

John Cryer's October Newsletter

Johnson, Brexit and the winter election

I am sure you continue to follow developments in Westminster with an increasing sense of disbelief. The last few days have seen some of the best tweets I've ever had from people on the issue of Brexit, I am not sure if even one has been abusive. That's not something I've always been able to say.

However, I am aware that many MPs endured abuse online and heckling at the protest on Saturday at Westminster. Brexit obviously brings out strong emotions and feelings on both sides but not acceptable.

As you will know we defeated the programme motion attached to the Brexit Bill since the government had planned to have a three-day debate which is clearly inadequate. But the Bill did pass its second reading which is something of a milestone. It now goes to the committee stage although the prime minister last announced a "pause" in the process.

Kashmir

The situation in Kashmir is one that I know is of grave concern to many local people, and I have heard from residents with relatives living there. I attended and spoke at a recent rally in parliament (last Thursday afternoon) against the subjugation of Kashmir.

There is an urgent need for India and Pakistan to work together on a bilateral basis with the support of the international community to reach a peaceful political solution which protects the human rights of the Kashmiri people and respects their right to have a say in their own future.

In parliament we continue to call on the UK government to do everything within its power to support the de-escalation of the situation in Kashmir and end the cycle of violence and fear which has plagued the region for so long.

Wanstead Music Festival – campaign success

Plans to hold a 40,000-person festival on Wanstead Flats have been withdrawn. The festival, which had yet to be named, was proposed by MAMA Festivals. The plans had been granted permission for a three-day festival in September 2020.

I was contacted by many concerned local residents regarding the proposal to hold a music festival. This has also been raised by a number of constituents face to face. I attended a number of meetings on this, including that of the Epping Forest Committee.

A figure of 40,000 festival-goers was very high and possibly much larger than the local infrastructure can manage. There would also, I assume, have been a great deal of noise possibly until late at night.

This would have affected Waltham Forest residents as well as those in Redbridge (John Walsh and Fred Wigg towers are virtually on the flats themselves and a number of WF streets are nearby). I made robust representations against the proposals to the City of London and Epping Forest Committee.

I congratulate the local community and local councillors on a strong local campaign.

Albin Kurti, Kosovo Prime Minister and parliamentary delegation

I met with the recently elected Prime Minister of Kosovo in Westminster. We talked about bilateral relations between Kosovo and the UK. The delegation is seeking support to help them with their justice and education system, and to invest in their economy. Thanks to Cllr Kastriot Berberi, for arranging this meeting and inviting me.

In brief

My office has remained busy over the last month, dealing with hundreds of Brexit emails from both sides of the current impasse and casework relating to housing, Universal Credit and other issues.

The usual four surgeries per month continue plus other activities such as coffee mornings, street surgeries etc. To keep track of what I am up to between newsletters, keep an eye out for new content on my website (www.johncryermp.co.uk), check Hansard (<https://hansard.parliament.uk/search/MemberContributions?house=Commons&memberId=181>) or follow me on Twitter: @JohnCryerMP.

Kind regards

John Cryer