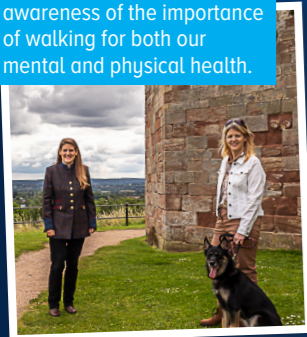


Out & About

Visiting Staffordshire University to see people training to be nurses and workers in testing centres on the Covid-19 frontline.



Taking part in the BIG Stafford Walk with Cllr Carolyn Trowbridge to raise awareness of the importance of walking for both our mental and physical health.



Discussing the importance of services at County Hospital with Tracy Bullock, Chief Executive of University Hospitals of North Midlands.



At Lee Adams family butchers in Penkridge, discussing the impact of Covid-19 on local shops and businesses.



Visiting the Wolseley Centre with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Chief Executive, Julian Woolford, to discuss conservation and flood alleviation.



Meeting with the Stafford Job Centre team to discuss employment opportunities and how to support people affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.



Discussing fire safety with Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service at the scene of a grass fire on Cannock Chase near Brocton.



Delivering food parcels to residents shielding due to Covid-19.



Hosting a roundtable with Staffordshire farmers and the Rt. Hon Liz Truss MP, Secretary of State for International Trade, to discuss food standards and future trade.



Visiting Marshlands School, meeting with Headteacher Kim Ellis and Cllrs Jonathan Price and Mark Sutton.



Celebrating Wildwood Park getting a green flag award with Cllrs Ann Edgeller, Ray Barron & Jenny Barron. Congratulations to everyone at Stafford Borough Council who has been involved.



Raising with Chancellor of the Exchequer the importance of backing businesses and supporting jobs in Stafford during these challenging times.



Shire Hall gets vital Government funding



Visiting Shire Hall with County Council Chief Executive John Henderson.

I was delighted by the announcement that the Shire Hall regeneration project will be receiving £1,600,000 from the Government's Getting Building Fund.

This is fantastic news and delivers on a pledge I made when I was elected to do

all I could to get the Shire Hall open again and reinstate one of the most important buildings in Stafford. I have raised this matter repeatedly with the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and in meetings at Number 10. I have worked closely with Staffordshire County Council on this and I am delighted that the bid for funding has been successful.

This January, after numerous meetings with Ministers at the Ministry of Justice, I am delighted to have been able to get the Shire Hall reopened to be used as a Nightingale Court. I have recently visited the Shire Hall while the court is in action with John Henderson, Chief Executive of Staffordshire County Council and we continue to work on plans for the long-term future of Shire Hall. I am also very pleased

that following the Rt. Hon Robert Jenrick MP's visit to Stafford, Stafford Borough Council's bid to the Future High Streets Fund has been successful. This additional over £14,000,000 in Government funding, combined with the work to reopen Shire Hall, will make a huge difference and help the town centre of Stafford prosper. ■



With the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, the Rt. Hon Robert Jenrick MP, pushing for improvements to Stafford's town centre and High Street.

Theo Clarke MP Reporting Back



Member of Parliament for Stafford

Theo Clarke MP
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Dear resident

What an unusual first year it has been as your Member of Parliament! A global pandemic was certainly unexpected and something that we have all sadly had to deal with over the past months. It has been very busy and it is my pleasure to update you on what has been happening locally, nationally and internationally in my work as your MP.

I continue to be guided by my key priorities for the whole of the Stafford constituency. Throughout this leaflet you will be able to see the progress that has been made on these priorities. I have been fighting for local services at County Hospital which I raised with the Prime Minister as my first ever PMQ and it is a topic which I have repeatedly and will continue to press the Government on. I have also been backing Stafford businesses and supporting our Armed Forces as well as, of course, getting Brexit done and a deal over the line. I am a strong supporter of agriculture and rural businesses, so I was pleased to be selected to sit on both the Agriculture Bill Committee and the Trade Bill Committee in Parliament. This allowed me to scrutinise both Bills line-by-line as well as raising my constituents' concerns on these important topics. I have been elected by colleagues to serve on the International Development and the Women and Equalities Select Committees and I have also been working on raising mental health and tackling flooding in Staffordshire. All of these are matters that residents spoke to me about on the doorstep during the General Election, and from the correspondence I receive from constituents, I know they are important for our area and that the people of Stafford care about these issues, so I will continue to make these my priorities.

Living in the Stafford constituency throughout lockdown, I saw first-hand how the people of Stafford came together in the pandemic. It has been a privilege to visit a number of local groups, including those caring for the elderly and the homeless, as well as those supporting neighbours and friends. Our NHS healthcare workers and carers have also done a great job under immense pressure as they ensure that our most vulnerable are looked after during the coronavirus pandemic. I know that unfortunately it has been challenging for many people. My team have been handling an unprecedented volume of correspondence and have assisted thousands of constituents. If you need any help, you can contact me via phone, email or by sending a letter to my constituency office in Stafford. My regular advice surgeries also continue, they are currently online rather than in person, please see my website for further details.

Whether you voted for me or not, I work for each and every one of you. I am proud to be your Member of Parliament and I will always treat you equally and with the respect you deserve. It is, as ever, a privilege and a pleasure to serve you.

Best wishes
Theo

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COVID-19

Visiting Stafford's regional Covid-19 testing centre at the education and enterprise park.



Since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic I raised repeatedly with Ministers, in both the Department of Health & Social Care and the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, the need for my constituents to have a local test centre. I therefore was delighted that Stafford was given its own regional test site. When visiting the site I was very impressed to see how efficiently it is being run and I am pleased that my constituents now have somewhere local to go if they need a Covid-19 test.

I want to thank everyone for all they have been doing to help their local community

during the coronavirus pandemic. It has been a privilege to meet with so many people and groups who have come together to assist each other during these challenging times. The development of the Covid-19 vaccine is very positive news. I recently visited both the Holmcroft Vaccination Centre and the Kingston Vaccination Centre. I saw first-hand the tremendous efforts the healthcare workers and volunteers are making to vaccinate the people of Staffordshire. I would urge everyone, when they are eligible, to accept the offer of a vaccine. We must continue to work together to protect our NHS and tackle Covid-19. ■

Stafford Mental Health Network

I was delighted to be able to launch the Stafford Mental Health Network alongside the Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. The Network is designed to help bring local residents and organisations together to discuss all the issues surrounding mental health and to ensure that everyone who needs it is provided with information about how they can access suitable mental health support. ■



Visiting St George's Hospital in January 2020 to see the important work that is being undertaken in relation to mental health in Stafford.

Supporting our Armed Forces

I was honoured to be selected to take part in the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme and it was a privilege to visit the Defence Academy at Shrivenham. This opportunity to learn more about our armed forces, as well as my visits to MOD Stafford this year, have made me appreciate even more how much they do for us all. I was shocked to see the damage that people caused to statues and war memorials which were created to remember our veterans. In June, I supported and presented the Desecration of War Memorials Bill in Parliament which aims to create longer sentences for criminal damage and ensure that those charged with desecrating our war memorials can face up to 10 years imprisonment. This Bill highlights the importance of our war memorials as symbols of respect to all those who have served in our armed forces. ■



Taking aim whilst at the Defence Academy.



At Ingestre Park Golf Club, HS2 will cross the Club behind us.

WEST MIDLANDS INTERCHANGE

It was with disappointment that we learnt that the West Midlands Rail Freight Interchange proposal had been granted consent. Alongside South Staffordshire's MP, the Rt. Hon Gavin Williamson, I stood with local residents in opposing the application and presented a petition, opposing the plans, to Parliament, signed by residents of the Stafford and South Staffordshire constituencies.

I remain very concerned about the impact that this development will have on the residents of Four Ashes, Gailey, Penkridge and much further afield. Just a few of these are Green Belt loss; Environmental damage; reduction in farmland &

sustainability; potential heavy traffic and whether the promised rail connections and employment numbers will be delivered.

It is therefore vital that we continue to monitor the development and ensure that it is built in strict accordance with the approved plans and the promises made. I will always stand up for my constituents on local matters and I will be following this project closely to ensure that everything Staffordshire residents have been promised is delivered.

I would also like to put on record my sincere thanks to the 'Stop The West



Meeting with the 'Stop The West Midlands Interchange' group.

Midlands Interchange' group. The members of the group have worked tirelessly for a number of years and their commitment to the community is a real example to us all. ■

TAKING ACTION ON FLOODING

In January 2020, we saw some of the very worst flooding in Staffordshire for a century. The River Sow in Stafford burst its banks, and throughout the constituency, from Bishop's Wood to Ranton, from Lapley to Hopton, many residents suffered from flooding.

It is vital that our local infrastructure is able to cope. Increased surface run-off means that, over the last 20 years, homes that were never affected before have suffered from flooding, once-dry sports grounds are now regularly unusable due to being waterlogged, and local businesses are often left counting the cost due to floodwaters preventing them from opening, or destroying their goods. Something needs to be done to tackle these issues. I fear that if we do not act now, the situation regarding flooding in Staffordshire will only get worse.

Since becoming MP I have met with all the key stakeholders which deal with flooding and the causes of flooding in Staffordshire. I have also been working with Cllr Jonathan

Price and I support his efforts to improve the situation in Sandon Road, where residents and businesses often suffer from flooding. In the Summer I hosted a Stafford flooding roundtable where I brought together representatives from the Environment Agency, Staffordshire County Council, Highways England and Severn Trent and I pushed for a more joined up approach to dealing with flooding in Staffordshire. In the Autumn I held a debate in Westminster to highlight the terrible problems caused by flooding in Staffordshire and I was supported by many other Staffordshire MPs. I called on the Government to establish a flood control centre in Stafford that residents can call directly which will provide assistance 24/7 for people affected by flooding. I also urged Rebecca Pow MP, the Minister responsible for flooding, to designate one lead authority with statutory responsibility for flooding. I will continue to do all I can as your MP to tackle flooding in Staffordshire. ■

Prime Minister's Trade Envoy

I was delighted to be appointed by the Prime Minister as the Trade Envoy to Kenya and pleased to be at the recent signing of the UK Kenya trade agreement. I have held numerous meetings with Staffordshire County Council and Staffordshire Chamber of Commerce this year. I will continue to work with businesses in my Stafford constituency to encourage them to export. ■



With the Rt. Hon Liz Truss MP, Secretary of State for International Trade.



Next to the overflowing River Sow in Stafford, a regular sight after heavy rain.

HS2

In September I spoke up for all the local residents and constituents affected by the proposed HS2 route at the House of Lords Select Committee on HS2. It is vital that everyone gets the compensation they deserve and that Stafford and the surrounding area reap the benefits that there are to be had for our local economy. I continue to raise specific constituents' cases on this matter directly with HS2 and Andrew Stephenson MP, the Minister responsible for HS2 at the Department for Transport. ■