

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.

Energy/Environment:

Plan for Water: I launched the government's Plan for Water - a detailed blueprint to clean up our waterways and ensure a plentiful supply for the future. The plan tackles every source of pollution, including from storm overflows, agriculture, plastics, road run-off and chemicals. For the first time, there will be unlimited penalties for polluters and those penalties and fines will be reinvested through a new Water Restoration Fund.

Improving the water quality in our rivers and seas has been important to me long before I became Secretary of State for the Environment. That's why I'm proud of the consistently excellent ratings of the beaches in Felixstowe and why I previously intervened with Anglian Water to improve their Southwold treatment site which led to Southwold Denes achieving excellent status and gaining the blue flag.

You can read the Plan [here](#) and watch my twenty-minute speech launching it [here](#). Ultimately, I hope this new approach will become a catalyst for us all to think about how we can pull together to secure clean and plentiful water, for people, for businesses and for nature, now and for generations to come.

Felixstowe Hydrocycle: As part of the Plan for Water, I visited Felixstowe Hydrocycle and met the director, John Patrick. The hydrocycle is a piece of water management infrastructure that brings drainage water (which was previously pumped out to sea) inland for irrigation. Helping with water for food production and protecting saltmarsh, habitat and local wildlife. This is a great scheme, which I would like to see replicated across the country.



Bathing Water: A section of the River Deben at Waldringfield has now been classified as a designated bathing water site. This means the Environment

Agency will regularly take samples during the bathing season and take swift action if needed.



Energy Petition: I formally submitted my parliamentary petition, which calls for a review of all onshore energy connections along the Suffolk coast, to the House of Commons. The petition signed by 3,821 people requests that a comparative study be undertaken, including brownfield sites, properly assessing the environmental impact before any of the current energy proposals are taken further. I have recently written to both the Secretary of State, Grant Shapps and the new Minister for Networks, Andrew Bowie asking them to investigate Bradwell in Essex as a possible landing point. More information [here](#).



Health & Care:

Mental Health Funding: The government announced an additional £150m

of funding for mental health. Anyone experiencing a mental health emergency will benefit from more tailored emergency care and support in the community through specialised mental health ambulances, more crisis services and improved health-based places of safety. Improvements to NHS 111 and crisis phone lines will also be rolled out.

Education:

New Schools: Suffolk County Council announced their £32m plan to provide 11 new schools across the County. I'm delighted that this includes a brand-new school in the north of Felixstowe as well the relocation of Trimley St Martin Primary School to a new bigger site to allow for expansion. More detail [here](#).

The Government's £2.6bn Special Education Needs Improvement Plan also confirmed that a new special school will be built in the Suffolk County Council area – boosting places for 4- to 16-year-olds with severe learning difficulties.

Constituency & Suffolk Matters:

Aldeburgh Lifeboat Station: I wrote to the Chief Executive of the RNLI, Mark Dowie, expressing my concern about their review of the lifeboat station, which could restrict the current capabilities of the station and its crew members. There was a Life-Saving Review carried out in 2017 where it was concluded that the station required a new all-weather lifeboat. The consensus locally has been to opt for a Shannon-class lifeboat and two significant donations were previously received to cover the cost of the boat as well as launching equipment. Not only is it concerning that there appears to be little progress in considering this preferred option, there now seems to be a real risk of a downgrade, which is not acceptable. Instead, I want the Chief Executive to proactively engage on this matter as there is clearly local appetite to be part of the solution rather than opting for a far less capable lifeboat.



Ukraine: To mark the first anniversary of Putin's appalling invasion of Ukraine, I joined the Mayor of Felixstowe, Cllr Sharon Harkin and representatives from Ukraine 2 Felixstowe and their Ukrainian guests to raise the Ukrainian flag and lay a wreath outside the Town Hall. I also attended a special service in St Mary's, Woodbridge.



Cultural Investment Fund: Suffolk was a big winner in the government's Cultural Investment Fund. The Long Shop Museum in Leiston, which keeps alive the industrial heritage of East Suffolk, received £1,071,616 from the Museum Estate and Development Fund. Whilst Suffolk Libraries scooped £219k from the Libraries Improvement Fund.

Martlesham Fast Charger: I joined Fastned's UK Country Manager, Tom Hurst to open their newest EV charging station in Martlesham. Forward-thinking projects such as this will secure the future of sustainable transport and provide cleaner air across the UK.



Beach Clean: I joined local volunteers and representatives from the British Beer and Pub Association at the Adnams' beach clean in Southwold. A great way to contribute to this year's Great British Spring Clean.



Parliament & Ministerial Matters:

G7: I represented the United Kingdom at the G7 in Japan. Ministers from around the globe have agreed to redouble their countries' efforts and ambition on nature recovery.

I was also in Vietnam meeting ministers and visiting nature conservation sites, marking 50 years of diplomatic relations between our two countries.

UK/France Summit: I attended the summit in Paris to discuss key environmental issues where France and the UK's partnership can drive forward action on improving nature and biodiversity.

The King's Reception: I spoke at a reception in Buckingham Palace hosted by His Majesty The King in support of Global Biodiversity.



Other Visits:

- I visited Woodbridge School and caught up with headteacher, Mrs Shona Norman.
- I met Suffolk of Chamber Commerce to discuss local business community feedback on business rates, the A14 and 5G.
- I met Suffolk Constabulary to discuss the accessibility of drugs among young people in Woodbridge.
- I visited Haven Health Surgery in Felixstowe following positive results from a recent CQC inspection.
- I attended the memorial service for former Felixstowe councillor and my good friend, Graham Newman.
- I attended the Huntingfield Souper.

Next Surgery: I hold a number of surgeries both online and in person. The next one takes place this coming Friday the 28th of April. To make an appointment please call my office on 0207 219 7164.

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