



## General Election 2017 Newsletter

Welcome to a special election campaign edition of my email newsletter. I thought you may like to see a bit of the campaign from around Chesham and Amersham, as well as some details on a couple of the issues being raised in the election. But first.....

### **Manchester and London Attacks**

We were all shocked and saddened by the dreadful terrorist attack in Manchester. This was a wicked and cowardly act which claimed innocent lives, many of them children, on what would have been one of the most memorable nights of their lives. My thoughts are with the victims and their families and our grateful thanks to all the fantastic people who have helped. I joined with others in Chesham to honour the victims by laying flowers at our town memorial.

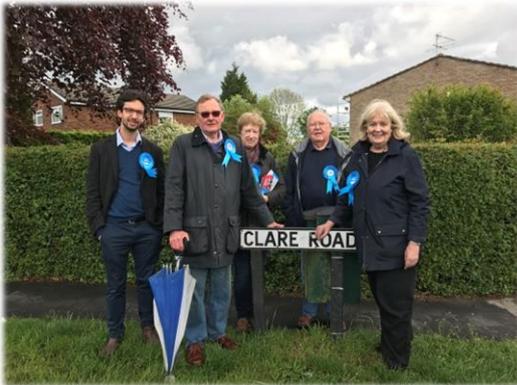
The general election campaign was quite rightly suspended for several days following the attack, and the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre temporarily raised the Terror Threat Level from 'severe' to 'critical' while the police and security services conducted further investigations. Again many thanks to all our police and the Armed Service personnel deployed to protect us.

Since I began writing this newsletter, we have heard the dreadful news about a further attack at London Bridge. Yet again innocent people who were enjoying an evening out were deliberately targeted and 7 lost their lives. My thoughts are with the families of the victims, and again my thanks goes to the outstanding police officers who responded and dealt with the suspects within eight minutes.

## On the campaign trail



I've been out and about across the constituency, speaking to residents and hearing your views on a whole range of issues. It's been a pleasure meeting so many of you on the doorstep, in our high streets, or at the railway stations, and I hope to see many more people before we go to the polls on 8 June.



In the last few weeks I have been out in Amersham, Chesham, Jordans, Chalfont St. Peter, Chalfont St. Giles, Little Chalfont, Penn, Knotty Green, The Lee, Great Missenden, Prestwood, Little Missenden, Holmer Green and lots of places in between. I have also helped campaigns in other seats, such as Harrow West and Slough. Thank you to everyone who has come out to help – it has been really heartening to have such good support.



## Long-term plan for elderly care

We need to tackle the long-term challenges we face from an ageing society before it collapses. In ten years' time there will be 2 million more people aged over 75 than there are today and we are committed to ensuring that our social care system provides proper care and protection for all those who need it, especially older people.

Our plan for social care means

- We will ensure no one has to sell their home to pay for care
- We will put an absolute limit on what people have to pay for their care
- We will protect at least £100,000 of your life savings
- We will introduce new protections for carers
- We will guarantee a double lock for pensions which will rise at least in line with inflation or average wages whichever is higher
- We will protect pensioner benefits such as free bus passes, eye tests, prescriptions and TV licences for the over 75s
- We will continue the winter fuel payments for the poorest pensioners who need it

## School funding

We value our education service in Buckinghamshire and Conservatives want to ensure that every child gets the best possible start in life so our school funding plan means

- We will increase schools funding every year - £4 billion extra by 2022 spreading it fairly across the country. This means that NO school will have its budget cut, lifting the overall budget to £45 Billion a year, the highest on record
- We are spending over £23 billion on school buildings which will mean over 600,000 additional school places and the refurbishment of over 500 schools
- All primary pupils will be offered a free school breakfast whilst retaining the free school lunches for those pupils that need it. Some children will now receive two free meals at school each day.

## Labour's Garden Tax

Some people have asked me about Labour's manifesto plans looking at a new Land Value Tax to replace Council Tax. Commentators in the press estimate for an average property it could see the annual tax bill trebling. While council tax works by taxing the overall value of a property, Land Value Tax would impose an annual charge on the value of land, not counting any improvements such as houses built on it. It is also possible that agricultural land would also be taxed in the same way.

Tax on an average home could go up from £1,185 to £3,837 per year – an increase of 224 per cent.

But average homes in Chesham and Amersham are around £392,000 and £588,000 so, on rough calculations, if implemented, Labour's plans could see average annual Council Tax Bills locally rise to over £6,000 and £8,000 respectively. I hope home owners will not have to face this prospect.

## Finally...

There is only a few days to the General Election and I will continue to be out and about working with my teams to be re-elected as your Member of Parliament so I can continue my work at Westminster and locally. I also hope we will see a Conservative Government re-elected with an increased majority, to strengthen Theresa May's hand in the Brexit negotiations.

Until next time!

### **Rt Hon Cheryl Gillan**

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