




PHILIP HOLLOBONE MP ...



 **Conservatives**

KEETERING AT WESTMINSTER



... MAKING SURE THE CONCERNS OF LOCAL PEOPLE ARE HEARD AT THE HEART OF GOVERNMENT

Redevelopment Plans for KGH



Keetering MP Philip Hollobone is keeping up the pressure on HM Government to deliver on its commitments for the £396m redevelopment of Keetering General Hospital.

Philip held his third special Parliamentary debate on the redevelopment plans on 2 February and the Hospitals Minister visited KGH for a second time to discuss the plans and to tour the site on 17 February.

Working closely with the redevelopment team at KGH Philip has stressed that "Keetering hospital is 125 years old this year, it has been on the same site ever since its inception in 1897. It is a much-loved local hospital that will have a bright future. The hospital is striving at the finish to get the redevelopment project under way."

KGH is one of the 40 hospital development projects being rolled out across the country. The HM Government commitment is for a new Urgent Care Hub costing £46m and £350m for other redevelopment plans for the period 2025-30.

UKRAINE



Philip Hollobone MP writes: The Russian invasion of Ukraine on 24 February shocked the world and appalled us all. The UK has been a leading nation in offering support to Ukraine through providing lethal defensive military equipment, humanitarian support and medical supplies, sanctuary for refugees and through the imposition of unprecedentedly large sanctions on Russia.



Photo: President Zelenskyy addressing the House of Commons on 4 March. Keetering MP Philip Hollobone is the left second from end.

- The UK was the first European country to supply lethal defensive military aid to Ukraine with the provision of 2,000 ultra-modern anti-tank weapons BEFORE the Russian invasion. The total of such weapons now supplied has arisen to 10,000 and they have taken out 85% of the Russian vehicles targeted. Next generation Starstreak high-velocity man-portable anti-air missiles have also been supplied.
- Since 2015, the UK has run Operation Orbital, which has involved HM Armed Forces training 22,000 Ukrainian troops.
- The UK is the largest European bilateral humanitarian aid donor to Ukraine, and second only to the US, with £400 million committed to help with the provision of 3.7 million medical items and additional economic support.
- The UK has frozen £258 billion of Russian bank assets, which is more than any other country. The US has frozen £240 billion and the EU £34 billion. Russian banks are now unable to clear payments in Sterling anywhere in the world. Together with allies, the UK has imposed the largest and most severe package of sanctions ever on over 1,000 individuals including 386 members of the Russian Duma.

- By the end of 2022 all UK imports of Russian oil and oil products will have been stopped. Russia is the largest exporter of gas in the world, but only 4% of UK gas imports come from Russia. Through a new energy security plan the UK will focus on generating cheaper, cleaner, renewable and nuclear power so as to end these imports altogether.
- In just 18 days, 15,800 visas have been issued under the Ukraine Family Scheme allowing family members of the 35,000 Ukrainians already living in the UK to seek sanctuary in the UK. The separate Homes for Ukraine Scheme whereby refugees can be matched with sponsor families in the UK has gone live with over 100,000 expressions of interest from UK families. 13,000 appointments per week are now available at UK Visa Application Centres in European countries neighbouring Ukraine. HM Government has appointed a new Minister for Refugees to co-ordinate the effort. For each refugee, each sponsor will receive a £350 a month support payment and each local authority £10,500 a year. Refugees will be allowed to work and have full access to the benefits system and the NHS.

IN THE HOUSE *Standing Up and Speaking Out for Kettering*

Just a sample of the issues Kettering MP Philip Hollobone raised in the Commons recently

Gigabit Broadband 24 March: Philip Hollobone MP, Kettering: What proportion of addresses have access to gigabit-capable broadband connections in (a) Kettering constituency and (b) England?

Julia Lopez MP, Minister for Digital Infrastructure: 88% of premises in the Kettering constituency are able to access gigabit-capable broadband. Across the UK as a whole, 66% of premises now have access to gigabit broadband, up from 6% three years ago. This means Kettering's connectivity is above the national average and we are on track for gigabit coverage to reach at least 85% of premises by 2025 and we are working to reach near-universal coverage thereafter.

Transport Questions 17 March: Philip Hollobone MP, Kettering: When will the superb canopy restoration work be completed at Kettering railway station, and what other refurbishment and improvement works are planned?

Wendy Morton MP, Rail Minister: I am grateful to my hon. Friend for that question. I know he has been and continues to be a great campaigner for his constituency. I can assure him that the Kettering station canopy works are due to be completed in April and a new national rail contract is being negotiated to consider future investment plans.

Transport Questions 17 March: Philip Hollobone MP, Kettering: Will he ensure that funding for junction 10A on the A14 at Kettering is incorporated into his Department's road investment strategy 3 from 2025? Residents in Kettering, Barton Seagrave and Burton Latimer desperately need junction 10A to be included in road investment strategy 3 from 2025 because with 5,500 new homes being built on the Harwood Park development to the east of Kettering, Kettering will grind to a halt if this junction is not put in place. Would my hon. Friend be kind enough to secure a meeting for me with the Roads Minister so that we can progress this scheme?

Andrew Stephenson MP, Transport Minister: The findings of the technical review for the A14 junction 10A have been completed by National Highways and form the high-level strategic outline business case for the scheme (SOBC). National Highways have confirmed they will be happy to share the technical review with my hon. Friend and meet him to discuss these in due course. My hon. Friend continues to be the strongest possible champion for this scheme and for his constituents. I know he met the Roads Minister to discuss this recently, but I know my noble Friend the Baroness Vere will be more than happy to meet him again. Discussions about this scheme remain ongoing.

Police Grant Report 9 February: Philip Hollobone MP, Kettering: May I commend to the Minister the idea of sending a police officer to every scene of a burglary? In that respect, I commend Northamptonshire police's Operation Crooked, which has slashed domestic break-ins across the county by 48% in two years, down from 5,500 burglaries in 2019 to 2,850 in the 12 months to December 2021. That is what the public want to see. It is demonstrably effective and a really good use of the funding that he is giving to the police.

Rt. Hon. Kit Malthouse MP, Policing Minister: My hon. Friend is an eagle-eyed participant in the House, and in the "Beating Crime Plan" that we published last July he will have seen a chapter entitled "Excellence in the basics". In that chapter was exactly the proposal that he outlined from Northamptonshire: that we would purloin that idea and spread it to other forces. For the moment, Northamptonshire and Greater Manchester police will do exactly as he says and visit every burglary, because we believe that forensic and other opportunities eventually drive the numbers down. It is that basic fulfilment of people's expectations that we want to see. I congratulate his force on leading the way on that.

Visits to the Houses of Parliament have re-opened after the Covid pandemic

Anyone can keep a track of what Philip is trying to do at Westminster on behalf of local residents via the independent website www.theyworkforyou.com. As always, if any member feels that Philip may be able to help with a particular issue, please do let Philip know via 01536 414715 or 020 7219 8373 or philip.hollobone.mp@parliament.uk or at House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. Philip is also very happy to arrange visits to Westminster for those who haven't been before or for those who would like to come again, either for a tour or to watch Prime Minister's Questions.

