

Thérèse Coffey MP

Newsletter



Please find below my latest newsletter covering issues I've been dealing with and events I have attended in the last few months. I also update my website www.theresecoffey.co.uk and [Facebook](#) regularly. If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, there is a link to unsubscribe below. As this is my last newsletter of the year, I would also like to wish you a merry Christmas and a happy 2023.

1. Energy/Environment:

Sizewell C: The Chancellor gave certainty about Sizewell C during his Autumn Statement. Recognising that its construction will boost our energy independence and provide reliable low-carbon power as we head towards net-zero by 2050. Locally, this will mean the creation of thousands of jobs, many of which will be highly skilled. I recognise that there are elements of the planning application that need to be carefully scrutinised - not least in terms of water supply - and I'm seeking a meeting with the Secretary of State to ensure the conditions are fulfilled.

Other Energy Connections: I have been clear and continue to press the case that onshore connections should be placed on brownfield land. We have had some success on that recently as National Grid are now investigating the Isle of Grain in Kent as a possible connection for the Nautilus project instead of here on the Suffolk coast. However, consultations for Eurolink and Sealink are now live, which propose landfall sites, associated cable corridors and converter stations in east Suffolk. I recently organised a public meeting to hear from constituents on the matter as well as attending consultation events in Friston and Aldeburgh. I will be considering the consultations carefully and will publish my responses on my website.

I have also launched a petition (<https://www.theresecoffey.co.uk/energy-petition-review-onshore-connections>) asking for BEIS and National Grid to review all onshore energy connections along the Suffolk coast and instead commit to carrying out a comparative study, including already suggested brownfield sites, like Bradwell in Essex. Properly assessing the environmental impact of these connections before proceeding any further. I hope that with sufficient public support we can get a commitment from Government and National Grid to carry out such a review

I have also written to the Energy and Planning Secretaries of State about the consultation and planning process. If multiple projects are coordinating infrastructure then these should be considered jointly so cumulative impact can be properly considered.



2. Health & Care:

Vaccinations: I received my autumn Covid booster and flu vaccination. Our best line of defence against both viruses which will help keep people out of hospital this winter. Find out more here - [nhs.uk/wintervaccinations](https://www.nhs.uk/wintervaccinations).



Ipswich Surgical Hub: It was confirmed that Ipswich Hospital will host one of 50 new surgical hubs that are being opened across the country to help deal with the backlog in routine surgery as a result of Covid. Backed by £1.5 billion in government funding – they will deliver almost two million extra operations over the next three years. Reducing waiting times for local patients.

3. Education:

School Performance: I met the Regional Schools Commissioner, Jonathan Duff to get an update on the performance of local schools. We spoke about Saxmundham School, which is in the process of being taken over by the Sapientia Education Trust as I want to ensure they have the relevant support to turn things around. I also raised my concerns about the amount of progress being made at Felixstowe Academy. I was assured that the recent exam results show that the quality of education is improving and that Langer Primary, which is run by the same trust has really positive results. I will keep up a

laserlike focus on school performance for the benefit of pupils.

4. Transport:

Felixstowe: I attended a meeting with Suffolk County Council, National Highways, Suffolk police and the Felixstowe Bid to discuss recovery times for lorries, which seem to cause gridlock when they are involved in traffic incidents. The Chief Constable has committed to reviewing the service level agreements for recovery and will consult with the port on equipment for lifting fallen lorries.

Greater Anglia: I met the Head of Corporate Affairs at Greater Anglia to discuss the introduction of their new rolling stock and get an update on their rail infrastructure investment priorities. I took the opportunity to press the case for reinstating direct train services between Lowestoft and London.

5. Constituency & Suffolk Matters:

Potters Bridge: I received assurances from the Environment Agency that they intended to take legal action to gain access to land adjacent to the B1127 to relieve flooding at Potters Bridge. Once they gain access, I was assured they will quite quickly be able to dig a channel to allow water to drain out to sea.



Arts Council Funding: Suffolk Coastal arts organisations were awarded £1.6m a year over the next three years, bringing culture and creative opportunities to thousands of residents. This includes Britten Pears Arts and the HighTide Festival. There was also support for Eastern Angles and Dance East, which do a lot of touring in Suffolk Coastal.

Remembrance Sunday: I attended the Remembrance event in Rock Barracks and met the Commanding Officer. A few days before, I placed a cross in the Constituency Garden of Remembrance in Parliament on behalf of the people of Suffolk Coastal.



6. Parliament & Ministerial Matters:

I was pleased to be appointed the Secretary of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Protecting our environment is more vital than ever and I will work closely with rural communities, farmers, industry and the champions of our environment to make that happen.

Back British Farming Day: I was pleased to hand out awards to celebrate our farmers – the original friends of the earth – on Back British Farming Day. Rain or shine, they do so much great work putting food on our tables and protecting our natural environment.

COP27: I was in Egypt for the annual Climate Change conference. I was last in Sharm el Sheikh four years ago for the Global Conference for Nature, formally known as the Convention for Biodiversity. I will be at the CBD again this month in Montreal as the world tries to agree new environmental targets. Meeting usually only every 4 years this meeting is critical for protecting nature and as it's the target setting meeting, is even more important this year than COP27.

Rendlesham Forest: I launched the government's £20m Nature for Climate Fund in Rendlesham Forest. Through that over 100 projects championed by tree nurseries, charities and businesses will be funded to bring the latest innovations to the forestry sector and address some of the greatest threats facing our treescapes. Vital to halting and reversing the decline of nature and for reaching net zero.

Autumn Statement: The Chancellor set out his plans against the backdrop of significant economic challenges for the global economy. Whilst the statement included some tough decisions it protected the most vulnerable. Increasing the national living wage, keeping energy bills down, protecting the triple lock for pensioners and increasing funding for the NHS and schools.

Her Majesty The Queen: I attended the funeral of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. In a rarity in Parliament, the Speaker allowed ministers to offer a tribute on behalf of their constituents. You can watch my contribution here - <https://youtu.be/856CgpU3uik>.

I was also pleased to join the people of Felixstowe and Mayor Sharon Harkin in placing a floral tribute to mark the Queen's passing, after the Proclamation for King Charles III.



7. Next Surgery: I hold a number of surgeries both online and in person. To make an appointment please call my office on 0207 219 7164.