



Spring Newsletter from Sir Bill Wiggin MP

Farmer Meeting with Minister Spencer

Last month Sir Bill Wiggin hosted the Minister for Food, Farming and Fisheries, the Rt Hon Mark Spencer MP, in Herefordshire.

During this visit the Minister attended a meeting with Farmers from across North Herefordshire. This meeting gave farmers the opportunity to raise the issues they face. The meeting was well attended by farmers from across the county.

Among the topics discussed were environmental protection, global trade markets, TB, the development of new technologies and securing the future of the industry for the next generation of farmers.



Government Transport Investments in Herefordshire



Sir Bill met with the Secretary of State for Transport, the Rt Hon Mark Harper MP, who recently announced huge investments for Herefordshire.

Herefordshire has received funds of £106,918,000 in additional funding for road resurfacing and £101,851,000 for local transport infrastructure.

All this funding has been reallocated from HS2, which Bill voted against in 2013.

The Government's reallocation of funds from HS2 has been a resounding success.

This additional funding will finally allow the new Conservative Council to begin the much-needed work that the previous Green-Independent Council ignored.

Sir Bill is advocating for the local transport funds to go towards the Hereford Bypass and making Ledbury Station accessible.

Sir Bill has a long track record of campaigning for road users and better accessibility at Ledbury Train Station.



Adjournment debate on rural transport



In January Sir Bill Wiggin held an Adjournment Debate on Rural Transport. During the debate, he highlighted the importance of transport infrastructure in rural areas.

In particular, he drew attention to the need for accessible public transport, a bypass in Hereford and a charging point infrastructure for electric vehicles.

Sir Bill met with the Minister for Roads and Transport, Guy Opperman MP, this month to discuss funding options for a Hereford bypass.

Sir Bill said: “Rural residents are distinctive because they are reliant on roads.

In North Herefordshire, for example, the opportunity for funding for a Hereford bypass was thrown away by Herefordshire’s previous Green-Independent Council.

During the debate, I was pleased when the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport offered to meet with myself and the local authority about funding options for the Hereford bypass.”

Sir Bill spoke up for Young Drivers

Last month, Sir Bill Wiggin, hosted a roundtable to discuss the insurance challenges faced by many young drivers.

This event was attended by representatives from Aviva, IAM RoadSmart and ABI.

The price of insurance for some young drivers is now almost £3,000. The high costs mean that parents must pay for their children’s insurance.



Sir Bill also spoke in a Westminster Hall debate on this topic. During the debate, he outlined a range of solutions which could be implemented to lower the insurance premiums for young drivers.

He suggested the need for industry-recognised training which allows self-selecting individuals to receive lower quotes for insurance.

He also stressed the importance of parents advising their children on best practices for new drivers such as carrying one passenger for the first year.

Sir Bill said: “The pricing of insurance for young drivers is not affordable.

I will continue to fight to make insurance affordable for all and look forward to working with colleagues and industry representatives to make that happen.”

Countryside Alliance Rural Oscars



As a former winner of the Countryside Alliance Awards Sir Bill was delighted to nominate D. T. Waller & Sons, The Moody Cow, Kington Village Shop and The Royal George for awards in a variety of categories.

Sir Bill is pleased to learn that each of the North Herefordshire’s businesses have progressed to the regional final of the Countryside Alliance Awards.

The Countryside Alliance Awards are now in their seventeenth year and celebrate British food & farming, enterprise, and heritage through recognising small hard-working businesses. They are driven by public nomination and offer customers the chance to support their favourite businesses.

Sir Bill said: “D. T. Waller & Sons, The Moody Cow, Kington Village Shop and The Royal George are fantastic local businesses, and this news is a testament to the services they provide to their local communities. I encourage everyone to visit the Awards’ website to show their support for their local businesses by voting.”

Meeting with with West Mercia Police

Sir Bill wishes to pay tribute to the Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion who has increased the number of police officers in West Mercia Police.

There are now more police officers on our streets than ever before.

This shows that the Government are fulfilling their pledge to get 20,000 more officers on the streets through the Police Uplift Programme.

In fact, West Mercia Police have exceeded their own targets and there has been an 11% fall in recorded crime.

West Mercia Police have also recently announced a new Justice Centre in Herefordshire which Sir Bill is looking forward to seeing.

Meanwhile the Police and Crime Commissioner elections are fast approaching.

John Campion has done a remarkable service to the West Midlands during his tenure and a superb job on shot gun licences by reducing the backlog of shot gun and firearms grants. He deserves our vote at the upcoming election.



Useful Websites



Help for Households - Cost of Living Support

See what cost of living support you could be eligible for by visiting the UK Government's [Help for Households website](#).



NHS Services

Visit [NHS.uk](#) for a complete guide to conditions, symptoms and treatments, including what to do and when to get help.



Herefordshire Council

Visit the [Herefordshire Council website](#) for information regarding planning, travel and transport, rubbish and recycling, schools and education, council tax, social care, family support, and more.



UK Government

Visit [GOV.UK](#) for information on all government services.

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

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