

MP's UPDATE FOR RESIDENTS - August 2021

Dear

Parliament is on recess now, returning on 6th September. So my next report will be at the end of September. Meanwhile, I do hope you have a good, ping-free, summer, and are able to enjoy some of the wonderful spaces we have locally.

Best wishes



To Contact Me

My MP Office email is ruthcadburymp@parliament.uk. I welcome the opportunity to attend community events to catch up with residents (and also with party members!). Or if you have concerns where you need my support – do include your address so I know you or they are a constituent, and any relevant reference numbers – DWP/Home Office. Please do share this information with neighbours and local friends.



You can find previous reports of my work on my web site: www.ruthcadbury.co.uk. I also report regularly on my Facebook page and via Twitter and Instagram @RuthCadbury. You can see full details of my questions and speeches in Parliament, and get Regular updates about my Parliamentary activities on [TheyWorkForYou](#) in Hansard and on [YouTube](#).

I plan to restart face-to-face surgeries in the Autumn. Meanwhile I am happy to meet constituents either by phone, or on-line, to discuss your concerns. Please email me on ruthcadburymp@parliament.uk with your address, a quick summary of the issue and any relevant reference numbers.

See my special [Coronavirus Web-page](#) for information on local and national services, help-lines and volunteering; and to sign up for Hounslow Council's daily updates.

There can be little doubt that the current Prime Minister must be the worst the UK has ever had. Parliamentary rules meant that Brent Central MP Dawn Butler had to leave the Chamber for refusing to withdraw her statement that PM Johnson is a liar, yet at PMQs and in speeches he repeatedly tells mistruths; from saying that in the last ten years CO2 emissions have been falling, to stating that the economy is growing. He's said there are 400,000 fewer families living in poverty when in fact the figure has grown significantly, that there is no other working Covid app in the world, and that the Tories invested an extra £34bn in the NHS. Keir Starmer has done a brilliant job challenging Johnson each week at PMQs, but week after week we see Johnson deflecting rather pathetically.

The Queen's speech in May set out the Government's [full legislative agenda](#) and many of their proposed Bills are deeply worrying. The **Health Bill** further expands the power of the private sector in NHS decision-making and does nothing to address the future of social care. The **Building Safety Bill**, introduced 4 years after the Grenfell fire, brings little hope to so many leaseholders trapped in potentially unsafe buildings with huge costs still hanging over their heads. Meanwhile housing associations that manage developer-built blocks for social housing, get no help at all from Government to make their buildings safe for tenants.

The **Nationalities & Borders Bill** punishes asylum seekers and those helping them, which could even affect the RNLI. The **Police and Crime Bill** criminalises peaceful protest and trespass but does nothing to address the appalling backlog in the court system nor the shockingly low performance of our justice system for victims of rape and sexual assault.

We are still to see the details of some of their programme, but announcements made so far are also worrying including tackling non-existent voter fraud by **requiring photo ID at polling stations**. The Government have also said they plan to weaken the **Judicial Review** system, and review the **Human Rights Act**.

As Shadow Planning Minister my work will be cut out when the Government publishes the **Planning Reform Bill**. However their intentions to undermine the power of local Councils and remove Community Consultation on Planning applications has, rightly, run up against very serious opposition from many quarters, not least a large number of Tory MPs. [Here is the link](#) to one of my Chamber speeches on the expected "reforms".

Through all of this gloom, **England's men's football team** went all the way to the final of the Euros. The behaviour and statements of the England football team and manager Gareth Southgate challenged the Government head-on. His **"Dear England" letter** set out his aspiration of a progressive, unified, modern



England at ease with its diversity. This contrasted starkly with Priti Patel refusing to condemn fans who booed the players when they took the knee. Southgate showed the best of what England can be, in stark contrast to so many in Government.

Also in Parliament in July:

- I spoke in a Statutory Instrument debate about **pavement licensing for shops**
- A constituent asked me to attend the All Party Group on **Brain Tumours** which is launching an Inquiry into the difficulties scientists have in getting funding for potentially life-saving research on brain tumours.
- In a debate about the need to regularise the **status of undocumented migrants** who have often been in the UK for many years, I stated that over 80% arrived legitimately but cannot afford the exorbitant fees to keep applying for Leave to Remain. I also addressed the long delays in the Home Office Immigration Service, only made worse with the number of EU citizens applying for Settled Status
- I questioned the Aviation Minister over a serious constituency case where my HIV-positive constituent was treated very badly when returning to the UK, unable to get medicine while waiting to return, and again when in hotel quarantine on arrival
- I wrote to the Government on behalf of a large number of constituents who contacted me because they, or their family members, have been fully Covid-vaccinated outside of the UK, yet will have to follow strict quarantine restrictions on return, as the vaccine they had is not one of those used in the UK

COMMUNITY UPDATE



In 2018 Hounslow Council pledged to deliver 5000 new homes, including 1000 new Council homes, by 2022. Despite the challenge of the last 16 months, over 3000 have been delivered including 100s of new Council homes. I checked out their new development on the site of the former Acton Lodge on London Road in Brentford where all homes are being built to the best low-energy standards.



Hounslow housing department is also investing in its existing estates, such as here at Brentford Towers with significant estate refurbishments, new family homes in the unused space on the first floors of the 6 blocks, large new recycling stations, and wildlife meadows.



With Shadow Sport Minister Ali McGovern and Shadow Schools Minister Peter Kyle I visited Nishkam School in Osterley to see the work they have been doing with the Football Association on **girl's leadership skills** through the FA's Game of Our Own programme. The programme develops a more positive self-image, and works on social and mental well-being. It was wonderful to see the Year 8 and 9 students leading sports activities with younger children in Year 2 and 4.



Eid Mubarak to everyone celebrating Eid Al-Adha this month. It was such a pleasure to join local residents after prayers at their party in Isleworth, the first time that collective Eid has been able to be celebrated properly for well over a year!



Shafali Shown-Keen grew up locally, and after a career working in a large company she wanted to be her own boss. She has now bought the franchise to run MacDonal's in Brentford. She has plans to follow with several more nearby franchises in future. When we met she told me of her desire to respond to local community concerns and give back to the community



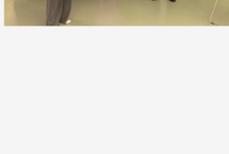
Young people from across West London spent two weeks together on a range of community projects through the NCS (**National Citizens Service**) which is managed locally by Brentford FC Community Sports Trust. I met up with them all at their charity car wash at West Middlesex hospital, where they were raising funds for the NHS charity.



ArtsEd in Chiswick is one of the country's top performing arts schools. Its school and degree-level leavers almost always find work immediately on leaving, in film TV and theatre and go on to great things. I was able to see round their wonderful newly-expanded teaching spaces that will further enhance the quality of the education they provide. I have agreed to help their bursary programme, by linking them up with local schools, to ensure that talented young people who are unable to afford their fees are able to benefit from the world-class education they provide.



Brentford Musical Museum has a unique collection of mechanical musical instruments, including this incredible Wurlitzer cinema organ. At their Open Day I learned of their extensive programme of silent film-shows, tea dances and concerts. I also met up with Karen aka [BrentfordThruMyLens](#). Karen is an inveterate photographer of Brentford's places while also collecting photos of Brentford past, which she often shows together at local exhibitions.



I met up with West Middlesex Hospital Direct Mark Titcomb, who told me that in the last week of July, Covid in-patient numbers had risen to 25, from 17 the previous week after around three months of tiny numbers. Apart from five very elderly people, the in-patients were of all ages, and none had been vaccinated and some are very seriously ill. Which illustrated just how important it is that we all get vaccinated against Covid.



July ended with the first week of the **Tokyo Olympics**, where Britain is doing well in the medals table and Isleworth is getting very excited. Sue Cooper posted on the Isleworth Riverside facebook page about her protégé saying: "after dominating early heats at Lidl, fuelled by medicinal gin, Lady Myrtle is a strong medal hope for Bag-on-Wheels"