dispatch box in the House of Commons



London Calling

I, like other MPs, spend a lot of time in Westminster, debating and voting on all issues of law that come before Parliament.

Some MPs are chosen by the Prime Minister to serve as Ministers in the Government and I was recently appointed the Minister for the Third Sector and Minister for the East Midlands.

These are really exciting roles - getting to work with charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises; and being a champion for our region.

There are some great community-based organisations here in East Northamptonshire. I am doing all that I can to ensure they can operate as effectively as possible.

How to contact Phil Hope MP

If you have a problem or an issue that is concerning you, then I may be able to help by representing your views and pursuing complaints. I have helped thousands of people in Corby and East Northamptonshire. I want to hear from you, please get in touch.

PHONE 01536 443325
(Corby constituency office)

FAX 01536 269462

WRITE Phil Hope MP
2nd Floor Chisholm House
Queens Square
Corby
NN17 1PD

E-MAIL hopep@parliament.uk

ONLINE www.philhope.org.uk

MEET Phil at an MP surgery where you can discuss your concern one-to-one. Phil holds regular surgeries in **Corby, Irthlingborough, Oundle, Raunds** and **Thrapston**. Contact the constituency office for details of the next surgery in your area.

