

Nigel Huddleston's February Report

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February Report

February has unsurprisingly been dominated by talk of the European Union referendum. I have made clear to my constituents my own views and, if you have not already, you can read them [here](#). I want my constituents to hear both sides of the argument in the run up to the referendum. For this reason I would encourage you to do as I have done and look at the points being made by both the In and Out campaigns – such as [Britain Stronger In](#) and [Vote Leave](#). The BBC has also compiled a good, objective ‘[all you need to know guide](#)’ about the referendum and the issues. If you would like a more in depth read on the subject, the House of Commons library has produced two useful briefing documents, [EU referendum: UK proposals, legal impact of an exit and alternatives to membership](#) and [EU referendum: impact of an EU exit in key UK policy areas](#).

I have met with many groups, bodies and charities this month, including the [Alzheimer's Society](#), the [British Beer & Pub Association](#), the [Prince's Trust](#), [Clean for the Queen](#), [Tech Future Girls](#), the Environment Agency, the National Federation of Retail Newsagents, the Internet Service Providers' Association, Visit Britain, Worcestershire County Council and Wychavon District Council. In addition, as well as taking part in [Evesham Baptist Church](#) and Evesham Civic Service celebrations, I have met with pupils and teachers from [Offenham First School](#) and [Badsey First School](#).

I also [met with representatives from Network Rail](#) along with local campaigner John Cook at Chawson's Coleford level crossing to discuss ongoing concerns about safety at the crossing. After close inspection and discussions with myself and Mr Cook, Level Crossings Manager Chris Williams agreed that Network Rail would look again at the state of disrepair of the crossing gate, and discuss the condition of the steep path leading to the crossing with highways at the county council, to see if they can work together.

I have asked a Parliamentary Question of the [Secretary of State for Health](#) regarding Hospital Trusts in Special Measures and taken part in a debate on the [death of journalists in conflict zones](#) and another on [tax avoidance and multinational companies](#). In addition, the [Culture, Media and Sport committee](#), on which I sit, has now published its [report on the BBC Charter Review](#).

One of the most interesting parts of my job is getting out and about, visiting local businesses in the constituency. My eyes have been opened to the vast range of businesses operating in the constituency and this month my visits ranged from local enterprises, such as the Regal Cinema in Evesham, to big local employers, like Roxel in Hartlebury, and global brand names, like McDonalds in Evesham.

Having visited the Regal Cinema a number of times as a customer, most recently to see the brilliant new James Bond, it was good to be on the other side of the curtain. Sue and Ian Wiper's contribution by re-opening this Grade II listed cinema, originally opened in 1932, is immeasurable. They have had a long journey from the inception of their idea to opening the old building to show films once again. The support they received from residents, the district council and other local bodies was vital and the cinema has been universally hailed as an outstanding success and of great benefit to our town. The Regal is continuing to go from strength to strength with plans to add two new cinema screens at the top of the building and a bar area with panoramic views across the Vale.

I had a very enjoyable and informative visit to Roxel. Roxel designs, develops, manufactures and markets solid propulsion systems and related equipments for all types of rockets and tactical and cruise missiles for air, sea and ground forces. I learnt a great deal about the company and about the incredibly sophisticated work being carried out at the Worcestershire site. Everybody I met seemed to be highly motivated and I heard many positive comments about Roxel as an employer. I was particularly pleased to hear that Roxel is looking to hire more people at the site in the coming months and very much appreciate the important

contribution the company makes to both the UK defence industry and the local economy.

I met McDonalds franchisee Sarah McLean and her team, and was particularly interested to hear about the charity work McDonalds and their employees do at both a local and national level. I was also asked to present seven McDonalds employees with certificates acknowledging their recent promotions. Jobs in food production and food service are often undervalued, so it was great that McDonalds is creating opportunities for its employees to gain qualifications and advance their careers - and I was delighted to congratulate them on their success.

As well as visiting businesses, it is useful to speak to local business groups, such as at the business breakfast I attended at St Andrews House Hotel in Droitwich in a couple of weeks ago.

With both Parliament and local schools taking a break this month, it was good to spend a bit more time with Melissa, Tyler and Mackenzie, and we even managed to get a few days away at Minehead Butlins. As you will know I am a big tourism enthusiast and proponent of the UK as a tourism destination, so I do like to practise what I preach when I get the chance!



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