

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:

Energy Connections: I renewed my call for Bradwell in Essex to be investigated as a possible connection point for offshore wind to help relieve the pressure of energy infrastructure on the Suffolk coast. I raised this point at the recent Offshore Electricity Grid Task Force meeting where East Anglian MPs met Energy Minister, Graham Stuart. I have also followed this up in writing with the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, Grant Shapps. Although there is an entirely correct government commitment to provide 40GW of offshore wind electricity by 2030, I've consistently made it clear that it's essential our precious landscapes and communities are protected by placing the infrastructure in the appropriate location. That's why I opposed the Friston sub-station and why I've made submissions opposing the options set out in the recent Eurolink and Sealink consultations. I have been clear and continue to press the case that onshore connections should be placed on brownfield land.

Now that Graham Stuart has released himself from the decision-making function for any forthcoming Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project, he will be able to actively engage with developers, MPs and other stakeholders on coordination and siting. I think there is a real opportunity for the department to investigate the viability of Bradwell and then potentially promote it. Especially as I am given to understand that the site has a currently dormant connection to the grid.

My petition, which calls on the department to carry out a comparative study, has so far received 2,800 signatures. You can sign it [here](#).



Health & Care:

Dentistry: I received assurances that MyDentist Woodbridge, based in Melton, will continue to provide NHS dentistry following rumours it was going to withdraw the service. Whilst there is an issue with capacity, the practice has confirmed that they have two new NHS clinicians joining the team shortly and that they are continuing to actively recruit more NHS dentists. I'm disappointed that the AW Brown Dental Practice has chosen to withdraw from providing NHS care to their current patients in Felixstowe.

The government has invested in dentistry and will continue to do so, including through strengthening the contract with dentists. I will shortly be meeting the Chief Executive of the Suffolk and North-East Essex Integrated Care Board, Ed Garratt, to ensure the local NHS is doing everything it can to avoid dental deserts in the county.

The Peninsula Practice: I visited the Aldeburgh Surgery to meet Dr Crockett and the Patient Participation Group chair, Tony Osmani. We discussed the challenges of providing patient-centred care in a rural location and the work they are doing with individual patients to ensure they receive their prescriptions in a timely manner.



Port Health: I met representatives from the Suffolk Coastal Port Health Authority, including Leader of the Council, Cllr Steve Gallant. They play an important role in protecting public health by ensuring food and animal products are imported safely. As Environment Secretary, I'm conscious of the need to ensure they have the resources to ensure the smooth flow of import/exports. DEFRA has previously provided funding for preventative screening checks for African Swine Fever for example, related to a recent case to stop the import of smuggled meats. I will continue to work with the Authority to help protect public health.



Education:

Apprenticeships: I attended a special Apprenticeships Suffolk event put on by the County Council at Trinity Park to mark National Apprenticeships Week. The Government has also recently announced that applications for apprenticeships will go on the university application system as well so that people really have a choice on how they develop their career.

I also visited Anglian Water's Cliff Quay treatment works to see how our young people are building the skills that they need to help us make sure we have clean and plentiful water.



Business:

Freeport East: Final government approval has now been given to Freeport East, a collaboration between the ports of Felixstowe and Harwich, with up to £25m investment for our area. This will mean thousands of highly skilled jobs and Freeport East could become a world-leading centre for clean energy production, propelling the UK's net zero decarbonisation efforts, particularly through its role as a green hydrogen hub. The Freeport now has the freedom to flourish.



Constituency & Suffolk Matters:

Shoreline Management: I visited Thorpeness to discuss the Shoreline Management Plan and the ongoing Coastal Adaptation Supplementary Planning Document consultation with the East Suffolk Cabinet member, David Ritchie and council officers. The consultation closes on Wednesday the 8th of March. Have your say [here](#).



Roadside litter: I hosted a roundtable on how to tackle roadside litter, with representatives of the Port of Felixstowe, National Highways, the haulage industry, East Suffolk Council and Litter Free Felixstowe all coming together to work on solutions to clean up the A14. Littering the roadside is not acceptable, so it was good to discuss ways to tackle the issue more effectively with resolutions that include better education, corporate accountability, tougher penalties and a focus on facilities - reflecting elements of the government's anti-litter strategy.



Flood Memorial: I attended the service in St John's Church, Felixstowe to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Great Flood of 53. We should never see the loss of life like we did in 53 ever again and it was good to see the community come together to remember.

Parliament & Ministerial Matters:

President Zelenskyy Visit: I was in Westminster Hall to listen to the very moving and motivating speech from President Zelenskyy to both Houses of Parliament.

Brazil: I represented the UK at the inauguration of new Brazilian President Lula da Silva. After Brasilia, I visited a community in the heart of the Amazon to see their sustainable farming practices in action. The government wants to expand our collaboration with Brazil to fight against climate change, putting the concept of bioeconomy into practice and generate prosperity for local communities.



Environmental Improvement Plan: I launched the Government's Environmental Improvement Plan, which included a visit to Hazlewood Marshes in the Alde/Ore estuary. The plan sets out how we will continue to improve our environment here in the UK and around the world. It has a focus on habitat creation, clean water, air quality and green growth. More details [here](#).

Environmental Land Management: As Environment Secretary, I published our detailed plans to support farmers and rural communities. We are moving away from the bureaucratic Common Agricultural Policy to deliver a new system that rewards our farmers for their role as environmental stewards. More information [here](#).

Other visits:

- I met the Chief Executive of Essex & Suffolk Water to discuss their Water Resources Management Plan in their Suffolk operating area.
- I watched personnel from Rock Barracks perform the mounting of the guard in London.
- I met National Grid ET to discuss the proposed Sealink interconnector project.
- I attended the Freeport East Parliamentary Reception.
- I met Hutchison Port and EDF Energy to discuss the future of hydrogen in the local region.

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.

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