

Liberal Democrat MP for Kingston, Surbiton, Berrylands, New Malden, Old Malden, Tolworth, Hook and Chessington

ED DAVEY



Useful Covid-19 information:

Follow the Government's advice
 Please continue to follow the Government's latest advice. At time of print, this is to **stay at home**.
 Visit: gov.uk/coronavirus

Testing for Covid-19
 Anyone can still get a free test for Covid-19 if you develop symptoms, and you are encouraged to do so.
 Visit: gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test Call: 119

Vaccination for Covid-19
 The NHS are in charge of the vaccination programme, and your GP will get in touch to let you know when you can get vaccinated.
 Visit: nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19

Getting additional help in Kingston
 Kingston Council have set up the Kingston Stronger Together Hub that offers additional support to local residents throughout the coronavirus pandemic.
 Visit: kingston.gov.uk/covid-19-kingston
 Call: 020 8547 5000
 For businesses in Kingston, help is also on offer through the Hub's dedicated page.
 Visit: kingston.gov.uk/covid19-business

Mental Health Support
 If you need someone to talk to urgently, the Samaritans are available 24/7.
 Call: 116 123

Need additional help from your local MP?
 Throughout the pandemic, Ed has continued to work hard for local people through his regular advice surgeries and taking on their casework. If you need Ed's help, please get in touch.
 Email: edward.davey.mp@parliament.uk Call: 020 8288 2736

Ed Davey MP
 Member of Parliament for Kingston and Surbiton



February 2021

Dear Resident,
This edition of my Report Back is slightly different to normal, focusing on how local people have faced the pandemic. I've left off politics in favour of sending you details of where to get help – like Kingston Council's "Stronger Together Hub" and the Government's latest advice.

I'd like to send my sincere thanks to people for their hard work and courage in this difficult year – from NHS staff and care workers, to key frontline workers – bus drivers, teachers, school staff and shop workers and many more – and countless numbers who've volunteered to help. You've been truly inspiring – beacons of light in some dark days.

And I'd like to send my deepest sympathies to those who have lost loved ones. If I can help you or, indeed, anyone else, do not hesitate to get in touch. Please excuse any delay in my replying – numbers of residents contacting me last year rose by over 300%, all too often with urgent issues who I of course have prioritised.

Alongside the health crisis, we've seen an economic crisis – with many local businesses and people severely affected. I'm pleased Ministers listened to the Lib Dem campaign on extending furlough. *However, I'm incensed there's been no help at all for over 3 million people, mainly self-employed people, and too little for firms in sectors banned from trading normally – like hospitality, events and leisure.*

Despite Covid-19, many of the things that I have been fighting for were achieved– from winning disabled access to the rear of Surbiton station to residents on Norbiton's Cambridge Estate voting overwhelmingly for the Royal Borough's largest, most exciting regeneration and council home building project for over 50 years.

I was also honoured to be elected Leader of the Liberal Democrats, in a nationwide campaign fought from my Surbiton home on "Zoom".

Let us hope the vaccination roll out is a success – and things improve rapidly this year. Please keep safe and follow the latest advice.

Kind regards,

Year in numbers

49

number of House of Commons debates spoken in

88

number of advice surgeries for local residents

12,400+

number of pieces of casework dealt with

Data from Aug '19 through to Dec '20

What local people say about Ed:



"My events business has been hard hit due to the pandemic. Ed helped secure business rates relief which is a huge help at this time."
 – John, Chessington



"I contacted Ed with a housing issue and I'm please that with his help we're able to stay close to our children's schools and our family."
 – Mehmood, Old Malden



"I'm so grateful for Ed's help with an issue on my street. He worked with the Council and others on my behalf."
 – Gloria, Kingston



ED DAVEY MP: WORKING FOR YOU ALL YEAR ROUND



Chessington's Covid Test Centre: The UK's first regional Covid-19 test centre was set up in March in the car park at Chessington's World of Adventures.
Above: Ed is pictured at a mobile test unit on the site, with Malden Rushett resident and NHS campaigner, **Andrew MacKinlay** and "Test and Trace" staff. Please book a test if you have symptoms: www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test



Foodbanks and community help: The work of volunteers and council staff with local foodbanks have been a lifeline for many local people.
Above: **Luisa Porritt** (the Lib Dem candidate for London Mayor) joined Ed on a visit to a foodbank, where we helped give out groceries.



Thank you, local businesses: Have we ever been more grateful to our local shops? So many have stepped up to support local people, despite the risks.
Above: Berrylands' amazing Stear's Greengrocers lost a lot of their work supplying restaurants and hotels, but worked doubly hard for residents.



Thank you NHS and care staff: From Kingston Hospital's brilliant heroes to everyone in the NHS, care homes, pharmacies and so on – thank you!
Above: this photo was taken in February 2020, before the first lockdown, on a visit to Kingston Hospital with other local Lib Dem MPs, **Sarah Olney** (North Kingston and Richmond) and **Munira Wilson** (Twickenham).



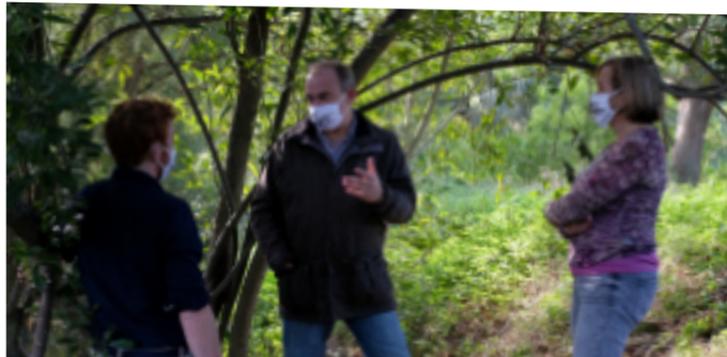
Vaccinations for over 80s: Kingston University kindly let local GP practices use their health centre premises as a temporary site for vaccinations for the Borough's over 80s.
Above: Ed visiting Kingston's first vaccination centre at the University. Please remember – the NHS will be in touch when it's your turn to be vaccinated. Find out more at: nhs.uk/coronavirus



Small Business Saturday: Shopping local to back amazing businesses has never been more important. I'm pressing the Chancellor to help small business and the self-employed more, especially those "Excluded" from support so far.
Above: Chessington Councillor, **Margaret Thompson**, and Ed visiting Simon Smith Flowers on Hook Parade, back in December before the 3rd lockdown.



Laptops for pupils home schooling: When schools closed and most pupils learnt at home, many struggled, especially those with no computer or internet
Above: Ed visited Surbiton's Hollyfield School in June to see how a charity, Keep Kids Connected, is delivering refurbished laptops to help get pupils online



A Green Recovery: People have valued local nature even more in the lockdowns. Our recovery from Covid, must be a green recovery.
Above: Ed visits a project to bring back the water vole to the Hogsmill River. Pictured here with Surbiton Councillor, **Hilary Gander**, at a site near New Malden's Green Lane Rec. Find out more at: citizenzoo.org/water-voles/



Protecting students and asymptomatic testing in Kingston: Kingston University have set up a Covid testing centre at their Penrhyn Road site, for students, staff and the local community
Above: Ed visits the University's testing site, where local people have been accessing rapid lateral flow tests for Covid, even if they don't have symptoms



Schools: Throughout the pandemic, I've kept in touch with headteachers in our local schools, and raised their issues with Ministers
Above: Ed outside Chessington's St Mary's Primary School with headteacher, Mrs Playle, discussing the many challenges schools are facing during Covid.



Remembrance: Of the many things we missed this year, the cancelling of almost all Remembrance Sunday services was very difficult. I laid a wreath at the Cenotaph with other party leaders at a much reduced ceremony.
Above: Laying a wreath at Chessington's war memorial. With so many lost to Covid, laying wreaths alone at the Borough's memorials in Chessington, Kingston, New Malden and Surbiton, was particularly poignant this year.



And finally a bit of fun in this difficult time...
Above: Carrot, one of our family's two guinea pigs. My children were determined to insist that I enlisted Carrot to help in my campaigns and be featured in this update.