

## **MP Parish Report March 2026**

### **Roads and Local Transport**

Since becoming a Member of Parliament, one of the most frequent concerns raised across our towns and parishes has been the condition of our roads. I have repeatedly raised issues around speeding and wider road-user safety, including directly with the Prime Minister.

I continue to correspond with the Roads Minister regarding the A259 and the funding required to deliver long-overdue MRN safety improvements. I recently invited the Minister to visit our area to see first-hand the challenges residents face, from congestion to potholes, and I am pleased that she has accepted. I look forward to showing her the scale of the problem.

This winter's persistent rainfall has caused significant deterioration across our road network. While East Sussex County Council is responsible for road maintenance, I am encouraging residents to raise these concerns with county council candidates ahead of this year's local elections. It is unacceptable that people are being left with costly repair bills because potholes are not being addressed.

### **Health Care**

I recently visited the new Health Hub in Newhaven to see the progress being made there first hand. The team that have been working to make this project possible from builders, to the NHS and to officers at LDC, are all extremely dedicated and proud of their work which will improve the lives of residents in Newhaven. The hub is due to open later this year.

Seafords health facility is now progressing too, with the same energy and enthusiasm for the project, funding for a feasibility study has now been secured to assess the various options and ultimately, proceed with one. Similarly in Willingdon and Polegate, the new health hub on Eastbourne Road is making progress with the feasibility study now concluded and a site chosen, we now expect construction at the Hindsland site to start later this summer.

### **The Iran War**

The events of the past week have caused deep concern, as the United States has initiated military action in Iran. Many constituents, particularly in rural communities, are already feeling the impact through sharp increases in the cost of oil and gas for heating and power.

I am writing, alongside parliamentary colleagues, to the Energy Secretary to call for an expansion of the Rural Fuel Duty Relief Scheme and for a mechanism to protect off-grid households from sudden price spikes, similar to the energy price cap that supports on-grid consumers.

I welcome the Government's position of not engaging in offensive operations, mindful of the lessons of Iraq and Afghanistan. However, I have raised concerns with the Secretary of State for Defence about how the UK will monitor any activity conducted by American forces operating from bases on British soil.

### **Representation of the People Bill**

Parliament recently voted on the Representation of the People Bill. While I welcome several measures in the Bill, such as votes at 16 and automatic voter registration, I believe it should have gone further.

In my maiden speech, I called for the First Past the Post system to be replaced with Proportional Representation to help rebuild trust in our political system. I reiterated that call during the debate on this Bill and also raised concerns about the influence of foreign money in UK politics.

### **Seaford to London Direct Rail Service**

At every meeting I have held with Govia Thameslink Railway, the operator of Southern, Gatwick Express and Thameslink, I have pressed the case for restoring the direct Seaford to London service. This connection would be hugely beneficial for our coastal communities. I am pleased that the company is now exploring the possibility as part of its next timetable review, and I will continue to push for this vital link to be reinstated.