



July Newsletter from Sir Bill Wiggin MP

RPA Roundtable Event

Bill has agreed to host Rural Payments Agency roundtable events for farmers in North Herefordshire. The meetings will discuss the efficacy of existing RPA schemes and services and give the opportunity for input in to the future direction of policy at the Agency.

If you would like to attend then please contact Bill's office by emailing officeofbillwigginmp@parliament.uk

Sir Bill was joined by Secretary of State at River Wye Roundtable



On Tuesday 30th May Bill welcomed the Secretary of State for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs, The Rt Hon Dr Thérèse Coffey, to Hereford for a meeting with representatives from the private and public sectors to address the state of the River Wye.

Several farmers and key players in the commercial poultry sector discussed how they are taking the lead in the fight to cut phosphate pollution and improve the condition of the River Wye.

DEFRA are looking at ways that the housebuilding moratorium could be lifted by removing inappropriate constraints of the EU's Habitat Regulations framework.

Sir Bill welcomes Employment Minister to Leominster

Earlier this year Bill welcomed Employment Minister, Guy Opperman MP, to Leominster to discuss topics such as increasing employer and company engagement and providing more effective transport to and from Herefordshire's largest employers.

Figures from February 2023 show that there were 1,130 people who claimed unemployment related benefits in North Herefordshire, which equates to 2.2% of the population aged 16-64.

The number of claimants in North Herefordshire has fallen by 170 over the past year.

Job Centre Plus is a great free resource for employers who can contact them with staffing demands.



Last month Sir Bill was guest speaker at the CLA Big Breakfast at the Three Counties Show

Bill was the guest speaker at the Country Land and Business Association (CLA) Big Breakfast at the Royal Three Counties Show last month.



Bill praised the Government for the work and investment that they are currently putting forward to help farmers and deliver public money for public goods.

He addressed the challenges facing the industry and stressed the importance and need to recognise food security as a 'public good'.

The Prime Minister has pledged to keep our rural communities 'right at the heart' of his promise to build a better future for people in this country.

In 2023, £168 million in grants and competitions was made available to farmers to drive innovation, support food production, improve animal health and welfare and protect the environment.

Bill recently attended the UK Farm to Fork Summit held in Downing Street, where the Government unveiled a package of support for the UK's food and farming sector.

Sir Bill held an adjournment debate on heating rural homes

The Government have recently proposed a bill to ban the replacement of oil and gas heated homes. This is to help work towards low-carbon and more sustainable alternatives. But Sir Bill called on the Government to rethink its 2026 oil-fired boiler ban because rural houses don't have a realistic alternative.

Bill raised the issue that many households may not be in a position to replace their boilers. This may be because of listed building regulations or the cost of replacement.



Sir Bill asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer to reduce stamp duty for home owners

With the recent announcement from the Bank of England that interest rates had been raised, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, The Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt, detailed the support that would be provided for mortgage holders during the debate.

Sir Bill asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he would consider the reduction in stamp duty to help all current and future homeowners buy and sell their homes.

The Chancellor agreed that stamp duty along with all taxation measures should be kept under review.

The Government already provides support for families through a £94 billion support package.

More information on these stories can be found on Sir Bill's [website](#)

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