



# PHILIP DUNNE MP SHROPSHIRE NEWS



## LOCAL HOSPITALS SAVED Good news for some, BUT services to be cut

**THE decision by local health chiefs to scrap their crazy plans to close all four community hospitals in Shropshire is a victory for people power. I am delighted to have played a part in the campaign.**

It is clear that the bureaucrats only backed off when they realised how strongly the public felt, 24,000 signed petitions and over 8,000 joined the marches to save our Hospitals,

But we cannot rest, Some of our Hospitals may be saved but as noted below there will be cuts, purely to save money, I am determined that everything possible is done to ensure that our communities retain viable hospitals within our midst, funded by the NHS, to meet local clinical needs, The Government must do what it says and maximise community care - not cut it,

### THE CURRENT POSITION:

**Bridgnorth Community Hospital** - We have saved the hospital, but some job and service cuts may follow.

**Ludlow Community Hospital** - The hospital has been saved but services may be slashed, I shall continue to campaign against closing Whitcliffe ward for mental health patients and bed cuts which affect local needs,

**Stone House, Bishop's Castle Community Hospital** - Sadly this is now set to close. The PCT needs to commit a long-term contract to fund enough NHS beds for local people.

**IN CONCLUSION**, people power has worked in Shropshire. It shows the bureaucrats can be made to listen, but our work is not yet over.





# PHILIP DUNNE MP SHROPSHIRE NEWS



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

May 2006

## Dear Resident,

One year ago I was elected to represent you at Westminster and to fight for you locally.

The last 12 months have been both very busy and very enjoyable. I have taken up many issues and concerns. As with our campaign to save local hospitals, much has been achieved, but not all that I would have hoped. This report aims to give you an understanding of some of things I have done and am currently doing.

### Advice surgeries

At the election, I promised to make myself easily accessible to all those I represent. To this end, I hold surgeries in Bridgnorth and Ludlow on alternate months and in each of the other seven towns in the constituency every three or four months. In addition I have visited 50 villages in my mobile surgery: see my website or call if you need to see me (*details overleaf*).

### Giving you a chance to have your say

I have sought the views of all who voted in the General Election, of whatever party, about what matters to them. Over 7,000 of you replied. I have also written more than 5,000 letters responding to specific issues raised by constituents.

I have also sought views from practitioners in the constituency on issues before Parliament, including: Village Hall Committees regarding the new Licensing Act, publicans regarding smoking legislation, GPs regarding the NHS funding crisis, dentists about the new dental contract, opticians about eye tests, postmasters about withdrawal of card accounts, and businesses about the Budget.

### Fighting for you locally

I have been at the forefront of the campaigns to save our local Hospitals and our local Post Offices.

### Working for you at Westminster

In Parliament I have been appointed to the Select Committee on Work and Pensions which produced a highly critical report on the impact of the Government's efficiency savings on Jobcentre Plus and a report on Incapacity Benefit and Pathways to Work. I sat on the joint Select Committee review of the Draft Corporate Manslaughter Bill and the Standing Committee for the Commons Bill. I am a member of the backbench team supporting the Shadow Treasury team and have been appointed to the Standing Committee to take this year's Finance Bill through the House of Commons following the Budget. I have been attempting to live up to my aim to be "A Stronger Voice for Ludlow" speaking regularly in the Chamber, indeed the 45th most regular performer out of 646 MPs at the end of April.

**Philip Dunne MP**  
01584 872187

**P.S. I was delighted to welcome David Cameron to Shropshire, and to be his campaign chairman for our county. I am pleased with the progress he has made so far, and feel confident that he is setting the Conservatives on a course that will see us returned to Government with our principles unchanged, but with policies designed for the 21st Century.**



Inspecting A49 with the Highways Agency



Taking Hospitals campaign to Parliament



Launching Ludlow Bird & Poultry Forum



Supporting equal pay for the disabled



Chairing David Cameron's leadership campaign in Shropshire



Supporting diabetes health with Sir Steve Redgrave



Launching first 100% biodiesel forecourt pump

# Save our local Post Office - demands Dunne



**WE all know our local post offices are vital to the lifeblood of our local communities. But this Government does not. It is currently threatening their very existence in Shropshire. Gradually, bit by furtive bit, Government services are being deliberately withdrawn from post office counters.**

From July you will no longer be able to buy TV Licenses or TV License stamps at your local post office. Vehicle Excise Duty renewal notices are already being issued in envelopes urging renewal online or by telephone, with scant mention of the post office. This month the disabled have to visit the District Council for their Blue Badges rather than their local post office. But the biggest threat by far, which postmasters genuinely fear puts their business at risk, comes from Ministers' decision to terminate the Post Office Card Account (POCA). From responses to my survey last month, two thirds of our post offices rely for over half of their income on customers using their POCA to draw their regular pension or benefits cash.

Withdrawal of this card without making good the income foregone would jeopardise the viability of virtually all the sub-post offices in our area.

Closures would hit the most vulnerable - pensioners and those on welfare - the hardest. Some pensioners are already receiving letters, and even threatening telephone calls, urging them to switch their POCA to a bank account for their pension.

I have provided petitions to all 48 post offices in the Ludlow constituency to raise awareness locally of what is at stake. If you want to support your local post office, I strongly encourage you to sign.



[www.philipdunne.com](http://www.philipdunne.com)

## LUDLOW PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY

If you need help or advice, contact your Member of Parliament

**Philip DUNNE**

at: House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA

Email:  
[philipdunne@ludlowconservatives.com](mailto:philipdunne@ludlowconservatives.com)

For details of surgeries, see website or please contact the constituency office at:

54 Broad Street,  
Ludlow SY8 1GP

Tel: 01584 872 187



## EU CONSTITUTION



I was asked recently where I now stand on the issue of the EU Constitution? The answer is simple: I oppose further EU integration and if the proposed EU Constitution is resurrected, either directly or by the "backdoor", I will do all in my power to defeat it.

## SINGLE FARM PAYMENT FIASCO Dunne says Beckett must go

**THE shambles within the Rural Payments Agency in England means farmers' support payments, vital for most to stay in business, are months overdue.**

This is imposing huge strains on farmers, their families, their suppliers and the whole local economy. DEFRA Ministers are responsible for this mess. If payments have not been made in full by 30 June, 2006, they should take responsibility and resign as this mismanagement is entirely of their own making.