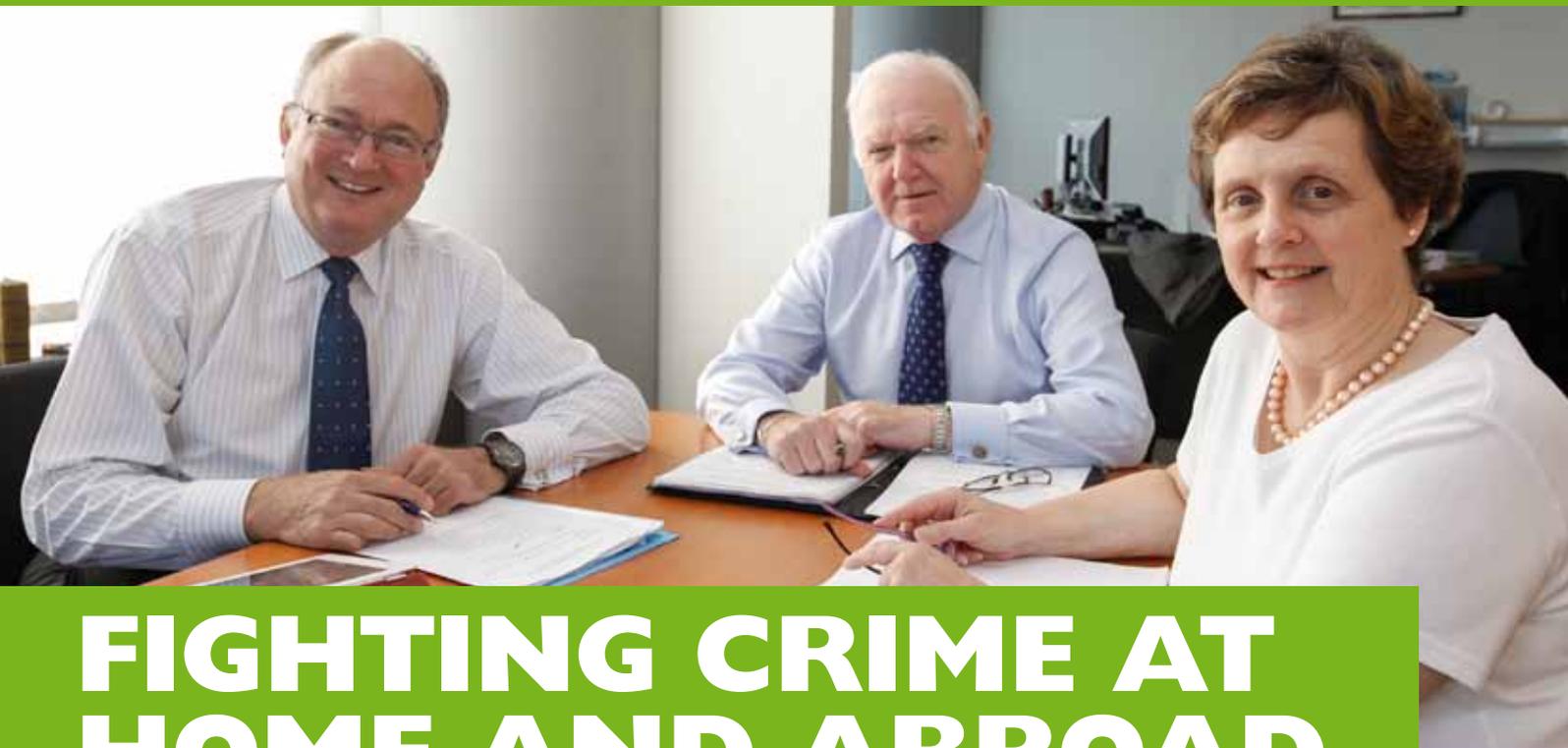


MEP matters



FIGHTING CRIME AT HOME AND ABROAD

Conservatives believe in local accountability and for decisions to be taken locally whenever possible. This is why the Government is giving more powers to local councils and has introduced elected Police Commissioners.

Earlier this year the Government secured agreement between 47 countries to reform the European Court of Human Rights, (which is not part of the EU) to prevent some of the unacceptable interferences in our justice system in recent years; the reform will also reduce the Court's backlog of cases and allow the more serious to be heard more quickly.

In the European Parliament, Philip, Malcolm and Anthea have been consistent in promoting the principle that national governments best know how to defend law and order; arguing for co-operation between European countries where necessary to fight crime. Increased trade flows within the EU and the rise of globalised free trade also provide a dangerous opportunity for organised crime. The European Parliament recently established a temporary Committee on

Organised Crime to examine the threat of illegal activity that transcends borders in Europe. This will look at issues such as cyber crime, where borders simply do not exist, human trafficking and counterfeit products.

Counterfeit products concern more than fake clothes: ranging from medicine to pesticides, computer components to engines. For example, it is estimated that in parts of the EU more than 25% of the pesticides in circulation come from the illegal pesticide trade. It is not simply that these products are fakes, they often contain harmful or dangerous components.

Whatever proposals may emerge from this Committee, your Conservative MEPs will oppose any attempts to create new EU bodies or any extension of competences. Instead, they want to ensure better co-operation between existing police and judicial structures where needed to fight this type of organised crime.

Conservatives at home, in Europe and internationally have been consistent in working to ensure the rule of law is upheld efficiently and responsibly. 🌱

ATTACKING EU WASTE

Philip Bradbourn, the UK Conservative Spokesman on Budgetary Control, fought hard against the European Parliament signing off the EU's accounts in May. The accounts were passed despite being condemned by European auditors, but at a recent meeting of the Parliament's Budgetary Control Committee MEPs accepted a call from Philip that there should be a full time Commissioner for Budgetary control in the next Commission term.

Speaking after the plenary session in Brussels he said; *"I am deeply concerned by this situation, year after year nothing seems to change and money continues to be wasted. A full time Commissioner for Budgetary control is a vital first step in ensuring not a penny of taxpayers' money is squandered."*



Photo: Mike Ashton /CLA Midlands

BACKING OUR FARMERS

Anthea McIntyre MEP recently visited Moorlands Farm, Kineton, Warwickshire at the invitation of CLA Midlands. The visit was hosted by Mr and Mrs Anthony Forsyth and their son William. On a tour of the farm Anthea learnt about the enterprise's substantial investment in a new grain dryer and eco measures.

Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform was also discussed, in particular the European Commission's proposed 'greening' measures which are causing concern.

"Some of the Commission's proposals are a backward step as far as the UK is concerned and I am doing all I can to oppose these", said Anthea. 🌱



BUSINESS SUCCESS STORY

Malcolm is constantly making the case for our local manufacturers, many of whom are unsung success stories. Johnson Controls, which he visited recently, is hardly a household name, but the Wednesbury plant is a vital part of a multi-billion dollar global automotive seating, electronics and interiors business.

The 389 employees make complex, high technology foams which go in the seats of all the major car manufacturers. The company is benefiting from the upturn in regional vehicle production, especially the booming Jaguar Land Rover sales.

"I was delighted to see this local business doing so well; it's vital for local jobs that businesses such as Johnson Controls continue to go from strength to strength. I agreed to help them look into EU research funding and also to get their voice across in policy initiatives affecting the car industry. We must look after our local manufacturing jewels," said Malcolm. 🌱

Malcolm inspects Johnson Controls' products

REGIONAL AVIATION AT TOP OF THE AGENDA



Philip Bradbourn has received praise in the European Parliament and national press for his report on Regional Air Services. The report, which was highly critical of some current practices, received broad cross party support and a large majority when voted on by the Parliament. It serves as a bastion of consumer support and will now be the basis of forthcoming legislation aimed at tackling such things as a lack of price transparency, problems with carry on luggage as well as the use of regional airports to alleviate congested hub airports. 🌱



CHANGING PLACES FOR THE SEVERELY DISABLED

Through his position on the Parliament's Transport Committee Philip Bradbourn is working to ensure that all major airports have facilities for severely disabled passengers. The campaign for "Changing Places" has been the basis for amendments made by Philip to an upcoming proposal on passenger rights. The amendment would see changing places introduced to all EU airports with an annual throughput of over one million passengers and free for passenger use. Such facilities already exist in some UK airports, such as Birmingham International but their wider introduction is imperative to those affected.



Malcolm is now a 'Real-Life Entrepreneur Champion' for the Federation of Small Businesses and said: "There are numerous barriers facing entrepreneurs when they set up and run a small business, yet I know from my own experience just how rewarding it can be.

"The EU has already shown it can deliver for our entrepreneurs with SME-friendly measures such as the Late Payments Directive, which the FSB is keen to be implemented early in the UK. I look forward to playing my part in driving jobs and growth across the West Midlands as a Champion for the FSB." 🌱

Malcolm signs up to be an FSB 'Real-Life Entrepreneur Champion'



Anthea recently visited Dudley Zoo & West Midlands Safari Park to see the conservation work they are doing.

"Many species are threatened with extinction in their native habitats and we simply must act to preserve them. Captive breeding programmes work and are an important part of the effort to save endangered animals.

"I support effective regulation of zoos and also recognise that zoos have an important educational role which allows children to see wild animals first-hand. Here in the West Midlands, we are playing a crucial role in this important international effort." 🌱



MALCOLM SPEAKS OUT FOR JOBS AND GROWTH

Malcolm welcomed European Commission Director Daniel Calleja to the West Midlands to explore future EU funding. They also visited Coventry to see how the EU backed European Enterprise Network is creating new jobs and new business opportunities.

Malcolm commented: "Promoting Single Market opportunities for small business is a key role for the European Enterprise Network, an increasingly important initiative for our region.

"During our visit it was also good to see the new concept highly efficient fuel cell powered light-urban transport developed by Coventry University spin-out company Microcab.

"It's important to reiterate that policies don't deliver jobs and growth, it's implementation that does." 🌱

Malcolm with Josh Jostin, Prof of Sustainable Transport Design, Coventry University Daniel Calleja & Jo Dobson, Director of Strategic Relationships at Coventry University alongside a vehicle powered by the new fuel cell.

LOCAL HAULAGE COMPANIES AIR THEIR CONCERNS



Early this summer Philip Bradbourn organised a consultation with local haulage companies. The meeting provided an opportunity for Philip to inform the hauliers of upcoming legislation and the current issues being faced by the industry. Moreover, it served as an opportunity for Hauliers to have direct contact with their elected representative. Issues raised by those attending included secure lorry parking, about which they have cost concerns and cross border law enforcement of both driving offences and measurement of hours worked, where an uneven application is currently punishing local business. 🌱



BLACK COUNTRY BUSINESSES SET TO GROW

Anthea McIntyre hosted a very successful Business Breakfast in Oldbury that heard from a number of firms looking to take on additional workers over the coming months.

"It was most encouraging to hear that businesses in the engineering and service sectors were looking to recruit over the coming months and I am delighted that businesses are expanding even in the current economic situation," said Anthea.

"I also appreciated the candour of those employers who reported spending a great deal of time and money interviewing for vacancies only to find that a significant minority of potential recruits have no intention of taking the job."



FAIR PRICE FOR MILK FARMERS

As Member of Parliament for a rural constituency, Staffordshire Moorlands, Karen Bradley is understandably concerned by recent drops in milk prices which have left dairy farmers struggling to cover their basic production costs.

Karen commented: "Whilst a pint of milk will set you back 49p, the cost of a small bottle of water is currently around 53p. These below cost prices – driven by milk processors and recession-hit retailers – are threatening the very existence of our dairy industry and we need to do more to help British farmers.

The EU has already made significant progress in this area with the European 'Milk Package', legislation which aims to boost the position of dairy producers in the supply chain. This is a welcome development and one that the UK Parliament has an opportunity to build on with the Groceries Code Adjudicator Bill recently published in the House of Lords."

MARK PAWSEY AND THE ERDF FUNDING ENQUIRY



As a member of The Communities and Local Government Select Committee, Mark Pawsey MP for Rugby and 10 other members have recently conducted and finished an inquiry into the European Regional Development Fund. Mark said,

"During our sessions we saw how ERDF provides highly valued funding and supports projects across England that would otherwise not have been able to proceed. We here in the West Midlands have gained from its funding allocations: between 2007-13, the West Midlands was allocated £345million – helping projects such as Castle Hill in Dudley and Craig Croft in Solihull.

I have appreciated seeing the positive impact the ERDF can bring and I look forward to hearing the size and shape of the next ERDF round for 2014-2020".



TACKLING RURAL CRIME

Anthea McIntyre recently met business-owners based in the region's rural areas to look at the specific problems they experience with crime. Pictured here with Adrian Blackshaw at his business near Leominster, Anthea said:

"The rural parts of our Region are certainly not exempt from crime. Remote business premises can be especially vulnerable and I am keen to see Ruralwatch-type schemes promoted in our countryside and villages.

"Burglaries, thefts of equipment, trailers and metal that is then sold for scrap can all be deterred by working with our neighbours and reporting any suspicious behaviour to the police."



WHIZZ-KIDZ AMBASSADORS

Malcolm is championing a scheme which supports young disabled people. Whizz-Kidz, provides children and young people with powered and manual mobility equipment, and runs local Ambassador Clubs where young disabled people can make friends, learn life skills through music, drama, sport and also campaign on local issues important to them.

Malcolm is backing the Stoke Ambassadors' campaign, 'Less steps, more ramps', to make

Stoke-on-Trent the most accessible place for wheelchair-users and disabled people.

Malcolm said: "It's really good to see the work of Whizz-Kidz and meet the young people who benefit from the charity. I've been actively involved for some years in making buses more wheelchair friendly, and opening market opportunities for wheelchair accessible vehicles."

Malcolm with Whizz-Kidz Ambassadors Charlotte and Liberty-Skye

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