

NIGEL WATERSON MP



**House of Commons
London
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MP's E-MAIL NEWSLETTER

JULY 2008

Welcome to the latest edition of my email newsletter. This newsletter will only be sent by e-mail and if it is, for any reason, being sent to the wrong person or the wrong e-mail address, please e-mail me back with the correct details.

RECENT ELECTIONS.

As we mark the first anniversary of Gordon Brown becoming Prime Minister, it is apparent that the Labour vote in both elections and opinion polls is in freefall. Also, the Liberal Democrats have been struggling to reach even the level of support they had under Ming Campbell.

I was working in the Crewe and Nantwich by-election and the London Mayoral Election. Both these results were quite phenomenal, along with all the other local election successes. I met people on the doorsteps in Crewe and Nantwich who had voted Labour all their lives, had never even considered voting for anyone else, but were now going to vote Conservative for the first time.

And more recently, the result in Henley was very impressive; with the winning Conservative easily seeing off a strong (and deeply personal and unpleasant) Lib Dem challenge with a majority of 10,000.

Clearly, however, the more unpopular the Labour Government is the further away the Election is likely to be. Meanwhile our task as the Official Opposition is to continue working hard on policies so that if we are the next Government we are in a position to "hit the ground running". I fear we will inherit a pretty grim landscape, particularly from an economic point of view.

DGH CAMPAIGN.

Our campaign group continues to battle on against the proposal to move consultant based Maternity from Eastbourne to Hastings. We are currently following two paths of attack.

We have launched an Application to the High Court for Judicial Review. We have yet to hear how this is to be handled by the courts. In the meantime, we are having a lot of success in raising money for the legal costs. *Do send in your cheque to me at 179 Victoria Drive, payable to “The Save the DGH Campaign”!*

At the same time, the Secretary of State at our behest has referred the whole matter to the Independent Reconfiguration Panel. Quite a few of us have been making our own direct representations to the Panel, and we expect their conclusions in the late summer.

HUMAN FERTILISATION & EMBRYOLOGY.

As you probably know, we have recently been debating this Bill. I have had a huge number of letters and emails from concerned constituents.

I personally voted against the creation of hybrid animal/human embryos and against the creation of so-called “saviour sibling” embryos. I also voted in favour of retaining a clear recognition of the role of the father in IVF and other treatments.

At the same time, I voted to reduce the time limit for legal abortions. Medical science has developed so much since the Abortion Act in 1967, that many very premature babies are now likely to survive.

QUESTIONING GORDON BROWN.

I was called again recently at Prime Minister’s Questions, and I specifically asked the Prime Minister about the 10p tax rate fiasco and restoring the earnings link for the State Pension. You can see the whole exchange at:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080423/debtext/80423-0003.htm#08042357000153>

FIGHTING PENSIONER POVERTY.

In my capacity as Shadow Pensions Minister and Shadow Minister for Older People, I recently led for the Opposition in a Debate we called on Pensioner Poverty.

You can see the whole of my Speech at:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080604/debtext/80604-0013.htm#08060476000520>

AIRBOURNE CHARGES WRONG!

I recently joined with many local residents who are incensed at the Liberal Democrat Council's intention of charging for Airbourne for the first time. Surely Airbourne's unique selling point has been that it is the largest free air show in Europe? Why should residents, who have already paid once through their Council Tax, be charged to stand on their own promenade? The whole idea is barmy.

FEEDBACK

I am sure that there are a number of other issues which will be of concern to you and I want to hear from you about them! Please come back to me on feedback@nigelwaterson.com. The whole point of this exercise is for me to tell you what I am doing to help local residents and to get your feedback on key issues.

I hold regular Advice Surgeries and you can make an appointment by contacting my Constituency Office at 179 Victoria Drive on 720776.

Best Wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nigel Waterson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

NIGEL WATERSON

Member of Parliament for Eastbourne, Willingdon, East Dean & Friston

**PLEASE VISIT MY WEBSITE AT
www.nigelwaterson.com**

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