

With the Easter break now firmly behind us, it was great to be able to get out and about in North Norfolk to meet with constituents and find out how I can help them with the issues that matter to them most. Last week, my team and I closed our 5000th case – a fantastic milestone that reminds us how important it is to be aware of the issues affecting our unique rural communities and to offer them support to make their lives easier.

Below are just some of the issues and campaigns that I am focused on – as always, if there are any pressing issues that you are aware of in your communities, please do get in touch and make me aware of them so that my team and I can offer our support.

Fighting for better rural transport

There is only one train line here in North Norfolk, but it's an important one. It connects our villages, communities and our towns not just to Norwich, but to the rest of the country. Not every train stops at every rural station – and I have urged Greater Anglia to reconsider their train schedules to include smaller stops where getting people to work, to school and to their appointments on time is crucial.

Support for my petition to improve rural bus services is going strong - I have met with Sanders Coaches to call for a more joined-up bus schedule that will allow people to get where they need to go. While I fight for a better-connected Norfolk, I am also happy to report some good news for our learner drivers who rely on vehicles to get around. The Secretary of State has promised to prioritise clearing the backlog of driving tests and I'll be making sure that North Norfolk gets its fair share.

Supporting our farmers

British farming is among the best in the world - and Norfolk's is among the best in the country. I have regularly met with farmers to discuss their ongoing challenges – including their concerns about the quality of imported food, the impact of climate change on their farms, the impact of hefty tariffs, bad trade deals and not to mention the devastating family farm tax. That's why I'm fighting their corner, amplifying their voice and backing British farming. I also recently met with young farmers who are concerned about the impact that the family farm tax will have on their futures. I am continuing to push the Government to give our farmers a fair deal before it's too late.

Committed to giving our children the education they deserve

I did not get into politics to oversee a managed decline in services, and I am shocked at how often I hear about a school that is set to close in a community that desperately needs access to it. I have been outspoken on the delay in building the new school in Holt and have raised the matter with the Secretary of State for Education. I will keep putting pressure on the Council to complete the school with urgency and I won't stop until I see the first pupils walk through the gates. I also met with parents whose children attend East Ruston nursery after the Trust decided to consult on the facility closing

down. I won't accept that our children don't deserve the best education possible, and that what I'll keep pushing for.

Demanding better SEND provision for our children

Every day, my team and I offer our support to families who are navigating Norfolk's broken SEND system and despite doing everything right, they're finding themselves endlessly butting heads with a broken system that seems to work against them. I have nothing but admiration for them and I am campaigning to build (and fund) a joined-up family-focused SEND system that works with compassion, urgency, and common sense and I will keep fighting for a joined-up system that puts our children first.

Securing early legal support for our residents

North Norfolk is a legal aid desert, and many residents have little access to family, criminal and housing legal assistance. This needs to change – and fast. Despite the great efforts of organisations like the Norfolk Community Law Service there are still barriers that prevent people from accessing the help that they desperately need. I raised this vital topic in Parliament and look forward to working with the Government to ensure North Norfolk residents get the early legal support and advice that makes the biggest difference.

Securing Support for our Coastal Communities

I recently had the great honour of securing this parliament's first debate on coastal communities and it gave me the opportunity to bring the challenges that we face daily here in North Norfolk to the attention of the Government, and to ask them for their support in the form of appointing a Coastal Minister.

Despite the incredible contribution that coastal communities like ours make to our country economically, culturally and environmentally, the system is not working for us. Our health and economic outcomes are poorer than those of our inland neighbours, our environment is battling the challenges of climate change, coastal erosion and the sewage dumping scandal and our communities are damaged by second homes that sit empty for six months of the year. This isn't about stopping second home ownership, instead, it is about finding ways to ensure that affected communities get something back to offset the impact. These are just some of the issues that land in my inbox daily that I am tackling to better the lives of people in North Norfolk.

Better banking that serves rural communities

Many residents have written to me about the new banking hub that I secured in Holt which has helped the community to access banking services where they live and work. I'm pleased to say that I have secured a second banking hub, this time in North Walsham, that will go a long way towards replacing services that will be lost when Santander closes their branch there, which is also the only bank left in the town. I will keep campaigning for more banking hubs across North Norfolk so that more people can

access the services they need and talk to a representative from their own bank in person when they need to.

Easing the healthcare burden with new appointments

With 21,500 new NHS dentist appointments secured for North Norfolk through my campaign for better dental care – it is clear that the Government is listening to our urgent call for better healthcare provision. I am calling for more services at Cromer Hospital to ensure that those who need urgent and specialist treatment can access first class healthcare without the additional struggle of travelling for hours to get there.

Standing with communities on the issues that really matter to them

Finally, I am delighted to say that the phone box in Sharrington has been given a reprieve, and BT have said that – due to overwhelming community support for it – they are no longer going to remove it. In fact, they have just been around to give it a spruce up – replacing the receiver, giving it a spring clean and readying it for a brand new coat of red currant paint. It just goes to show you what communities can achieve when we rally together to fight for the things we believe in.

As always, please get in touch if there is anything that my team and I can support you with, we're always here to help.

Steff Aquarone.