



## September Newsletter from Sir Bill Wiggin MP

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### Asylum Seekers in the Talbot Hotel

Bill opposed the use of the Talbot Hotel for housing asylum seekers. Last month disappointingly they arrived in Leominster as part of the Government's scheme to increase the supply of asylum accommodation.

Bill raised his concerns with the Home Office about the suitability of the building and questioned the level of support available to them, without compromising services for Leominster residents.

The Home Office investigated and have given assurances that the number of occupants will be limited to 75 and only families will be using the site.



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### Bill raises plight of students cruelly affected by Higher Education strikes



Students across the country were unjustly and cruelly affected over the Summer by an ongoing dispute between the University and College Union (UCU) and Universities UK.

Industrial action by the UCU led to delays to hard-working students receiving their degree results.

A number of Herefordshire students contacted Bill as they were left without marked work and the degree classification that they needed to secure further study or employment.

In firm opposition to the strikes, in the House of Commons, Bill asked the Secretary of State for Education: "Will my right hon. Friend use these [Higher Education] reforms to protect young people to ensure that this never happens again and that universities such as Cambridge and Exeter can issue degrees?"

Rt Hon Gillian Keegan MP, responded: "They have invested in their degree and put all the hard work in. It is only right that they should have their degrees marked."

Bill has been glad to support everyone who has contacted him by raising their cases with their respective universities, many of which are now resolved.

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## Summer Surgeries

Over the summer, Bill hosted a series of surgeries across the constituency in Burley Gate, Bromyard, Ledbury, and Leominster.

At Burley Gate Village Hall, which has recently become a Talk Community Hub, Bill attended one of their 'Meet at the Gate' sessions.

There he met residents and saw the range of activities that are available over some tea and cake.

These sessions occur every second and fourth Thursday of the month, between 10:00 and 12:30. No pre-booking is necessary.



Bill was given a tour of the Conquest Theatre where he listened to their proposals for expansion. The Theatre is entirely run by volunteers and is a great community asset. Bill agreed to support their efforts to secure funding for improvements to the building.

Bill also met with the owner of the Hop Pocket - a family-owned business that champions local producers - to learn more about the pressures currently facing the retail industry.

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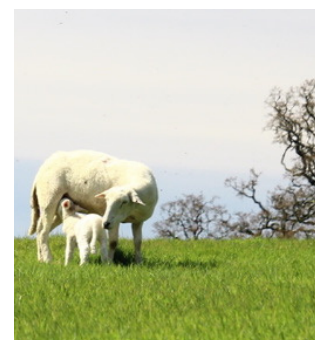
## Animal welfare and sheep worrying

During an Opposition Day Debate on Animal Welfare and the Kept Animals Bill, Bill raised his concern at the rise in livestock worrying incidents, including the dog attacks that led to the death of 28 sheep on two farms in Herefordshire earlier this year.

It is clear from the situation in Wales, where the Labour Government banned e-collars in 2010, that incidents of livestock worrying will increase from a ban on dog e-collars, leading to far worse casualties - both for sheep and the dogs that chase them.

The Kept Animals Bill was derailed by the Labour party imposing anti-hunting amendments, however the Government has assured that the key elements of the Bill will be brought in through secondary legislation.

Bill pledged that if successful in the Private Members' Bill ballot, he will bring forward a Bill to combat livestock worrying.



## Leominster road closures



Herefordshire Council and Balfour Beatty recently announced road closures in the centre of Leominster, set to take place in December, closing Corn Square and the High Street. The closures would severely impact the town's planned Christmas events.

Bill listened to the concerns of residents and business owners, urging the Council to find a workable solution. He stressed that the need to improve Leominster's road network had to be balanced with minimising the impact on small businesses and tourism at such a crucial time of year.

Consequently the Council confirmed that Corn Square will no longer be used to store materials and that festive planning for the town can commence.

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## Bill met Hereford slimmer in Parliament at Slimming World event

In June, Bill met NHS nurse Sarah Wynter, from Hereford, at a Slimming World parliamentary event, which gave MPs the opportunity to hear more about the organisation's evidence-based approach to healthy weight loss.

Sarah has undergone an inspirational weight loss journey, dropping from 17st 4lbs to 10st 6lbs after joining the local Slimming World group.

Speaking after the event, Bill said: "I congratulate her on this fantastic achievement, and I look forward to seeing the Slimming World on Referral scheme implemented in North Herefordshire."



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## RPA Roundtables

Bill is hosting two roundtable events with the Rural Payments Agency and farmers in North Herefordshire to discuss the efficacy of existing RPA schemes and services.



The meetings will give the opportunity for farmers to put forward ideas to drive the future direction of policy in the Agency and to present any feedback that they may have. These roundtables will be held on Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th September.

If you are a farmer and would like to attend one of these roundtables, then please contact Bill's office on [officeofbillwigginmp@parliament.uk](mailto:officeofbillwigginmp@parliament.uk).

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

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