

# CHI CONS CONNECT

The Chichester Conservative Association newsletter



## Chairman's Message

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By Robert Searle

First thoughts are for those fighting to survive Coronavirus and those who sadly have lost that struggle. We think of their families and friends and the extraordinary work of NHS staff and other key workers. The amount of mutual support and sharing of information in our local community has also been remarkable.

Politics have rightly been set to one side locally as councillors, officers and staff focus together on keeping local services running effectively and prepare for when the worst is over and the longer term recovery begins. For that reason the Association's fundraising and campaigning are dormant for the time being, but we are busy preparing for when things get back closer to normal.

But while the fight against the virus goes on there is other news we can share with you in this letter as well as a little humour to lighten these difficult days. There is a contribution from Gillian Keegan, a contribution from two of our local councillors and an update on the A27 improvement plans.

Please feel free to get in touch with me on 07976971896 or my Deputy Chairs Derek Marsh 01243 538967 and Danielle Dunfield 07552 012463, if you need any help or just wish to share your views on the current situation or the future, or email: [office@chichesterconservatives.com](mailto:office@chichesterconservatives.com)

STAY AT HOME

PROTECT THE NHS

save lives

## What a difference a year makes

By Eileen Lintill, CDC Leader

I was made Leader of the District Council in May 2019. As Leader I now spend hours on the phone or on my iPad and no longer go into the office. Diane Shepherd, the Chief Executive, and her team are doing an amazing job in ensuring vital services are being maintained and monitored. We have been working in partnership with the County Council who have developed a hub to support the most vulnerable residents in our communities, because as councillors, we feel the need to support the well-being of the community and our staff. This year has been unprecedented. Every day is a challenge but one that we are determined to rise to.

*"We should take comfort that while we may have more still to endure, better days will return: we will be with our friends again; we will be with our families again; we will meet again."*



## A look to the left

With all that is going on you may have missed the news that the opposition have a new top team. It seems that new leader Keir Starmer is working on the basis of out with the old but still looking back in time. Ed Miliband is back at the top table as Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Secretary.

Keir has also given spots to his leadership rivals. Lisa Nandy replaces Emily Thornberry as Shadow Foreign Secretary and is clearly one to watch. Emily Thornberry remains in the Shadow Cabinet moving to International Trade. Rebecca Long-Bailey stays too as Shadow Education Secretary and we haven't forgotten Jess Phillips who is now a Shadow Minister for Domestic Violence and Safeguarding.

Keir Starmer has committed to engaging constructively with the Government in tackling Covid 19 but understandably says he will hold the Executive to account throughout the crisis and beyond. Let's hope he holds to these commitments.

## FERNHURST'S THANK YOU TO THE NHS SOUNDS

### ACROSS THE SOUTH DOWNS

Fernhurst residents would like to thank the organist who played out across the valley during the Thursday night 8pm clap for the NHS. The unknown musician clearly plugged into an amplifier and thrilled the area with; Land of Hope and Glory, Rule Britannia and Colonel Bogeys March.



## SPRING CLEAN



With the Prime Minister on the mend, Number 10 Downing Street has organised a deep clean. Now considered one of Britain's Coronavirus hotspots.

Photo: Tolga Akmen/ AFP

## MP gets wheels turning on A27 improvement

Gillian Keegan MP secured funding for the development of potential schemes for the A27 in the Government's Road Investment Strategy budget 2 (RIS2) that runs from 2020-2025. Money has been made available to plan the much-needed improvements to the A27. Funding for the building phase will be made available in the RIS3 budget (2025-2030) if the proposed plans are approved and can out-compete other national projects.

Gillian, who had several meetings with the Secretary of State and Ministers from the Department for Transport to successfully secure the funding, said: "This is the first step on a long journey to improve the current congestion on the A27. Now we have secured initial development funding I will be working with the local authorities to ensure this process is transparent and that all options are explained in detail by Highways England to the people of the Chichester District. My role in this process is to work with national and local agencies to secure funding in the RIS3 budget once plans have been developed and agreed for a future scheme.

We all know improvements must be made and I will do everything I can to support our councils and communities."

## Councillor Contribution

By Cllr. Mike Magill, WSCC Bourne Division

My wife and I are focusing on the fantastic work ongoing in Bourne. Local farm shops provide home delivery services of fresh fruit and vegetables to the vulnerable and fitness instructors are running free online classes.

The nationwide weekly applause for all our NHS and front-line workers should not be underestimated. As an ex-serviceman I understand that these amazing people are selfless and undertake their roles purely to make a difference to the world.

The government is doing a fantastic job making tough decisions where required. They need as much support as we can give them. My overriding hope is that once we have come out on the other side the sense of community will remain with us.

# MPs Memo

By Gillian Keegan MP

I'm sure we were all relieved to hear that the Prime Minister has now been discharged from hospital. He paid a very touching tribute to the courage and devotion of the hundreds of thousands of doctors, nurses and NHS staff who are putting themselves in harms way each and every day. The Cabinet have been steadfast in their response to this outbreak, heeding the advice of experts at every turn, and putting in place an unprecedented package of support measures for business and individuals.

Over the past few weeks the true character of our nation has shone through. Not since the Second World War has the country pulled in one direction like this. A wonderful example came when the Prime Minister asked people to step up and help support the NHS in the hope of attracting 250,000 volunteers. Instead, over 750,000 people across England answered his call; a number bigger than most national military forces.

We have seen the spirit of our community working at every level. Rolls Royce Motor Cars are mobilising their entire fleet, which includes over 30 luxury cars and a host of other vehicles. Community support groups are now in place to help those who need it in every village and town.

Much of the local response is being spearheaded by our local councils and of course St Richard's Hospital, all of whom are doing a brilliant job. As an MP I have been working side by side with everyone involved in the response locally. Much of this work has been to escalate concerns to the highest levels of Government, to ensure we get vital equipment like PPE for frontline staff and enough ventilators to the hospital.

At a grassroots level we have contacted every parish in the Chichester constituency to offer our support and my team have pulled together all the information about local help on offer. This and much more is available on my website [www.gilliankeegan.com](http://www.gilliankeegan.com).

As a Minister at the Department for Education, we have had some challenging decisions to make, including for the first time in our history suspending normal education services.



We have had to implement new plans to replace exams, continue schooling for vulnerable children and key workers' children plus provision of free school meals to ensure young people get vouchers to help with the food budget.

It is certainly not business as usual, we've all moved our communications online which also includes my red box which has now gone digital. Although this ensures we maintain social distancing, it, unfortunately, means my team can add work 24/7 as there is no lid on a digital box!

This is a deeply challenging time for us all as our lives have changed beyond recognition. Seeing the response, I have never been prouder to represent Chichester; everywhere I look there is a new offer of support. My team and I are working with others to ensure everyone across our area has the support they need in place.

I wish you all the best over the coming weeks - and whilst it's difficult, we will remember the words of Her Majesty the Queen: "We should take comfort that while we may have more still to endure, better days will return; we will be with our friends again; we will be with our families again; we will meet again."

## ON A LIGHTER NOTE

### LOST IN TRANSLATION

Sometimes we do not understand what MPs are saying. It's reassuring to know they have a similar problem. Enjoy the video...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1jHfY0dDZxA>