



**PHILIP HOLLOBONE MP**



# KETTERING AT WESTMINSTER



**MAKING SURE THE VIEWS AND CONCERNS OF LOCAL PEOPLE ARE HEARD AT THE HEART OF THE GOVERNMENT**

## 18,000 Local Pensioners Receiving Government Help with Energy Bills

**Philip Hollobone MP, Kettering:** How many people have received the pensioner cost of living payment in (a) Kettering constituency, (b) north Northamptonshire and (c) England?

**Laura Trott MP, DWP Minister:** In 2021-22, almost 18,000 pensioners in Kettering, over 60,000 pensioners in north Northamptonshire and more than 9 million pensioners in England received a winter fuel payment. We estimate that similar numbers will have received the £300 pensioner cost of living payment in 2022-23.

**Philip Hollobone MP:** Will those 18,000 pensioners in receipt of the pensioner cost of living payment also receive additional support, such as the £400 energy bill discount, the £150 council tax rebate, the £150 disability cost of living payment and the £150 warm home discount? Will they also benefit from the energy price guarantee, saving a typical household £900 a year?

**Laura Trott MP:** My hon. Friend is right in this, as in so many things.

## Junction 10A Back on Track

**The Secretary of State for Transport has confirmed the good news that the Government's £20m commitment to fund a new junction on the A14 between Cranford and Burton Latimer - known as Junction 10A - remains in the national road building programme for 2025-30.**

In a letter to Philip Hollobone MP on 22 March the Secretary of State, the Rt. Hon. Mark Harper MP, confirmed: "With reference to the A14 Junction 10A project, thank you for taking the time to discuss this with me. I was taken with the fact that this was significantly developer-funded, had a high benefit-cost ratio, and was originally scheduled for RIS (Road Investment Strategy) 1. As a result, I am happy to continue progressing the scheme as previously planned during the RIS3 period, subject to business case. I also agree with your suggestion that National Highways and DfT officials should cooperate intensively with the local planning authority and the developer to progress the scheme as quickly as possible."

There had been doubt about the project when due to Treasury funding constraints the DfT announced on 9 March that 30 major road schemes which had been lined up for RIS3 (2025-30) were being put back to RIS4 (2030-5). The Government has confirmed that Junction 10A is now not one of those.

Junction 10A is designed to support the fourth largest Sustainable Urban Extension in the country (5,500 dwellings) which is located at Hanwood Park, Kettering, which is also known as Kettering East. This development is located between Warkton Lane, Barton Road and Cranford.

Presently with 1,050 occupied dwellings onsite, without J10A the development would have to stop at just 2,750 dwellings as no more dwellings than this are allowed to be built without the new junction. This number of houses is likely to be reached in 2026. Without the new junction the town of Kettering itself would suffer serious traffic congestion from the extra traffic generated by the already occupied dwellings.

J10A requires £20m of funding from the DfT, with the remaining £20m coming from the developer. It has a benefit:cost ratio of 3, which is a healthy ratio for a major road scheme.

**The Conservative Government's five priorities for 2023 are the people's priorities:**

- ◆ HALVE INFLATION ◆ GROW THE ECONOMY
- ◆ REDUCE DEBT ◆ CUT WAITING LISTS ◆ STOP THE BOATS

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

It is a huge privilege to have the opportunity to represent local people in the House of Commons and I regard it as my job on your behalf to stand up and speak out on behalf of local people. I thought I would do something a little different for my contribution in this edition and attempt to describe to members a typical month in the life of your MP. For this purpose, let's take January as an example.

I am not a member of His Majesty's Government and the main function of my role on your behalf is to hold members of the Government to account for the actions they take. There are about 100 members of the Government - these are the Secretaries of State, Ministers and Under Secretaries of State - and about 80 of these are MPs and about 20 are Peers who sit in the House of Lords. Given that there are a total of 650 MPs, that means that there are about 570 MPs - from all parties - to hold the 80 Ministers to account through Parliamentary debates, questions and votes.

In January, there were 15 sittings days, all of which I attended on your behalf. These are usually Monday to Thursday inclusive with 13 sitting Fridays throughout the year, one of which was in January. The House hours are usually 2.30-10.30pm on Mondays, 11.30am - 7.30pm on Tuesdays and Wednesday, 9.30am - 5.30pm on Thursdays and 9.30am - 2.30pm on Fridays.

During those 15 sitting days, I asked 13 different Government Ministers 17 oral Parliamentary Questions on your behalf on the following topics: KGH and winter pressures funding, energy price support for non-domestic users, foreign national offenders in prison, illegal sewage discharges, teachers' pay and pensions, the UK's energy reduction target, strengthened powers to dismiss police officers, train drivers' pay, the potential new junction 10A on the A14 at Barton Seagrave, financial support for energy bills, prepayment meters, new breast cancer investment at KGH, NHS operations lost to strike action, age verification for asylum-seekers claiming to be children, the Wagner Group, Government help with energy bills and the National Audit Office. All of these can be found at: [www.hansard.parliament.uk](http://www.hansard.parliament.uk). As a rule of thumb I have learned that on average an MP usually needs to be in the chamber for one hour in order to get the opportunity to ask one oral question. This is because I am competing against another 569 MPs to get Parliamentary airtime. I take the view that the more often I contribute the more airtime Kettering gets and the more notice Ministers have to take of the concerns held by local people in Kettering.

The Government used Parliament's 15 sitting days to advance six major pieces of new legislation, which involved me in voting for the following Bills: the Stamp Duty Land Tax (Reduction) Bill, the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill, the Online Safety Bill, the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill, the Northern Ireland Budget Bill and the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill. Votes may take place on the second and third readings of the Bills and also on proposed amendments. Together with Parliamentary votes on non-legislative matters, 32 votes took place in January in all of which I participated. With very limited exceptions MPs have to vote in person which can sometimes mean late nights. In January, the latest a vote finished was 11pm. Sometimes legislation can be amended without a vote taking place. I was one of 50 Conservative MPs who in January indicated that we would vote for an amendment to criminalise those individuals who run online platforms which facilitated harmful content to children; given the scale of this potential rebellion the Government gave way and accepted the amendment to the Bill.

In the Commons, I am one of about 35 MPs who help to chair both a) Parliamentary debate sittings in the second chamber known as Westminster Hall and b) Statutory Instrument committees where detailed secondary regulations are approved. I chaired three Westminster Hall debates and two SI committees. Also in the Commons I attended a meeting with the Prime Minister to talk about local issues and a meeting with an organisation called Open Doors which is promoting the freedom of religion and belief around the world.

Whilst activity in the chamber is important, the vast bulk of my work at Parliament involves responding to hundreds of e-mails each month from local residents. I also receive a few letters and telephone calls, but 95% of contacts from local residents is now via e-mail. A lot of local people understandably want to let their MP know about their individual views and concerns about the issues of the day. I read and record all of these and respond with relevant information where I can. Another large number of local people e-mail me with particular difficulties they are encountering with national public organisations such as the DVLA, HM Passport Office, the Child Maintenance Service, housing associations, HMRC as well as local public services such as KGH or their GP. Local residents also contact me about services involving North Northamptonshire Council, but these are best resolved through residents' own local NNC councillors, whose contact details I provide. With national public organisations I contact the relevant contact in those organisations on constituents' behalf and then send constituents the reply when received. Taking up individual complaints in this way is the main activity for me on any given Parliamentary day and can often, though not always, help resolve the issues which have been raised.

Outside the chamber in January I facilitated a meeting for the headteacher of Bishop Stopford School with the head of Ofsted at Ofsted's HQ in London to raise concerns about Bishop's recent Ofsted inspection. Locally, I attended the opening of the new Macmillan cancer support centre at KGH, attended the Kettering Book Society's New Year lunch, visited the CCTV control room in Newlands Centre which co-ordinates the 108 anti-crime CCTV cameras located round the constituency and visited CityFibre's fibre exchange in Kettering which is the hub of its £17m ultrafast broadband roll out in Kettering, Barton Seagrave and Burton Latimer, which will make parts of our local area some of the best connected for broadband in the whole country. Another important activity for me in the constituency is literally knocking on doors every Saturday morning to find out the views of local people and to listen to their concerns. This feedback is really important and useful to me, because the only way to be an effective MP is to have a really good handle on what local people are thinking about local and national issues. I did this eight times in January.

I know this contribution has been a little different to previous newsletters, but I do hope this update has been informative.