

Harriet Harman - MP for Camberwell and Peckham

Monthly Newsletter - September 2013

Walkabout and advice surgery on Cossall Estate in Nunhead

I visited the Cossall Estate on the 11th September and met with local residents and Tenants & Residents Association Secretary Jennifer Campbell and Chair Ricky Richards; local councillors Fiona Colley and Sunil Chopra; council candidate Sandra Rhule; and Southwark Resident Services officers Hazel Flores and Michele Rose. Residents told me they were concerned about the future use of the old Tukes School site, the refurbishment of the play areas, dog fouling and dog control in the Kirkwood Nature Reserve and the communal heating systems, and I will be taking these issues up with the Council.



The centenary of Kings College Hospital

Myself and Tessa Jowell MP were delighted to join staff, patients and supporters on Friday 26th July - 100 years to the day that King George V and Queen Mary officially opened Kings.

Campaigning against bus diversions in Peckham Rye

On the 6th September I joined the residents of Therapia & Mundania Roads who have been affected by buses going down their roads due to road improvement works in nearby Forest Hill Road. Local councillors Barrie Hargrove and Gavin Edwards and TfL representatives agreed to mitigate the impact of the buses, monitor the bus speeds, and speed up the road-works.

Meeting with party members and new candidates at South Camberwell Branch ward meeting

Spent a warm evening at the Albrighton Community Centre in South Camberwell on the 5th September meeting with local party members and newly selected council candidates Sarah King and Chris Gonde. There was a lot to discuss including Syria, the bedroom tax, the cost of living crisis and Ed Miliband's plans for reforming the Labour party.

The cost of living crisis: Visiting Essex

On the 28th August I went to South Basildon & East Thurrock to see how the cost of living crisis has affected local residents. Along with Parliamentary Candidate Mike Le-Surf I met with Chelsea, a young single mum who is struggling as a result of the Government's cuts and rising living costs. I also met with local Councillors Keith Bobbin and Melissa McGeorge.



Camberwell Green campaigning with new council candidates

Spent the evening of the 3rd September with our newly selected council candidates Kieran Williams and Tom Flynn, Cllr Dora Dixon-Fyle and local members talking with residents in Camberwell Green. Next CLP door-knock: Saturday 21st September in Peckham Rye!

Other activities & visits include: Parliamentary Questions to the Department for Culture, Media & Sport, Edinburgh Festival, Progress 'Winning with Women' Conference, Royal Television Society keynote speech, Older Women's Commission and speaking at an IPPR event on older women.

Yours

Harriet

Shadowing the work of local union reps

On the 3rd September I spent the afternoon at Kings College Hospital shadowing the work of Vicky Lucioni, UNISON Regional Organiser for the Health Team and local branch representatives Brenda, Rosie and Margaret. I also met with local UNISON members to discuss the valuable work the union does on a daily basis helping members and management to resolve workplace issues and improve workplace practice and relations.



On the 9th September I addressed the TUC Gala Dinner and you can read the speech on my web-site at: www.harrietharman.org/

Camberwell and Peckham casework

A woman from Camberwell was mistakenly overpaid housing benefit for 6 months. She was asked to pay back £376.25 in monthly instalments of £13 but couldn't afford to pay as she works part time as a health care assistant. She contacted me because she felt it was unfair to have to pay back money that was over-paid in error. I contacted the Council and they agreed to use their discretion to waive the debt.

A student from Peckham contacted me with a complaint about the Student Loan Company. In 2012 he received a grant of £969 and a loan of £804 which he spent on books, equipment and travel. While he was waiting to hear about his loan application for the second year of study, he received an email from the Student Loan Company saying that the college was closing and that he had to pay back the grant in full. The Company has refused to waive what they consider to be an 'overpayment' so I have written to the Universities Minister to ask him to reconsider.

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**MY ADVICE SURGERIES ARE NOW AT
Walworth Methodist Church 'Clubland'
54 Camberwell Road, SE5 0EW**



Fri	27	Sep	9am
Tue	15	Oct	5pm
Fri	25	Oct	9am
Tue	5	Nov	5pm
Fri	15	Nov	9am
Fri	29	Nov	9am
Tue	10	Dec	5pm
Fri	20	Dec	9am

Getting to Clubland: Bus Routes: 468, 148, 171, 45, 68, 176, 12

Casework Update September 2013

Since my last monthly report in July:

- I took action on 895 cases
- Including 328 new cases
- 6 Advice Surgeries
- 244 people attended surgery
- Average reply time: 10 days

