

Parliamentary News

Martin Salter's Tenth Annual Report to Constituents

Reading West Constituency which includes: Pangbourne, Purley, Tilehurst, Theale, Calcot, Coley, Norcot, Southcoate, Whitley and

Time to get Tough on Travellers

Reading West MP Martin Salter has been leading the campaign to persuade Thames Valley Police and local councils to take tough action against Travellers who break the law, damage property and leave a trail of litter and filth behind them. He is also calling on councils in the region to provide transit sites well away from residential areas where travellers could stay, providing they adhere to a strict code of conduct.

Martin says:-

“Reading, Theale and parts of West Berkshire have been subject to dozens of illegal and unauthorised traveller encampments, some of which have caused severe disruption for local residents and cost thousands of pounds in clean up bills and legal fees. I have presented a 7 point plan in Parliament which includes the prosecution of the worst offenders, the use of anti-social behaviour orders and environmental legislation, as well as better joined-up working between the police and local councils to achieve quicker evictions.”

If you support Martin Salter’s campaign or want further information please return the coupon on the back page or email him at salterm@parliament.uk



TRAVELLERS TAKEOVER – Martin wants tough action against Travellers who break the law and damage local amenities. **INSET:** Some of the rubbish left behind by travellers in Theale last year.

Flood Warning

Unprecedented levels of heavy rain in July caused serious flooding in parts of Reading as drains, sewers and culverts were overwhelmed by the sheer volume of water. Luckily the rivers Thames and Kennet just stayed within their banks but in Pangbourne the Sulham Brook overflowed at the Reading Road, flooding over 200 properties.

Martin has been working with Thames Water, the Environment Agency and local councils to secure more investment to reduce future flood risks in the Pangbourne, Whitley and Oxford Road areas and where the problems were most acute.



FLOOD WARNING – In July, Purley on Thames just avoided another flooding but Pangbourne, parts of Whitley, Stone Street and Ivydene Road weren't so lucky.

Save our Post Offices



SAVE OUR POST OFFICES – Only two post offices are earmarked for closure in Reading West at Kentwood Hill and Wantage Road but Martin is fighting to keep them open.

Three years ago Martin Salter worked with local councillors on a joint petition which successfully overturned the planned closure of Whitley Wood Post Office. With the branches at Wantage Road and Kentwood Hill now earmarked for closure, Martin is urging local people to sign his petition to keep them open.

Please send back the coupon on the back page or go to Martin’s website at www.martinsalter.com The closing date is 31st January - so don't delay!

Promoted by and on behalf of Martin Salter MP, 413 Oxford Road, Reading RG30 1HA. Designed and Printed by Public Impact. The Courtyard, 87 Southampton Street, Reading RG1 2QU. Using wood fibre from sustainable forests, fully recyclable and biodegradable. Elemental Chlorine Free. Paid for by the Communications Allowance, House of Commons.

Local action all year round

Over the last year Martin has:

January – Demanded joined up action from Reading Borough and West Berkshire Councils to improve facilities for young people in Tilehurst.

Supported Tilehurst residents' campaign to save a local bridleway used by children to get to school.

February – Visited Churchend Primary School to answer pupils' questions on his job, as part of a tour of schools in Reading West.

Spoke at the Shelter Regional Housing Debate at Reading Town Hall on the lack of affordable housing in the area.

March – Showed Rail Minister Tom Harris MP around Reading station to press the case for a much needed upgrade.

Ran the Reading Half Marathon with his staff to raise money for Reading Initiative for Tsunami Action in Sri Lanka.



GOODBYE COW LANE – The new Reading station upgrade means more platforms, new bridges, more trains and an end to the Cow Lane traffic jams.

April – Persuaded the council to change the parking restrictions outside the Lemon Plaice in Tilehurst after customers were hit with parking tickets.

Demanded police action against drug dealers and prostitutes in the Brunswick Street area.

May – Joined Reading's footballers in supporting 'Mayday for Nurses' in which premiership footballers donate a days wages to a nurses hardship fund.



BETTER SPORTS – Martin joins Mayor of Reading and local councillors Pete Ruhemann, Deborah Edwards, Jo Lovelock and Graeme Hoskins at the opening of the new all-weather sport pitches in Prospect Park.

Hosted the All Party Parliamentary Group on Angling visit to Berkshire to hear about the work which has been done to improve angling and the environment on the rivers Kennet and Pang.

June – Kicked off a benefit gig at Reading's Fez Club by Reading band 'The Luminaries' in support of Billy Bragg's Jail Guitar Doors Campaign.

Criticised Oxfordshire councillors for opposing a Third Thames Bridge for Reading.

July – Hailed a report published by the Institute of Public Policy Research which declared Reading the fastest growing local economy in England.

Called for medicinal cannabis to be licensed for cancer and MS sufferers in his role as Patron of the Berkshire Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre.

August – Called on the Environment Agency to implement a new flood relief scheme for Pangbourne to prevent future flooding of the Sulham Brook.

Launched the Environment Agency's Free Angling Days Out to get families hooked on fishing.



MORE TRAINS – After months of campaigning Martin helped win more peak hour trains for Tilehurst and Pangbourne stations.

October – Launched the Whitley Arts Festival, with Levi Roots from the Dragons Den TV show.

Urged the police to move on a large traveller encampment at the end of Theale High Street.

Kicked off Little Heath Student Conference at the Calcot Hotel.

November – Challenged proposed job cuts at the Berkshire Brewery.

Campaigned to save the Women's Learning Centre on the Oxford Road.

December – Congratulated Brookfields on achieving 'Special School Status' at a celebration lunch and tour.

Called for an overhaul of Reading's surface water drains to prevent further flooding after heavy rains.

September – Took part in a coaching session with Reading Rockets Basketball Team coach Matt Johnson, to congratulate him on winning a Nancy Ovens bursary award.

Surveyed shoppers' views on the need to reduce plastic bags and excess packaging.



MORE POLICE – The new Police Community Support Officers are making a real difference in the Oxford Road.

A helping hand

Martin is a strong supporter of Reading’s local charities and voluntary groups. He works hard to help promote or raise funds for good causes at home and abroad. He feels particularly passionately about the plight of Multiple Sclerosis patients and is patron of the Berkshire MS Therapy Centre in the Oxford Road, which provides advice, support and treatment to people suffering from this dreadful disease. Martin is also a patron of ABC to Read and the Southcote Toy Library and several other organisations.

Over the past year Martin has:



HALF MARATHON MAN! – Martin’s run raised £1,500 for charity.

- **Persuaded** his staff members to join him in a relay team to run the Reading Half Marathon, raising over £1,500 for RITA (Reading Initiative for Tsunami Action). Martin continues to be a strong supporter of RITA which helps fund work to rebuild homes destroyed by the disaster and build links between Reading and Beruwala in Sri Lanka.



HELPING IN GOOD CAUSE – Martin has been raising money for many good causes, at home and abroad, including victims of the South Asian Tsunami who are still homeless.

- **Donated** winnings of £282 to the charity Assisting Berkshire Children to Read after being given a £200 charity bet to celebrate the launch of Ladbrokes Queen Victoria Street betting shop.
- **Supported** the Jail Guitar Doors Project to raise money to purchase instruments for Reading Young Offenders Institution and to make a donation to the re-settlement Charity Turning Point.
- **Supported** the Royal Berkshire Hospital Radio station by taking part in their ‘Take Five’ show.

Meeting the people – staying in touch

Martin Salter is a full time MP who lives in his constituency and travels up to Westminster every day when Parliament is sitting. He runs a busy constituency office at 413 Oxford Road and holds fortnightly advice surgeries. On Fridays and during many weekends Martin gets out and about meeting local people, visiting schools, businesses, community projects, resident groups, churches and playgroups. He also has regular meetings with the Chief Executives of Reading Borough and West Berkshire Councils as well as the heads of the other major public services.



STARTING YOUNG – Martin celebrates Book Start Day at Battle Library where parents and toddlers receive free books to encourage early reading.

Over the last 12 months Martin has:

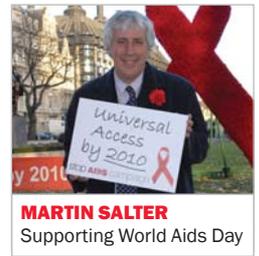
- Served as a governor at the new Madejski Academy which has seen improved results and was recently officially opened by former Prime Minister Tony Blair. Martin has also visited many local schools including Denefield, Little Heath, Calcot Infant School and Nursery, Southcote Children’s Centre, Church End Primary, Prospect College, Reading Girls School, Brookfields, Wilson Primary, Geoffrey Field and Whitley Park, and has hosted visits to the Houses of Parliament for local pupils and students.
- Spoke at the Reading Youth Cabinet and Tilehurst Youth Forum and launched the inaugural Little Heath Student Voice Conference.
- Supported many voluntary organisations and local churches including:- South Reading Churches, Resource, Southcote SITE, Dee Park Residents, Reading Association for the Blind, Age Concern, RISC, Whitley Arts Festival, Elizabeth Fry Hostel, Mothertongue, the True Food Co-op, GLOBE, South Reading Youth and Community Centre, Whitley Muslim Education Centre, The Dee Park Active Retirement Club, Whitley Karate Club and Battle Library.

Martin is also a keen supporter of Reading FC where he is a season ticket holder in the East Stand. He is a vice president of the supporters club STAR.

If you would like Martin to visit your group or organisation just drop a line to his constituency office.

Westminster report 2007

Martin Salter has been described by commentators as a "sharp, clever, backbencher...loyal but no robot". He has earned respect for not being afraid to speak his mind and for being an effective campaigner. He is a member of the Home Affairs Select Committee. Martin has no outside business interests, believing that representing 70,000 constituents is a full time job. He claims considerably less in allowances than most MPs as he does not have a taxpayer funded flat in London. **Listed below are a few highlights from his work in Westminster in the last year.**



January

- Launched a campaign with Fiona Mactaggart, MP for Slough, to stop the Met Police poaching experienced officers from Reading and Slough.
- Organised a delegation of MPs to meet Post Office Ministers over the Royal Mail's plans to close the Reading and Gloucester Mail Centres and consolidate their operations in Swindon.

February

- Launched 'StreetGames', a new national charity, to promote sport for young people living in the most disadvantaged communities.
- Met with Transport Secretary, Douglas Alexander, to press constituents' concerns over the December 10th changes to the First Great Western (FGW) train timetable.

March

- Called for greater protection for Reading's traders and shoppers by supporting a bill in the House of Commons against illegal street traders.
- Signed a House of Commons Motion supporting pay awards for nurses and other public sector workers.

April

- Joined a Shelter and Citizen's Advice campaign to raise awareness and protect tenants from corrupt landlords who try and rip them off.

- Headed a delegation of MPs to meet Police Minister Tony McNulty and press for an end to the Met's poaching of Reading officers.

May

- Argued for protection of constituents' rights under the Freedom of Information Act to contact their MP in confidence
- Introduced a Ten Minute Rule Bill in the House of Commons to bar 'moonlighting' MPs from holding second jobs and company directorships.

June

- Called on the Secretary of State for Health to overrule the decision to restrict the access to potentially sight-saving treatment for sufferers of wet age-related macular degeneration.
- Persuaded new PM Gordon Brown to allow the UK Youth Parliament to be allowed to meet annually in the Commons chamber.

July

- Appointed Vice Chair of the Labour Party for the Environment by Gordon Brown. Martin was also reappointed as Labour's Parliamentary Spokesman for Angling and Shooting.
- Sponsored a House of Commons Motion which argues for a new approach for the management and protection of the UK's marine resources and wildlife.

September

- Spoke in favour of re-training schemes which make dramatic reductions in the reoffending rate for young prisoners.
- Chaired a national meeting on the forthcoming Climate Change Bill.

October

- Spoke in a House of Commons debate on the Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill which will outlaw violent internet pornography, in praise of Reading mother Liz Longhurst.
- Argued the case that the western terminus for Crossrail should be located in Reading rather than Maidenhead, as proposed.

November

- Sponsored a House of Commons Early Day Motion on Packaging Waste, aimed at raising awareness of the damage to the environment caused by over packaging.
- Secured a House of Commons adjournment debate to speak in favour of increased minimum landing sizes to support sustainable fish populations.

December

- Lobbied the Home Secretary to reverse the controversial decision not to backdate the Police pay award.
- Held a travellers 'summit' in Westminster with Thames Valley Police, MPs and Local Authority representatives to tackle problems associated with traveller encampments.



ON THE WEST WING – Martin on the Home Affairs Select Committee visit to Washington to investigate anti-terror laws.



SUPPORTING THE POLICE – Martin Salter with Thames Valley Chief Constable Sara Thornton and Slough MP Fiona Mactaggart campaigning to stop the Met poaching our police officers.



CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT – Martin on a visit to RSPB headquarters as part of his new job as Labour Vice Chairman for the Environment.

Send Martin your views

1. SAVE OUR POST OFFICES

Please add my name to the petition to save ...

Wantage Road Post Office
Kentwood Hill Post Office

2. ACTION ON TRAVELLERS

I support Martin's proposals to enforce the law on traveller encampments.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode _____

6 Ways to Contact Martin Salter

- Book into one of his Saturday morning advice surgeries. Tel: **954 6782**
- Call in to one of his Friday evening drop in surgeries in Whitley or Calcot.
- Write to his constituency office at **413 Oxford Rd, Reading, RG30 1HA**
- Write to Martin at the **House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA**
- Email Martin at **salterm@parliament.uk**
- Go to his website at **www.martinsalter.com**