The Labour Party

Camberwell and Peckham Labour Party

Harriet Harman - MP for Camberwell and Peckham

Report — February 2016

GC - AGM

At our AGM last month Jo Baxter stood down after 13 years as our CLP Secretary. No local CLP could have had a more dedicated, hard-working and principled secretary. She always had time for everyone in the party and worked hard with party members in every ward as well as with the councillors. I want to thank her for the great personal support she has given me as your MP and wish her all the best for the future.

Thank you Jo!

Disclosure & Barring Service delays

The Disclosure & Barring Service provides the important police check that has to be made before people can get a job with children or vulnerable people. The last thing anyone expects when they are offered a job is for that offer to be put at risk. Not because they are criminals and have done something wrong, but because of the DBS missing self-set targets on timeliness which leave applicants unable to take up their jobs, get paid and putting them under financial strain. I've asked the Home Secretary how many DBS applications from Camberwell and Peckham had taken more than 60 days to process in the last 12 months. 2,371 applications by residents of Camberwell and Peckham took longer than sixty days and the delays only seem to be getting worse. Last month, over 20% took longer than 60 days – the highest proportion in the last twelve months. Read my article in Southwark News here.

Peckham Regeneration

At the beginning of the month I met Mark Williams, Councillor in charge of Regeneration & New Homes to discuss Southwark Council's plans for regeneration in Camberwell & Peckham, these include:

- 20,000 new homes and more than 5,000 new jobs in the Old Kent Road Opportunity Area.
- Redevelopment of the Aylesbury Estate where all previous tenants have the right to return.
- Redevelopment of Peckham Rye Station, and a nearby hair & beauty hub for local businesses.

Labour's Equality Act is protecting vulnerable people from Tory injustice

The new law that will force U.K. companies of over 250 employees to reveal their gender pay gaps was introduced by the last Labour government in the 2010 Equality Act. It was the very last piece of legislation that the government I was part of passed before we got kicked out of power after losing the general election in May of that year. But until now the Tories didn't bring it into effect. It was just gathering dust. The Equality Act was our last bill through Parliament. But even now, six years later, it will play its part in tackling unfairness and inequality. Read my full article here.

Nunhead Reservoir— Site visit with Thames Water

Nunhead Reservoir, owned by Thames Water, stores drinking water for South London. It regularly falls victim to vandalism, break-ins, graffiti and littering.

I visited the site with senior Thames Water representatives and local Cllr Renata Hamvas to discuss options for public access and how we can safely open it to local people.

There are wonderful panoramic views from Nunhead Reservoir. Thames Water are a private company but should be a good corporate citizen in our local area while protecting public health and safety.

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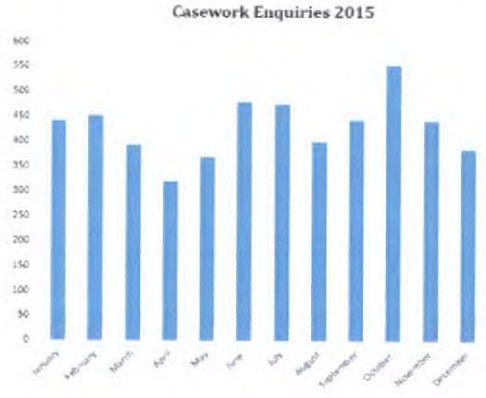
These are just some of my activities. For further information about my work in the constituency please see my website www.harrietharman.org

Casework Figures Summary 2015

A major part of my work as MP for Camberwell and Peckham is helping constituents with a wide range of problems. People seek my help for many different reasons including housing problems, immigration and visa problems and benefit entitlement. Casework enables me to help my constituents as well as keeping me in touch with the problems they face.

January - December 2015:

Total number of enquiries:	5153
Total number of new contacts:	1458
Total number of existing contacts:	3635
Total number of advice surgeries:	32
Total number of people attending:	906
Average response time:	9 days



EU Referendum

Thursday 23rd June 2016

Don't forget to register to vote so that you can vote to keep Britain in the European Union. Find out about registering here.

Joint Committee on Human Rights Update

This month the Committee and I have:

- Published our report on threats to Human Rights in the Trade Union Bill.
- Met Chief Commissioner of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission.
- Met Adam Wagner, prominent human rights blogger, on public perceptions of the Human Rights Act.

You can find the website for the Joint Committee on Human Rights here.

Recently I have voted:

- Against cutting central Government funding of policing.
- Against cutting benefits for ill and disabled people.
- For the publication of the Google tax settlement.

But Labour lost all these votes because we are in opposition - we must win the next election to be able to make positive change!

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MY ADVICE SURGERIES ARE AT Walworth Methodist Church 'Clubland'

54 Camberwell Road, SE5 0EW

Surgery Dates in March

- Tuesday 8th at 5pm
- Friday 18th at 9am

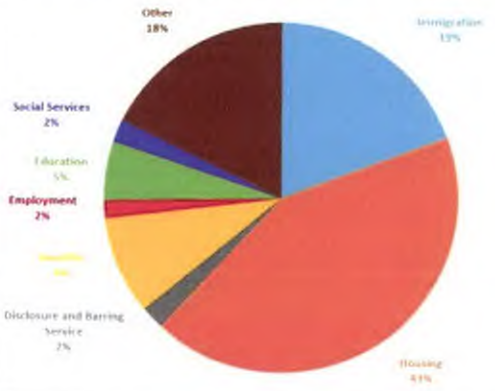
Getting to Clubland: ***Bus Routes:*** *468, 148, 171, 45, 68, 176, 12*

Casework Update February 2016

Since my last report in January:

- Action on 388 cases
- Including 113 new cases
- 2 advice surgeries
- Attended by 59 people
- Average reply time: 10 working

BREAKDOWN OF CASEWORK ISSUES - FEBRUARY 2016



@HarrietHarman

The Labour Party

Camberwell and Peckham Labour Party

Harriet Harman - MP for Camberwell and Peckham

Monthly Report—September/October 2016

Dear Members of Camberwell and Peckham Labour Party,

The Labour leadership contest has concluded with Jeremy Corbyn re-elected. He's now appointed a new Front Bench team and a big responsibility falls on him to inspire and unite the party and to inspire the public with the confidence that we are a credible Opposition and future government. I will be working particularly closely with Sarah Champion, our new Shadow Minister for Women and Equality and will be playing an active part in the Women's PLP which is now chaired by Jess Philips MP

Our local membership has now increased to 3,511. The party is continuing our regular ward door-knocking sessions and I hope all of you who are new members will, as well as attending the branch and all member meetings, feel welcome to come out campaigning with us.

The draft proposal for the new parliamentary boundaries has been published. This is a Tory gerrymandering exercise based on an electoral register from which about 3m people are missing. Those missing from the register are more likely to be young, renting, from inner cities and black. The register is discrimination at the heart of our democracy. The new boundaries would see Camberwell and Peckham turn into Camberwell & Vauxhall Bridge, we would lose South Camberwell, The Lane, Nunhead and Peckham Rye wards, gain Prince's & Vassall ward and regain Newington Ward from Bermondsey. The London Labour Party is co-ordinating the response to the consultation.

We are now seriously behind in the opinion polls. Even though we take them with a pinch of salt, we cannot but be concerned that we are 17% behind the Tories. All our previous experience tells us, particularly from the 1980s, that we can get into government if we are united and have a policy programme and leadership which connects with and inspires not only our members and the people in our traditional heartlands but also in the marginal Tory seats we need to win. That means we must understand people's concerns about us and address them. Otherwise we are consigned to Opposition and will betray the people who need a Labour Government. We lost 4 elections before we got into government in 1997. We've already lost 2 and this country becomes more unfair and unequal with every year the Tories are in Government.

I hope to see you at forthcoming ward meetings and campaign sessions. Harriet Harman

***Advance Notice ***
My memoirs come out in February next year. I'd like to thank the local party members who've sat down with me to remind me of our work in the party over the 1980s and 90s.

10 Point Plan for Brexit—The new Prime Minister must get a grip on Brexit

Most people in Southwark voted to "Remain" and I'm deeply disappointed that we will be leaving the EU But as "Leave" won, the government must ensure that we suffer as little as possible by leaving.

*The government must say when they will be putting the weekly sum of £350m into the NHS they promised as part of a "Brexit dividend". This was written on their "Leave" Campaign Bus but we've heard nothing of it since the vote.

*The government must guarantee areas who've been promised EU funds for infrastructure like roads and bridges that they will not lose the money when we leave the EU but they'll get it from our government.

*The government must commit to matching rights that employees get in the EU. Britain's workers can't slip behind on issues like equal pay and maternity rights.

*They must ensure we stay in the single market so our companies exporting to EU countries don't have to pay tariffs which will make their goods more expensive.

*They must be ready to support industries whose exports are threatened if we are thrown out of the single market and 10% tariffs imposed on all we sell into the EU We must not lose vital investment such as Nissan in the North East, because we've left the EU

*They must tell the many EU nationals who live in this country, some who've lived, worked and brought up their families that they will not be kicked out.

*On leaving the EU we'll have to negotiate new trade agreements with every country in the world we want to trade with to replace the trade agreements with countries like China and Cambodia, that we have by virtue of our membership of the EU. All EU trade deals require the countries we trade with to protect minimum human rights standards; to outlaw child labour and forced labour and to protect the right to join trade unions. When we negotiate new trade deals for ourselves with countries we wish to trade with we must ensure that those human rights clauses are included. We must not become the weak link in the quest to improve human rights around the world.

*The government must publish every 3 months the increase in the number of civil servants who have been employed on the Brexit negotiations, and their pay bill. Going it alone outside the EU means that instead of sharing work on treaty negotiations, we'll have to do them ourselves which will involve thousands more civil servants costing hundreds of millions of pounds. It is likely the £350m a week will go on lawyers and consultants negotiating Brexit rather than our NHS.

*The PM must take a personal grip on this. She can't leave it to her warring ministers.

*And she must let parliament know of and have a right to vote on the terms which she's trying to negotiate with the EU.

For further information about my work in the constituency please see my website www.harrietharman.org

George Arthur Roberts 1890 –1970

It was a privilege to attend the blue plaque unveiling and honour the life of radical, hero, civil rights activist George Arthur Roberts 1890-1970.

Born in Trinidad in 1890, George Arthur Roberts served in the First World War and went on to become a fire-fighter throughout the Blitz and rest of the Second World War.

In 1944 he was awarded the British Empire Medal "for general duties at New Cross Fire Station" and for his part as a founder and pioneer of the Discussion and Education groups of the fire service.

He was wounded first at the Battle of Loos, and then in the Battle of the Somme. After the war he settled in London firstly living in Peckham and then Camberwell where George and his family lived for almost 50 years.

A former electrical engineer, in 1939 George completed his training with the fire service and in 1943 became a section leader.

In 1931, George was one of the founder members of the League of Coloured Peoples, one of the first organisations to take care of the needs of Britain's black community.

Solomon's Passage—Wandle Housing

I'm continuing my work on behalf of the residents of Solomon's passage on Peckham Rye who will all have to move because of disastrous building faults. I'm keeping pressure on Wandle Housing Assocation to give leaseholders a fair valuation when they're buying them out, give certainty to the tenants and communicate more promptly and openly with the residents,. People in Solomon's' Passage thought they'd found their dream homes only to find it's turned into a nightmare.

Campaigning in Livesey

Thanks to councillors Situ and Livingstone and branch organiser Lorin for campaigning in the pouring rain on Ilderton Rd in Livesey Ward. It's vital that Labour is out and about knocking on peoples' doors, showing an interest in their lives, listening to their concerns and picking up issues which need to be acted on.

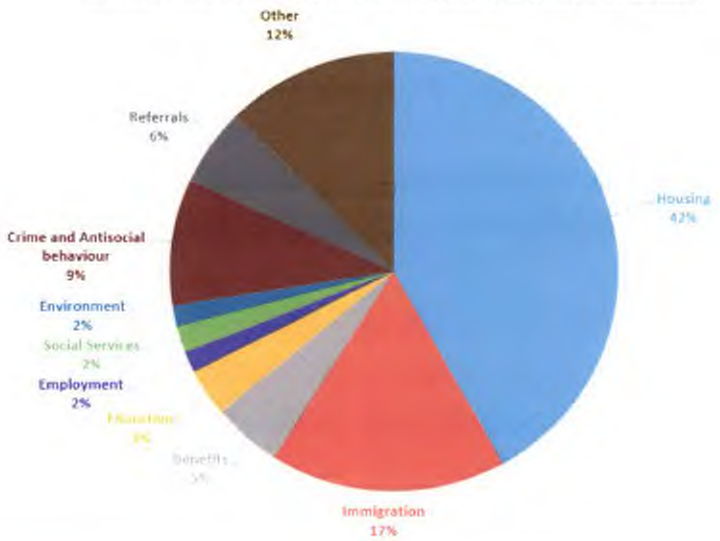
No-one says to us "We only see you at election time"!

Casework Update

In August & September :

- Action on **481** cases
- Including **249** new cases
- Average reply time: 10 working days

CASEWORK BREAKDOWN: AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2016



National Labour Women's Conference—Liverpool

1,300 women gathered at National Labour Women's Conference in Liverpool. In my speech I said that only a Labour government pushes for advances in women's lives. The Tories never have and never will fight for equality. Theresa May, when Shadow Minister for Women, voted against our Equality Act 2010, sided with Tory men against our argument for more women MPs and has been closing children's centres. So though she's a woman, she's no "sister". As Labour women, and with more women MPs than all the other parties put together, it is down to us to speak for women in this country. And to ensure that in the future Labour doesn't have an all-male leadership team.

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The Labour Party

Camberwell and Peckham Labour Party

Harriet Harman - MP for Camberwell and Peckham

Monthly Report—June 2016

Jo Cox MP 1974—2016

Jo's death is an absolute tragedy. She was dynamic and fearless. Elected only a year ago she was a beacon among the new generation of young Labour women MPs. So full of promise for the future, so committed to progressive politics. Jo's politics were always about bringing people together and never about creating divisions. She put into practice her belief that politicians must be amongst the people they represent and she was, in every town, village and community in her constituency. We were immensely proud of her and are devastated by her loss. Her children will now have to grow up without their mother but we will make sure that they know what an amazing, progressive and principled politician their mother was and how much we admired her.
My deepest sympathy goes to Brendan and to Jo's family.

EU Referendum Results

The U.K. has voted to leave the EU and there will now be economic and political turbulence.
I am deeply disappointed by the result of the referendum.

- I campaigned hard for us to remain in the EU.
- The overwhelming majority of Labour supporters backed the UK remaining in the EU and
- 73% of Southwark residents backed remaining in the EU.

But we have to acknowledge the result and strive for the best future for this country in the circumstances which now face us.
The leaders of the Leave campaign promised that:

- There would be no shock to the economy and that it would grow
- People will not be hit by price increases
- That pay will go up for low paid workers
- That they'd invest more in the health service
- That they'd have a fair immigration policy
- That they would not unravel the rights at work that the EU guarantees

They must be held to account to deliver on those promises.
We, in the Labour Party, must ensure that the burden of the economic problems which the country now faces does not fall hardest on those who can least afford it.
We must not let the Tories allow the poorest regions to fall further behind.
And in London, all politicians, both MPs, GLA members and councillors, must work together to support London's economy and services.
And we must banish the intolerance and hatred which was engendered by the leadership of the Leave campaign and which must be no part of the politics of our democracy.

Jeremy Corbyn Statement

It is with great regret that I call on Jeremy Corbyn to stand down as leader of the Labour Party. Jeremy has many great qualities but he is not a leader. The party and the country needs a strong united Labour Opposition at this immensely challenging time. Jeremy earned the right to take up the leadership of the party with a big majority. But he has failed and he has no right or mandate to stay in office despite his failure and take the party down with him. Leading the party is a privilege not a right. You earn the opportunity to lead by being elected, to lead the whole party, our voters, members, councillors and MPs. But winning the leadership election does not give you the right to continue in post if you fail. If Jeremy goes now, he will earn the respect and admiration of the party. If he stays he will be responsible for damage to the party on the gravest scale. No-one has the right to do that. Being leader of the Opposition is an immensely difficult task. Much harder than it looks. The starting point should be to support the leader and help them succeed. And that is what I have done over the past 3 decades and with 6 leaders through thick and thin. But I have no right to stand by and let our party collapse in disarray. That is what has happened under Jeremy and that has to stop. I urge Jeremy to stand down.

Solomon's Passage—Wandle Housing

85 families who live in Solomon's Passage, overlooking Peckham Rye, heard the devastating news that they'll all have to leave their homes because of fundamental defects in the blocks built only 6 years ago. 2 blocks will have to be refurbished and the residents will have to move out. And 2 blocks are so badly built they'll have to be demolished. Families face months of uncertainty.

I've met with Wandle and residents of Soloman's Passage. Peckham Rye Councillor's Renata Hamvas, Gavin Edwards and Victoria Mills have also pledged their support. It's clear that the residents' confidence in Wandle has collapsed. It's clear Wandle really need to work to rectify this. I've met with Wandle to propose:

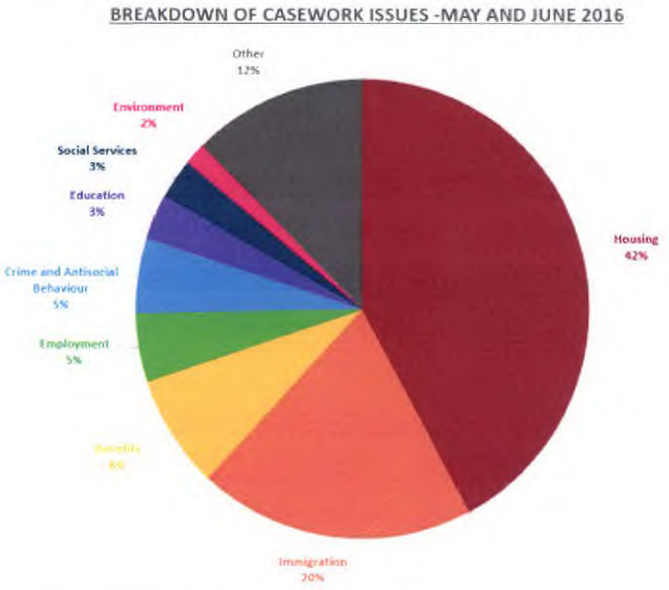
- They support a new Tenants and Residents Association
- That Wandle board to visit and meet the residents
- That a senior Wandle official and Wandle board member be identified to liaise with residents
- Individual contracts for each resident setting out Wandle's commitment for their future housing
- Fair valuations for those with shared-ownership
- Compensation for past problems on repair/maintenance
- Full transparency on all documentation and reports (except where between Wandle and their lawyers)

If necessary, the Homes and Communities Agency and the Department of Communities and Local Government must help Wandle deal with this terrible construction failure.

Casework Update

In May & June :

- Action on 521 cases
- Including 228 new cases
- 3 advice surgeries
- Attended by 73 people
- Average reply time: 10 working days



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The Labour Party

Camberwell and Peckham Labour Party

Harriet Harman - MP for Camberwell and Peckham

Monthly Report—April and May 2016

EU Referendum

Over the last few decades there's been a transformation in women's lives, with women going out to work as well as caring for children and elderly.

BRITAIN STRONGER IN EUROPE

Regarding ourselves as equal citizens whose contribution in the world outside the home is important and should not be undervalued. Through those decades the EU has been a friend to women in this country. As long as the Tories are in power, we can't rely on the Government to stand up for and maintain women's rights. We need the protection that the EU provides. I don't believe that Boris Johnson, Nigel Farage and Michael Gove will actively protect women's rights.

My decision to vote to remain is based on a whole range of issues: Jobs and investment, UK influence in Europe, UK influence through the EU in the rest of the world, the EU as a body of countries committed to human rights. And my general belief that it's best to look forward and outward rather than backward and inward - especially in a globalised world. Opting out for a quiet life was never a way to make progress on anything. And outside the EU it wouldn't be a quiet life but one of frustration and ineffectiveness. A quick adrenalin boost of "going it alone" followed by long endurance of problems and marginalisation leaving us as a weaker, poorer country.

You can read my speech for Britain Stronger in Europe and the report on why the EU is a friend of women at work here: http://www.harrietharman.org/the_eu_is_a_strong_friend_to_women_at_work

London turns Red as Sadiq Khan and Florence Eshalomi elected

It's over a week now, but I'm still buzzing that Sadiq Khan is our new mayor of London and that Florence Eshalomi has been elected to represent Lambeth and Southwark on the GLA. It means it's a really hopeful time for London. We can look forward to more homes being built and sold or rented at a price people can afford. I shall be supporting our Southwark council leader Peter John as he seeks the backing of the Mayor to build more council and affordable homes.

He's promised to put a cap on spiraling transport fares. It's going to be a time for new plans and new ideas. Whether it's keeping our air cleaner or our streets safer, or helping new businesses start up and tackling the inequality which still scars London, Sadiq has said he'll be a Mayor who listens and innovates. And it's an incredibly proud time for London. We've elected as our new Mayor a man who was brought up on a Tooting council estate, whose parents emigrated here from Pakistan - his father to work on the buses and his mother to work as a seamstress. He went to University and set up his own legal firm. And he's the first Muslim to be elected to lead our great City - the first of any city in Europe.

Mayor Making

On Saturday 14th May, Cllr Kath Whittam was elected Mayor and Cllr Charlie Smith was appointed Deputy Mayor. Mayor Whittam announced during her installation ceremony that she had chosen two charities to benefit from her charity appeal for 2016/2017: The National Autistic Society and Surrey Docks Farm.

My congratulations go to all that were honoured at Southwark Cathedral and especially to Mayor Whittam who I am sure will continue working hard for the people of Southwark in her new role.

These are just some of my activities. For further information about my work in the constituency please see my website www.harrietharman.org

Education Funding in London

The Tories proposed education reforms and changes to the National Funding Formula mean that London schools will lose between 8% and 20% of funding by 2020. It is difficult to see how standards can be maintained with such a reduction in funding, especially when London schools are dealing with unprecedented demand.

Schools that are not adequately funded should be levelled up, but levelling down schools is not justified or fair and would put school performance at risk. In London, schools spend a high proportion of the budget on staffing. Making any further savings through efficiencies would affect schools performance and the quality of education children receive.

In the debate on 4th May, I made it clear that any reductions in funding to schools in Southwark would risk the quality of education that local children receive and that was unacceptable.

You can read the full debate at: https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-05-04/debates/16050465000001/EducationFundingInLondon

Drones Report

The Joint Committee on Human Rights published our report on the Government's policy on the use of drones for targeted killing on 10th May. This follows our inquiry in the wake of the killing of suspected terrorist and UK national Reyaad Khan by an RAF drone strike in Syria.

We concluded that the Government's view of the legal basis for this policy requires urgent clarification. The Government also needs to clarify the legal basis on which it contributes to the use of lethal force abroad outside armed conflict by other countries such as the US.

The Government provide a response to the report in due course, and the Committee hope that the Government will respond positively to the recommendations we make.

Attorney General—Urgent Question on the European Convention on Human Rights

I asked Rt Hon Jeremy Wright QC MP (Attorney General) about the Governments position on the UK's membership of the European Convention on Human Rights in an Urgent Question on 26th April.

All Government's are tempted to abuse their powers, and the ECHR is an important guarantee and restraint. The UK must set an example for people in other countries who are struggling for human rights and leaving the ECHR would send the wrong message.

I will continue to support our membership of the ECHR and hold the Government to account on this issue.

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Surgery Dates in June

- Tuesday 7th at 5pm
- Friday 24th at 9am

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

Casework Update

In April:

- Action on 357 cases
- Including 159 new cases
- 2 advice surgeries
- Attended by 74 people
- Average reply time: 10 working days

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Report — March 2016

Peckham Citizens

Over 300 local people joined together at Peckham Rye Church on 2nd March for the inaugural meeting of Peckham Citizens; a collection of local people committed to social justice.

I was delighted to speak to the group and have committed to meeting again with them soon. Cllr Barrie Hargrove and Cllr Ian Wingfield also attended the meeting and have both previously been involved in some of the campaigns that Peckham Citizens have been running: to establish a Community Land Trust (which would provide affordable housing for local people) and to clean up Kelly Avenue Park.

Brayards Estate Coffee Morning

Brayards Estate Tenants and Residents Association Community Hall was the venue for my coffee morning with constituents. Many thanks to TRA Chair Lorraine Beck for arranging the venue and for all her hard work.

30 tenants and residents attended to talk about the issues that affect them most ranging from housing and immigration to anti-social behaviour and air/noise pollution. Local Nunhead Councillors Fiona Colley, Sunil Chopra and Sandra Rhule, representatives from the Nunhead Safer Neighbourhood Team and representatives from Southwark Council also joined us to listen to tenants and residents' concerns.

Sadiq Khan for Mayor of London

I joined Camberwell & Peckham Labour members to welcome Sadiq Khan MP (Labour's candidate for Mayor of London) and Florence Eshalomi (Labour's GLA candidate for Lambeth & Southwark) for campaigning and door knocking on 19th March.

On 3rd March, I was pleased to introduce Leader of the Labour Party Jeremy Corbyn MP when visited Peckham to support Sadiq Khan for Mayor and Florence Eshalomi for Lambeth & Southwark. He spoke to local people about the importance of a Labour Mayor who will intervene in the Tory housing crisis.

Sadiq will be a Mayor for all Londoners. He will prioritise tackling the Tory housing crisis, providing affordable public transport and making London safer. Make sure you are on the electoral roll so you can vote for Sadiq on May

Ticket Office Closures - Letter to Govia Thameslink CEO Charles Horton

In my letter to Govia Thameslink, I questioned the proposed closure of ticket offices at Denmark Hill, Peckham Rye and Queens Road which will hit local people who already get a raw deal on public transport. Passenger numbers are going up but not the frequency of train services.

Ticket offices provide reassurance to passengers and provide more services than those offered at a ticket machine. At a ticket office, passengers have access to a wider range of tickets both in terms of price and in terms of the type of ticket they are buying. Passengers, especially those who are vulnerable or disabled, feel reassured by a ticket office. Govia Thameslink must put passengers first.

Budget

George Osborne unveiled a shambolic Budget which was paid for by cuts to disability benefits. Pressure from Labour and the public caused the Tories to U-turn on their unfair proposed cuts to welfare and the Government now has £4.4bn hole

Prostitution

Many people say that prostitution - men paying for sex with women - has always been with us and always will be. But I don't agree with that view. Prostitution is bad for women, men and neighbourhoods and there is something we can and should do about it.

Some say that I should listen to the voice of organisations like "The English Collective of Prostitutes". I have, and I don't agree with them because I have also listened to the voices of women who were victims of trafficking whose cases I dealt with when I was Solicitor General in charge of the Crown Prosecution Service.

I think we should follow the example of the Nordic countries where the woman prostitute is treated as a victim and helped and men paying for sex are guilty of a criminal offence. We should tackle the criminal gangs who deal in guns, drugs and women's bodies.

Joint Committee on Human Rights Update

This month the Committee and I have:

- Heard evidence from a number of experienced witnesses on the Counter-Extremism Bill.
- Held a joint pre-appointment scrutiny hearing with the Women & Equalities Committee with the Government's preferred candidate for the Chair of the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

You can find out more about the JCHR at http://bit.ly/1RtU5Ph and @UKParlJCHR .

Recently I have voted:

- **Labour won the vote on Sunday opening hours with the support of the SNP and Tory rebels.**
- Against giving local government powers to extend Sunday opening hours.
- Against removing impact assessments when considering the removal of the work-related activity component from ESA.
- Against the Government's Budget.

We lost the majority because we are in opposition - we must win the next election to be able to make positive change!

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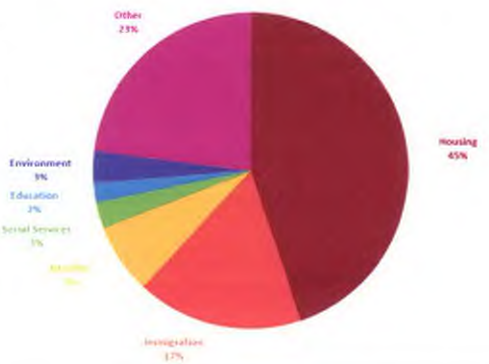
Casework Update March 2016

Since my last report in February:

- Action on 425 cases
- Including 174 new cases
- 2 advice surgeries
- Attended by 67 people
- Average reply time: 10 working days

BREAKDOWN OF CASEWORK ISSUES - MARCH 2016