

POLITICAL LIFE

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Stay 'In Touch' with the

Corby & E Northants Conservative Association

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IT LOOKS LIKE GOOD NEWS IS COMING - BUT WE ARE NOT THERE YET! THERE IS STILL SOME WAY TO GO BEFORE WE DEFEAT THIS VIRUS SO PLEASE CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THE GOVERNMENT'S GUIDELINES. DON'T LISTEN TO THE CONSPIRACY-NUTS WHO TELL YOU IT IS A HOAX. IT IS VERY REAL. AND WHEN THE VACCINE HAS BEEN FULLY APPROVED AND IS AVAILABLE DO ENSURE YOU GET IT. THE PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT IS IN THIS MAGAZINE. OUR MP, TOM PURSGLOVE, HAS ALSO INCLUDED HIS THOUGHTS ON THE VIRUS IN HIS EXTENDED ARTICLE INSIDE.



WASH HANDS
Regularly



COVER FACE
In enclosed spaces



MAKE SPACE 2 metres
or 1 metre with mask

CLLR DAVID SIMS REPORTS ON RECENT PLANNING NEWS IN CORBY

29 Oct 2020

Cllrs David Sims and Kevin Watt supported the Action Group which had been set up to organise the objection to the building of more housing at the end of Larratt Road in Weldon. David was appointed by residents as chairman of this group. Already 8,000 homes had been built in the Weldon



area and villagers felt they had contributed sufficiently in the drive for more new houses. They also felt that the development would add to flooding problems in Weldon.

The campaign to stop the development was successful with the Corby Borough Council rejecting the plans. David and Kevin are continuing to fight in the event they appeal against this decision.

In Middleton plans to massively extend a traveller's pitch were turned down when David spoke against this expansion. The resident on the site had already begun to work on the alterations without planning consent. The rejection of the plans was in spite of the council case officers recommending approval on various grounds and it also was muted the possible high cost of fighting an appeal.

David also spoke against a housing development of a car park at the 5-ways junction opposite the Spread Eagle in Cottingham. Again, the council clerical officers recommended acceptance of the plans, siting the costly appeals process, but several councillors felt that a stand had to be made against this sort of development and the plans were rejected.

David reports with pride that the council has installed a bench at East Carlton Park in honour of his father, the late Joe Sims, who was well-known for his council work and his many years of service to the community of Corby.

David Sims has sat on the Planning sub-committee of CBC for nearly 14 years and feels that the experience and knowledge he has gained in his personal employment life has enabled him to make a substantial contribution to the development of Corby.

CONTENTS IN THIS ISSUE

- Cover. Our National Lottery
2. David Sims reports on planning in Corby
3. Association Chairman's report
4. Office opening times
5. Party Conference analysis/Amanda Milling
- 6-9. Tom Pursglove, MP
- 10-11. PFCC Stephen Mold
12. Corby Town Council
13. 200 Club Chairman Ray Jackson
14. Cllr Kevin Watt
15. A Reader writes/Corby Conservative Club
16. The Prime Minister on Vaccines
17. Defence Spending
18. Meetings/Our Christmas Draw
19. MOG

(Note: Page numbers are not shown in the magazine but the list above should help you find articles.)

LOCAL HEROES SCHEME

The Chairman of East Northamptonshire Council, Councillor Helen Howell, has launched a new awards scheme to recognise local heroes from across East Northamptonshire for all the hard work they do locally to help and support others and make our community the fantastic place it is to live and work.

The closing date for nominations is the 31st December and there are several categories to nominate in. To find out more and nominate someone you know, visit: <https://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/ENChampions>.

If any members would like to submit a letter or an article for the Magazine or comment on our contributors' articles please email the editor at ray.boyd@talktalk.net. Letters may be edited. The comments of all Magazine contributors are obviously their own opinion which do not necessarily reflect the views of the Conservative Party, our members, the Association or its management.

Conservative Association Chairman's Report to Members

Cllr Lee Wilkes (Association Chairman)

19 Nov 2020

Cllr Ron Pinnock RIP

Ron died in the early hours of 30th October 2020. Whilst not part of our Association, Ron was known by many of us as he was a sitting councillor on East Northamptonshire Council, having previously also been Chairman. He had served the Party and Northamptonshire well for over 30 years.



A successful Conservative Conference.

For the first time the Conservative Party Conference was held online. It was a gargantuan effort by an army of people to ensure the conference could go ahead despite the pandemic and associated social restrictions. It was a huge success.

Whilst never as good as a face-to-face conference, it did enable the Party to reach an audience that otherwise would not have attended. Around 22,000 people registered to attend – that compares to 4,500 that typically go to the physical conference.

Covid Grants

The government arranged for £10,000 grants to be made available to small businesses. Some Conservative Associations were qualified to receive the grants. CENCA decided not to request a grant (even though we were theoretically eligible). Our reasoning was that to take it was both unethical and unwise. Some other Conservative Associations (e.g. Ashford) chose to accept the grant, which is now causing them problems as the BBC and the Independent are running stories attacking them.

Planning – a white paper for the future.

In early August, the Government unveiled its ideas for delivering new housing through changes to England's planning system. 'Planning for the future' proposes an overhaul and streamlining of current planning processes that will require primary legislation.

The White Paper contains 24 individual proposals across three 'pillars' – planning for development, planning for beautiful and

sustainable places, and planning for infrastructure and connected places – and a final section on delivering change.

Among the proposals are a requirement for every area to have a local plan in place within 30 months, with sanctions for councils not meeting this deadline. The local plan will set rules, rather than policies for general development.

Land will be designated in the local plan as either for growth, renewal or protection.

Development in growth areas will be approved at the same time as plans are prepared, and be subject to local design standards. Renewal areas will be suitable for some development, while protected areas will restrict development to protect, for example, areas of outstanding natural beauty and national parks.

The intention is that communities will set the agenda for their own areas, with the categories for all land across England decided through local consensus. A key aim of the White Paper is to "move the democracy forward", so that the focus is on developing the local plan rather than determining individual planning decisions. The consultation explores the accessibility of the planning system, with the aim of ensuring the process engages local communities at an earlier stage.

In addition to the White Paper, there is a parallel consultation called 'Changes to the planning system'. It proposes delivery of a First Homes scheme providing newly built homes at a 30 per cent discount for first-time buyers. A minimum of 25 per cent of all affordable housing units secured through developer contributions would have to be First Homes.

There are also proposals to change the standard method for assessing local housing need; secure First Homes through developer contributions; temporarily lift the small sites threshold for affordable homes; and extend the current 'permission in principle' to major developments. The proposals have not been universally welcomed! Authorities have already started sending in their responses to the proposals, and more information will follow.

Continued>>>>

Unitary Leadership News

Cllr. Martin Griffiths has resigned as Deputy Leader of the North Northamptonshire Shadow Authority, and Cllr. Jason Smithers has been appointed in his place.

Boundary Review

Parliamentary constituency boundaries are reviewed periodically. This is principally so that constituencies are altered occasionally to take account of changes in population over time. Changes are also made to reflect local government boundary changes, so that administrative boundaries coincide as much as possible. The next parliamentary boundary review is imminent. Whilst David Cameron's plans to reduce the number of MPs to 600 appears to have been dropped (we will likely keep the 650 MPs we currently have), the boundary changes are likely to impact on the size and shape of our own constituency.

New Corby Town Council

As you may all be aware, as part of the transition to a new Unitary Council, a brand new Corby Town Council will be created. This gives local people (and anyone living within 3 miles of the outer boundary of the area covered by the Council) a fantastic opportunity to help shape, develop and lead a local Council specifically created to represent and support Corby residents. If you would like to be considered as a Conservative Candidate for the election, please get in touch with Ray Boyd at office@cenca.co.uk

Onwards and Upwards!

Yours,

Councillor Lee Wilkes

Chairman – Corby & East Northamptonshire Conservative Association

OFFICE OPENING TIMES

A MESSAGE FROM RAY BOYD AT YOUR LOCAL ASSOCIATION OFFICE

The Corby Conservative Club has now had to close for the current lockdown. This means the office cannot be opened as it is part of the Club building. However normal day-to-day running continues and the office will re-open once the lockdown ends. There may be continuing reduced opening days should the law dictate this.

Outside office hours you can reach me at:

Email: ray.boyd@talktalk.net. The office email address is: office@cenca.co.uk. Both email addresses are monitored 7 days a week. My home telephone: 01536 742954 (Unless already registered you may have to identify yourself on this phone before being connected). If I am unavailable please leave a message and I will get back to you.

You can also contact the Chairman, Cllr Lee Wilkes. Email me if you need to get in touch with Lee.

Kind regards and keep well, Ray Boyd

PLEASE WATCH OUT FOR MAILCHIMP COMMUNICATIONS WHICH MAY GO TO YOUR EMAIL SPAM BOX



TOM PURSGLOVE, MP's WEEKLY ADVICE SURGERIES

Following government advice Tom's surgeries are being held on line. Telephone 020 7219 8043 to make an appointment.

Regular surgeries will continue once we get through this period of difficulty.

Your Association contact details:
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Party Conference 2020



This year, for the first time ever, our Party Conference was online and FREE for all our members.

As a result, instead of the usual 4,500 attendees, there were 22,000 registered to log on to the virtual meeting and, perhaps as a result of this we have had 34 new members join us. These new members are warmly welcomed to our Association and it is hoped that once this current pandemic is over we will all be able to meet up and get to know each other.

A quick message to our current members: please, if you pay your membership on a standing order set up through your debit card, make sure if your card expires that you set up a new standing order (or your membership will lapse).

MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY

To minimise local administration, the Voluntary Party's Membership Committee has recommended that no new local Standing Orders or Bank Transfers are set up from this point. They advise associations to direct members to pay through Direct Debit or Credit/Debit Card (online or via the CCHQ Membership Team). Please note, the money received by Associations remains the same whether payments are made centrally or locally.

So if you know of someone who would like to join please ask them to go to:

www.conservatives.com and click 'Join'.

Just last year, Sir Keir Starmer said he was behind Jeremy Corbyn 100%.

So how can he claim to take antisemitism seriously?

Keir Starmer is a lawyer. And as a lawyer, he follows whatever brief he's given. Last year, his brief was to make Jeremy Corbyn Prime Minister. So, he defended Jeremy Corbyn every chance he got.

Now his brief is to save the Labour Party from accusations of antisemitism and he's claiming that he'll lead the fight against anti-Jewish racism in Labour. The problem with his claims is that they're just not true.

The first party ever to be investigated for institutional racism was the **BNP**. The second was **Labour**.

And it is shocking that the Labour was found to have broken the Equalities Law on three counts.

It's not enough to apologise. It's easy to take a position on antisemitism in hindsight, but seemingly much harder for Keir Starmer to have the moral character and backbone to do what is right at the time.

For someone aspiring to be Prime Minister of this country, it shouldn't take a report from the Equality and Human Rights Commission to tell them what the right thing to do is.

The truth is Keir Starmer was side-by-side with Jeremy Corbyn when it suited him.

Don't let him hide the truth.

Yours sincerely

Amanda Milling

Co-Chairman of the Conservative Party

Just a thought: 32 years ago Margaret Thatcher warned Europe that it "*never will prosper as a narrow-minded, inward-looking club*". Leaving means we will soon be free to trade as we wish.

TOM PURSGLOVE

**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR CORBY & EAST
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**



My thoughts on the second England-wide 'lockdown' and significant Coronavirus news of recent days

19 Nov 2020

So many local people have been in contact with me offering many different viewpoints in respect of the package of tougher measures to tackle the spread of Coronavirus which was set out by the Prime Minister on the 31st October, which includes a second national 'lockdown' that will run now until the 2nd December. I am really grateful to everyone who has taken the time to get in touch with their considered contributions to the debate, and am responding individually to them, but I thought it might also be useful to set my views out more widely here.

First, I just want to say this - I have read all the correspondence I have received carefully and I am enormously sympathetic to much of the sentiment expressed. Like everyone, I hate this situation and I wish we were not in this position. Rather like the whole country, I am utterly fed up with restrictions on our day-to-day lives and as someone who passionately believes in freedom and the upholding of our right to go about our business unhindered, as long as we are not doing harm to others, some of the steps we have had to take since late March run against every last fibre of my political instincts. These are not votes that I cast lightly in Parliament and I am under no illusions about the impact of restrictions on people's businesses, jobs, families and wider relationships.

Against that context, I voted to support a second national 'lockdown' in England, as did the vast majority of MPs. I want to explain my reasoning for having done so and I hope that by the end of this post, even those who disagree vehemently will at least appreciate why I felt I had no choice in the circumstances, and that they will at least try to put themselves in my shoes, even if only for a moment. I would also just add that these are my own words and not some centrally produced 'line', as I really do want to get across just how

difficult these decisions are and the various mitigating factors involved in my thinking.

As the Prime Minister has said, in less than a year, this disease has killed almost a million people worldwide and has caused havoc to economies everywhere. In March, we all pulled together in a spirit of national sacrifice and community. Acting together, for the benefit of all, we ensured the NHS was protected and thousands of lives were saved.

Unfortunately, the evidence shows that the virus has recently started to spread again exponentially and it has become clear that in England, as it has in Europe, the virus has returned with the same vigour as before and our strategy must follow the data. Currently, the virus is spreading even faster than the reasonable worst-case scenario of our scientific advisers. Models now suggest that unless we act now, we will see deaths in this country running at several thousand a day - a peak of mortality far bigger than the one we saw earlier this year. Despite being better prepared than before, the virus is doubling faster than anyone would like and that is why the Prime Minister has acted - in a way that undoubtedly goes against his instincts too, but he genuinely believes he has no viable alternative and I know without question that he has not gone down this route lightly.

Quite rightly, we initially tried to tackle these rising figures with a tiered framework designed to simplify local restrictions and enable targeted action to be taken in areas where the number of cases was increasing significantly. However, when it became clear that cases were increasing in all regions, the Government took the difficult decision to put further restrictions in place across England, asking people to stay at home as much as possible for four weeks. The legislation is time limited and when this new 'lockdown' period ends, I believe that the tiered framework already in place will continue to enable the Government

Continued>>>>

and local authorities to work together to target regional outbreaks on a more localised basis, that better takes into account local circumstances.

During recent weeks, all seven Northamptonshire MPs strongly argued against local efforts to move our area from tier one to tier two restrictions. I did not see a compelling case locally for that action at that time and urged that, instead, increased effort should be made to educate and inform and to ensure compliance against the existing rules. We won that argument, which has no doubt been helpful to local businesses and to ordinary people in going about their daily lives. I think it also gives you a meaningful steer in practice as to the view I take instinctively on these matters.

However, as I have set out, nationally, things have moved on and the picture is now bleaker. The incidence of infection is increasing significantly and hospitalisations and deaths have risen. Indeed, in advance of the vote that many local people have contacted me about, I wanted to understand precisely what the up-to-date local situation was with regard to hospital capacity and so I made enquiries on this to better inform my understanding.

Now, there are two issues that are pertinent here - one directly COVID related, and one non-COVID related. However, the two are inextricably linked. For obvious reasons, the more COVID patients in our local hospitals at any one time, the closer our hospitals get to capacity, with all the difficulties that presents.

Fortunately, treatments have seemingly improved dramatically in recent months as we have learnt more about the virus, and that welcome has, and should help to, as I understand it, reduce the number of those dying from the disease. However, for those that are seriously ill with Coronavirus, their survival will often rely upon access to sophisticated hospital treatment that can only be provided in that setting.

Equally importantly, I am also acutely mindful of the need for those suffering from non-COVID related medical conditions to be able to access the hospital treatment and care they require too; but inevitably, the more COVID patients there are in hospital, the less chance there is of that happening. To illustrate the point, my understanding is that earlier in the year, fortunately, cancer treatment continued in our local hospital at Kettering, but bowel screening,

for example, did not; in turn delaying possible detection and intervention. Essentially, the closer the hospital gets to capacity, the less realistic chance there is of being able to access the treatment you require for non-Coronavirus related conditions - as difficult choices around services end up having to be made.

So not only is there the direct challenge of tackling COVID-19 and treating those with the disease and preventing its further spread, but there is also a genuine capacity issue around at what point the NHS simply becomes unable to treat those who need care more generally - and in some cases critical care. Meeting those competing demands is undoubtedly a finely tuned operation across the NHS, day in, day out, and so a surge of COVID patients at any one time is problematic, and a big spike is potentially catastrophic.

Politics is all about tough choices. It is about balancing risk and doing what you think is right - even when it isn't necessarily popular and at this point, I simply cannot ignore the advice I am being given both locally and nationally from the medical and scientific professionals who, frankly, know more about these matters than I do, given their wealth of knowledge and experience. When the facts change, you have to be responsive to it - particularly so in an unprecedented global pandemic.

Ultimately, the questions I had to ask myself were the following. At what point do you stop ignoring the risk and take action to address it, when all the top Government medical and scientific experts are saying there is a genuine chance that the NHS will become overwhelmed if more robust steps to arrest the spread of the virus aren't taken? Can you live with putting doctors and nurses in the invidious position of having to make agonising decisions about who should live and who will die, because they have to ration the capacity that does exist in the system? Are you comfortable with a situation where some patients who need routine treatment, including lifesaving treatment in some cases, such as for cancer and heart conditions, might not be able to get it, because the system is overwhelmed? Do we really want to risk a situation where seriously ill and dying patients might be left on trolleys and in corridors like we saw in Italy earlier in the year, because there just aren't the beds available?

If we didn't act, how would you feel if it were your family, friend or loved one caught up in the sort of situation I have described above? I suspect you would ask me why the Government, and I, as your local MP, ignored the expert advice and demand answers - and to be honest, I wouldn't blame you for doing so.

I don't want another 'lockdown' in the same way we all don't, but in the end, there are no ideal ways forward at this point. I would therefore urge people to follow the rules and stick with it both in letter and in spirit - not least because that maximises our chances of it having a positive effect in terms of getting the infection rate under control again and that means this can be a short, sharp, single intervention.

I should stress, however, that these new restrictions look considerably different to those we experienced back in the Spring in a number of important ways, in light of what we have learnt since then:

- Childcare, early years' settings, schools, colleges and universities all remain open. Senior clinicians still advise that school is the best place for children to be. We cannot let this virus damage our children's futures even more than it has done already and we should absolutely resist any calls for these to close;
- Churches and places of worship will remain open, albeit for private prayer rather than communal worship;
- Unlimited exercise is permitted, and single person households can form a 'support bubble';
- Guidance for the clinically vulnerable will be released imminently, which will be less restrictive, although it should be treated with the same level of seriousness and caution.

All that said, I am under no illusions that this remains hugely challenging for everyone and I am extremely mindful that it is particularly difficult for businesses, and with that in mind I strongly welcome the comprehensive package of support the Chancellor has put in place to help get them through this difficult period, and which he has substantially extended yet again to reflect these latest restrictions coming into force. You can find more details about that package of support, here: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support>.

Understandably, many local people have asked me what the realistic prospect is of this 'lockdown' being extended further. Having looked into this and expressed my strong reservations about such a suggestion, I understand any further national restrictions would need to be voted on in Parliament again after the end of the four-week period. I have made absolutely clear my view that MPs would need to be given compelling evidence if Ministers were to come to Parliament again asking for further national measures to be considered. Specifically, I have been clear in saying that there needs to be much greater clarity around what the 'exit strategy' looks like and involves, and I have emphasised that these four weeks must be used effectively to tackle the virus head-on, to best prepare the system for the remainder of the winter challenges to come, and to ensure that day-to-day disruption to people's lives can be minimised going forward.

That opportunity must not be wasted and pleasingly, there are grounds for optimism, as we know so much more about this virus now than we did back in March. Not only has Dexamethasone proven effective and shown that one in three deaths could be prevented among patients on ventilators, but the prospect of many millions of cheap and rapid turnaround tests is also within sight. Indeed, trials have shown how effective these can be. These tests identify those who have the virus and must self-isolate and those who can continue in relative normality. This programme will begin imminently.

And of course, there is the real prospect of a vaccine coming forward soon, with Pfizer and BioNTech's announcement on the 9th November that the vaccine they have been developing appears to be 90 percent effective in preventing COVID-19 in participants, being most welcome news, and I congratulate the researchers who have been involved in this process so far. However, I agree with the Prime Minister that while one important hurdle has been cleared, there are more to go before we know for certain that the vaccine can be used. I know that the UK Government has ordered 40 million doses of this vaccine, as well as 300 million doses from five other vaccine candidates.

I also understand that the Joint Committee on Vaccination & Immunisation is looking into a range of factors, including the different characteristics of different types of vaccines, to

work out the most effective way to protect as many people as possible and save as many lives as we can. They will work with the Government to determine the order in which people are offered the vaccination when it arrives. Provisionally, the ranking of priority groups combines clinical risk and age, as well as key workers like health and social care staff. Furthermore, I welcome the Secretary of State for Health & Social Care's announcement that vaccination clinics, when established, will open seven days a week, in addition to an extra £150 million being made available for GPs to support this work. These measures will help to enable a mass rollout of the vaccination at the earliest possible time – all in all, an arguably game changing development.

In the meantime, I appreciate that these stricter measures have an impact on all of our lives in one way or another, but we must comply and play our part individually in saving lives and protecting vulnerable people. What we must remember is that, unfortunately, what is one person's mild cough can be another person's death knell – and that ensuring the NHS is able to cope this winter critically matters not just for COVID patients, but for us all who may find ourselves requiring treatment over the coming months. That said, the measures must continue to be proportionate to the risk the virus poses, and the impact on the economy, livelihoods and personal freedoms must always be taken into real consideration when making decisions on the approach.

As ever, I will certainly bear in mind the concerns that have been raised with me and continue to ensure local views are represented when these matters are debated in the House and during my discussions with ministerial colleagues.

Local feedback has continually helped to shape the local and national response throughout this pandemic so far, in so many ways, and I am determined it will continue to do so, as we work to get it right and strike the best possible balance in what are impossible circumstances.

Furthermore, myself and my office continue to be at my constituents' disposal for the difficult months ahead and will assist in any way we can.

In concluding, I hope that the above has at least clarified why I reached the conclusion I did around a second 'lockdown' at this stage. Whilst some may still have grave reservations about it, I hope they might at least be willing to reflect on the dreadful predicament the current situation presents in terms of how stark some of the risks to NHS services genuinely are, and the gravity of their potentially catastrophic consequences on people's lives. This situation is dreadful, in so many ways, including for the many reasons described so candidly in so much of the correspondence I have received, but the truth is that all of the emergency response is a very difficult balancing act, with freedoms maintained in one area requiring difficult decisions to be taken in others. The Government's clear and justifiable overall objective is to minimise transmission and save lives in the absence of a vaccine, which I hope, like us all, will materialise very soon on the ground - but that inevitably leads to disruption and the curtailment of freedoms in some parts of day-to-day life now. I hate that in exactly the same way as everyone else, and I wish it weren't so. Ultimately, however, there are no desirable routes through in the short-term and it is virtually impossible for the emergency response to be completely logical and linear, as the situation itself is so unprecedented and unpredictable, but without getting ahead of ourselves, at least there does now appear to be light at the end of the tunnel.

Sincerely

Tom Pursglove Member of Parliament
for Corby & East Northamptonshire

Just a thought: Jeremy Corbyn loses his membership of the Labour Party over the anti-Semitism in the Party and a short while later gets his membership back. Sir Keir Starmer then issues a mealy-mouthed apology which basically said '*I am sorry if you were upset by the actions of the previous Labour administration*' - Conveniently he seemed to forget he was an avid supporter of his previous leader and his actions. '*I am sorry you were upset*' is not an apology. A real apology would have said that he was not sorry you were upset, rather that he regretted the words of Corbyn's Labour Party and was sorry for those words. He knelt for BLM, perhaps he should do so now.





Northamptonshire PFCC Stephen Mold's Newsletter

14 Nov 2020

During the Pandemic, our emergency services have played a vital role in providing vital services and keeping us all safe. Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service have a great deal of support by delivering PPE, equipment and supplies whilst also providing drivers for the Ambulance Service. I think I can speak on behalf of all residents when I say that it is reassuring that we have the support and assistance that the Fire and Rescue Service can provide.

It is vital therefore our fire service has the continuity and stability it needs to ensure it can continue to improve on the fantastic contribution it has made throughout the uncertainty of the pandemic and beyond. This was why I asked the Chief Fire Officer Darren Dovey to return to his role following his planned retirement next month and continue to lead Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service's response to the ongoing pandemic and steer its performance improvement plan.

Mr Dovey has served almost 33 years as a firefighter and has passed the 30 years' service that a firefighter's career path and retirement pension is based on. He had previously delayed his planned retirement to manage the transfer of the fire service governance to the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner in 2019. This was made possible through legislation passed as part of the country's response to the Covid-19 pandemic that allows key people to be retained in their role. Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service also has a policy that allows the retention and return of retired firefighters to a business-critical role on a case-by-case basis.



Darren and his team have turned around the performance of NFRS in the last year, making major improvements to the service that the public receive. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire Service referenced his personal contribution in their report, and I believe he will ensure the improvements that have been made are stable and lasting.

These are testing times for us all, but I am proud of the way our Police and Fire & Rescue Service have supported and protected us. Their commitment, pragmatism and sense of duty is inspiring, and it is an honour to work with them as we all face one of the biggest challenges to our way of life since the second world war.

Tackle modern slavery and human trafficking is one of my key priorities in the Police and Crime Plan as we know that modern slavery is happening in our county but it is really hard to reach the victims, who live in a world of fear and coercion. This is a complex crime that takes on so many different guises, from forcing people to work in the service industry to coercing them into county lines drug dealing. We have been working with Northamptonshire Police to help identify victims provide them with a way out of their situation.

As part of this work, a short film called Take a Closer Look was commissioned by the OPFCC to raise awareness of modern slavery and exploitation. The nine-minute film depicts a scenario following a road traffic collision which highlights signs of modern slavery that aren't immediately obvious. It invites viewers to 'take a closer look' whereby signs of exploitation become apparent.

Stephen Mold— continued>>>



The film's release was timed to coincide with the launch of a new campaign to raise awareness of forced labour in the logistics sector, in partnership with independent charity Crimestoppers. The key messages the film contains have never been more pertinent. National bodies have warned there is a serious risk coronavirus could lead to a rise in modern slavery and human trafficking. The main drivers – poverty, lack of opportunity and other vulnerabilities – have intensified and increased the risk of exploitation and abuse.

The film is aimed at frontline professionals who are likely to have the opportunity to spot the signs of slavery in their areas of work and make referrals, ensuring victims are safeguarded and intelligence is provided so offenders can be brought to justice. It is also intended to raise awareness among the public – modern slavery is often hidden in plain sight and people may well have witnessed it without realising. We know this is a heinous crime where victims are often controlled by force, threats, coercion, abduction, fraud and deception. As PFCC I am committed to doing all I can to help raising awareness across our communities and among frontline workers so we can protect the vulnerable and put a stop to the exploitation. The film can be viewed at: <https://youtu.be/FMKwCcppWZM>

The various grant schemes that I have established continue to support projects that help to make the county safer, with more than £35,000 being awarded to organisations in the most recent round of funding.

The latest initiatives to receive funding include a Wellbeing for Women project, the setting up of Neighbourhood Watch schemes in crime hotspots, an educational programme in schools about FGM and community speed reduction. The Good Loaf was awarded just over £9,000 to deliver a 10-week project that aims to improve the wellbeing of vulnerable women, while teaching baking skills, and provide a toolkit to enhance their mental health.

The Northamptonshire Neighbourhood Watch Association was awarded £9,500 for Operation Target, which aims to reduce crime and build stronger and safer communities in crime hot spot areas. The funding will be used to target these areas across the county to establish effective Neighbourhood Watch schemes. Cottingham Parish Council was also successful in their bids to the Road Safety fund and will use the money to install speed control devices in areas of concern. I am really pleased to be able to award funding to each of these projects, which are working hard to engage communities in making our county a safer place to live. Any organisation, charity or community group that works in support of the Police and Crime Plan can apply for funding. Full details can be found on my website at: <https://www.northantspfcc.org.uk/get-involved/community-grants-2/>

As ever, I am always happy to provide any help or assistance and can be contacted at:

Commissioner@northantspfcc.pnn.gov.uk

Stephen Mold

Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire



CORBURY TOWN COUNCIL— THE FUTURE

Corby Borough Council One Corby Policy Committee (OCPC) met on 3rd November 2020.

Corby Borough Council will be dissolved on 31st March 2021, with the creation of North Northamptonshire Council on 1st April 2021 and this sub-committee met to confirm the principles to be applied for the creation of a Corby Town Council.

From 1st April 2021 any new Town Council will need to start developing a working relationship with the new North Northamptonshire Council; this will also apply to the other new town councils in Kettering and Wellingborough, together with existing town and parish councils in the area. It should be stressed that Corby Town Council will be a new independent body.

The statutory responsibilities of the Town Council will be limited. Corby Town Council will need to be financially supported by the introduction of a precept. This will be a new tax levied on the citizens of Corby only. It needs to be remembered that over 18% of the current CBC electorate already live in parished areas. Any new precept would apply to the unparished area of the Borough only. Any precept levied would be in addition to any Council Tax levied by the new unitary or precept from the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's office.

It is anticipated that the new council, together with other town and parish councils, will have discussions with the new unitary council, regarding the role that it [the Town Council] can play in the future in serving the Corby community. The new Town Council will ensure that the town retains a "civic presence", can work towards representing the local community and develop provision of services in the town.

Councillors for the new Corby Town Council will be elected on Thursday 6th May 2021. These elections will be combined with those for North Northamptonshire Council and the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner. The Town Council will need to cover those costs directly associated with its own elections and share other costs pro rata. It is proposed that the wards will be coterminous with those of the unitary council. This will reduce the financial cost for the new Town Council, and simplify matters for electors.

It is currently suggested that the number of councillors elected to Corby Town Council will be 17 and the following would be applied -

- Corby Old Village (1 Town Councillor)
- Corby West (4 Town Councillors)
- Kingswood (4 Town Councillors)
- Lloyds (4 Town Councillors)
- Oakley (4 Town Councillors)

It should be noted that there is a need to disaggregate Corby Old Village from Corby Rural ward. In addition, it should be noted that there will be a Boundary Review of the unitary council prior to 2025, at which point it may be appropriate to instigate a review of Town Council wards.

Arrangements will need to be in place for the transfer of civic regalia to the new Corby Town Council;

It will be proposed that:

- The new Town Council has a Mayor and Deputy Mayor.
- The Civic Regalia of Corby Borough Council (e.g. chains etc.) transfer to the new Town Council.
- Arrangements are commenced for the transfer of the Civic Crest to the new Corby Town Council; It is currently suggested that the Council's Coat of Arms be transferred to the new Town Council.
- Corby Borough Council make arrangements to transfer furniture and equipment to the Town Council prior to 1st April 2021 to enable the new council to operate in an effective manner.
- There will be the need to recruit a small number of staff to the Town Council, The recruitment will need to be subject to a Community Governance Order approved by Full Council. It is proposed an Order will be presented to Full Council in December 2020.

The OCPC Conclusion. It will be important that the Town Council is correctly established, with adequate resources available to develop over future years. It is being proposed that Corby Borough Council work with NCALC to ensure all appropriate steps are followed in order that the new Town Council be established on 1st April 2021.

Recommendation:

To confirm the principles detailed within this report, to allow for the completion of a Community Governance Order to be submitted to Full Council for determination

Agree a budget of £15,000 to be drawn down from Reserves in 2020/21 to assist in preparations for the creation of the new Corby Town Council

To approve that the Council engage the services of NCALC to assist in the preparations for a new Town Council

To consult with the public on the agreed principles

To submit formal proposals on the formation of a Corby Town Council to the Full Council meeting on 16th December 2020.

RAY JACKSON - CORONAVIRUS HAS GIVEN US TIME TO THINK

8 Nov 2020

Coronavirus is changing all our lives and the way we behave as social animals. We are for instance much more conscious of the needs for fellowship with our neighbours. Is there anybody who is not more in 'love and charity' with his neighbours than he was six months ago? Is there anybody who still sees hostility in his neighbour? One major change which could affect our lives is that we have a lot of unused time in our lives which for those so inclined could be used for reviewing our personal aims and objectives and think about the possibility of making changes. Here are a couple of subjects which, in calm reflection, stir my emotions.

As good Conservatives we all believe that all men are equal and should enjoy equal opportunities. Then how the dickens did we allow children from the poorer end of our society not to have the use of computers in school where their better off colleagues have them and use them as part of the learning process? Because they cannot have computers, we deny some youngsters benefits of a full education experience.

Years ago one major charitable organisation was asked to collect together modern computers to be given to the schools. The response was fantastic and the schools began to receive computers only to find by misunderstanding the computers were '375' versions and not the present modern universal version. Bad feeling followed and the scheme was stopped. Government grants allocated money for schools to get their own machines, but not enough for every child.

Where were we Conservatives then? We knew what was right and necessary, but do not appear to have done more. The teachers who care for our children even to the extreme extent of not wanting in some cases to re-open schools until Covid 19 is conquered have been struggling for years knowing the elite sections of their classes are going to surge ahead of the poorer children. How did we caring Tories allow this to happen? If a footballer can persuade us it is the State's job to fill children's bellies and not the parents, it should have been possible to fill their minds from the same source at the time. I think we have a systemic problem.

Do you who are parents agree?

Another growing problem is our country's relations with China. I am a 'sinophile': I have worked in the Far East for eight years and had many Chinese friends although with the passing of time more and more are joining their ancestors. China has an enormous population which is growing older. Its leaders are desperately trying to increase the prosperity of its people but are well aware that previous attempts have been thwarted by greed, corruption, factionalism and foreign intervention. So to keep the process of change going anything which might challenge such a worthy objective must not be allowed to succeed.

People whose religious faith contain elements which could be harmful to the project have to be re-educated, as we do in Britain. Mouth watering sums of money have to be borrowed on the international money markets to fund the Three Gorges power generation scheme. Reliable sources of raw materials including food have to be found and sourced and secured. Military security is necessary in case countries with less consistent foreign policies want to interfere. Dr. Ritter of Oxford University has written (China's War with Japan 1937 -1945) about the struggle and enormous loss of life for survival China had in that War, (which I can remember because I was ordered in 1938/9 when running errands to the local Co-op to ask for the dividend to be paid to 'China').

I think China has undertaken an enormous and noble task to look after its people. Just think of it as an exercise in demography, defining the aims and problems and possible solutions to the problems. Then look at your hands and realise your mortality will prevent you seeing the end of the project.

Coronavirus has given us time to think about things.

Best wishes,

Ray Jackson

Chairman, 200 Club



Ray Jackson

COUNCILLOR KEVIN WATT, LEADER OF CONSERVATIVE GROUP ON CORBY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MAINLY PLANNING MATTERS

6 Nov 2020

CBC CEO Norman Stronach requested early redundancy possibly due to the impact the new government regulations to limit Public sector pay-offs to £95k would have on his package. This was granted as it was felt the regulations were not aimed at retiring long serving staff.



Image by Rudy and Peter Skitterians from Pixabay

Weldon Residents remain concerned that County council traffic assessments/plans are not adequate for the level of developments planned around Weldon. A full traffic impact assessment request has been e-mailed to the Lead Member for Transport at County some weeks ago. It's felt the impact of the new Tresham village and a new Secondary school have not been properly factored in. A "relief" road has been done on the cheap as it passes through the residential area of Weldon Park. Weldon Park planned for 900 homes itself does not have suitable pedestrian access to the rest of Weldon and the Primary School.

CBC has been given a £200k grant to improve cycle route connections between park areas of the Borough.

There is an ongoing issue of effective clearance of existing cycleways and paths.

This is largely the result of 14 years of outsourcing to Kier Street Services and the lack of effective Management of the contract by CBC officers. A solution to the perennial argument of who, CBC or NCC, is

responsible for clearing which route, Unitary would solve this.

A new Town council is recommended by CBC, with the question of what its role and responsibilities will be still to be answered. The precept is a touchy subject. If it goes down a

political route we may get one councillor in Great Oakley. It may be challenging to get candidates.

Plans for a Crematorium on the road to Gretton are unpopular with Gretton residents (a Tory Ward) . Difficult to see it being refused as CBC have already stated a desire to have a Corby Crematorium.

We have ongoing issues at Great Oakley with smells from Mick George landfill. Labour is trying to muscle in on the message in the press.

Shelton Road Incinerator near Priors Hall: The vocal public remain concerned, it's difficult to gauge how many are indifferent. The "protestors" have been allowed to monopolise the message about the impact of the incinerator. County Council, Borough Council and developers have not offered any balanced information to allay public concerns.

Cllr Kevin Watt, Corby Borough Council

A READER WRITES

4th Nov.

So Corby Council want all Corby residents to pay an extra tax. Where on earth do they think that money is going to be found and for what? A new coat of arms! What is the point of replacing one level of local government with a duplicate. Labour's lack of intelligence, arrogance and determination to hang to the control of Corby has always made me gasp with shock, but this makes me really angry

The media, and it seems everyone else, is shouting that our government is doing the wrong things regarding Covid. If you ask, as I do, '*What would you do?*' it goes very quiet; No one wants to show how ignorant they are when challenged. Yes, once again we have been let down, this time by the track & trace programme and where I personally think our government has gone wrong is out-sourcing this job to incompetent firms. Conservative MPs please remember that most of you have a job because of Boris and you need to back him. I know you are not mindless sheep but think a little more about the big picture, you are damaging our Party and many will lose their seat at the next election if they keep going against him. In the election manifesto Boris promised extra police and nurses and he is delivering on that and more. Please be more positive and united.

Talking of police – we need these new officers on the streets so they can actually see what is happening in our communities. Calls to police reporting illegal activities are often not responded to quickly. Last time I called giving a clear address/town/post code and directions of route to take, they went to the wrong town! Poor management of call centre staff.

Our borders must now be secured much better to stop the illegal trafficking of people in inflatable boats. The financial cost of supporting these boat people would help towards the poorer families of this country. I do wonder where the people living in the camps of France find the money to pay the people-smugglers. And we have enough desperate people of our own who need help without having more added daily from the continent.

Have you noticed in the last 2 to 3 months the price of our grocery items rising. The old trick of reducing the size but not the price is well underway. Why can't they be honest and just put up the price.

In these gloomy times it is worth browsing some of the old comedies on YouTube. Fools & Horses, the Vicar of Dibley, etc are well worth revisiting. And I have recently read Gerry Durrell's book, '*My Family and other animals*'. An uplifting true story.

Yours **Dee Davis** (Member)

CORBY CONSERVATIVE CLUB

Since March this year this excellent Club has had to follow the lockdown guidelines resulting in very much reduced opening hours and subsequent loss of trade.

The Club has, unlike some premises, abided strictly to the new laws and continues to do so. With careful budgeting and financial control the Club is getting through this year but our Association members could help considerably in two ways:

1. Perhaps consider joining the Club.
2. Make use of the Club once it reopens.

You can find details of how to join and see what facilities are on offer at:
www.the-cons.co.uk

Our two organisations are mutually reliant on each other and it would be great to see us helping each other. We have a number of Club members on our books and a few more have joined us this year. The Club has over 1,000 members and each one pays us a small subscription to show their support. We do have some of our members who already have Club membership but more would be really appreciated.

Of course, some of our members live someway from the Club but did you know that when joining the Corby Club you can purchase an Inter-Affiliated card which allows you to use almost every other Conservative Club in the country? Great when you are on holiday in the UK - a good pint at a reasonable price amongst friends is guaranteed.

We must not forget that there are other local Conservative Clubs in our constituency which need our help. The **Raunds Conservative Club** in particular has always shown us a great welcome so if you live near that Club please consider joining.

Today (20 Nov 2020) the Prime Minister committed to go above and beyond our manifesto commitment, giving our nation's defence the largest boost it has seen in the

last 30 years – investing an extra £24 billion in our national security, which will create thousands of jobs across the UK. He announced the biggest investment in British defence since the end of the Cold War. In total, the military will now see a cash increase of £24.1 billion over the next 4 years – providing an extra £16.5 billion in funding above our 2019 Manifesto commitment. This will allow us to undertake a generational modernisation programme and upgrade our defence arsenal to meet today's threats.

The Prime Minister took this decision in the teeth of the pandemic because the defence of the realm must come first. And with the global situation more perilous and more intensely competitive than at any time since the Cold War, the UK must stand alongside our allies as a top investor in defence.

Which is why this historic investment will allow us to:

- Spread prosperity across the UK with 40,000 new jobs
- Revitalise UK shipbuilding, expanding our warship building programme on the Clyde
- Set up the UK's new Space Command, with the first rocket launched from Scotland in 2022
- Become a global leader in cyber through a new National Cyber Force
- Create a new agency dedicated to Artificial Intelligence
- Safeguard 400,000 existing jobs across the Union

This is our chance to end the era of retreat, transform our Armed Forces, bolster our global influence, unite and level up our country, pioneer new technology and defend our people and way of life.

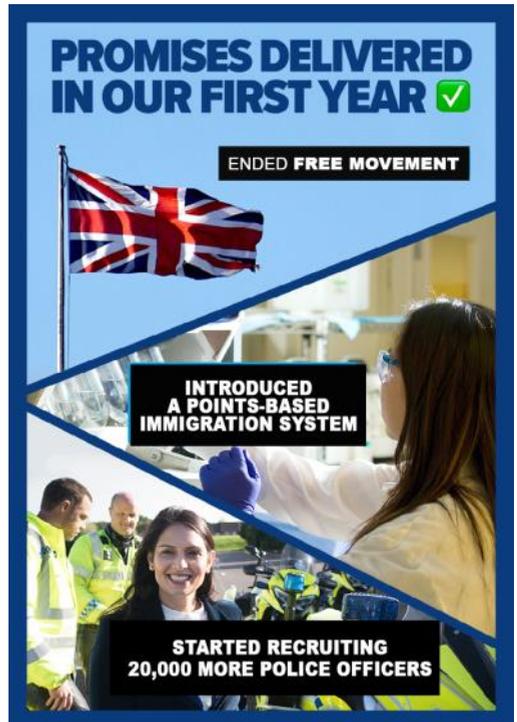
Yours sincerely,

Ben Wallace

Defence Secretary



An extra
£1,332,850
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and walking in
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IN OUR FIRST YEAR** ✓

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THE PRIME MINISTER ON THE COVID VACCINE TRIALS

9 Nov 2020

Across the country and around the world this evening, people are asking one question about our fight against Covid, does the news of progress towards a vaccine – that's been announced today – mean we are at the beginning of the end of our troubles?

So, let me set out our assessment.

The Pfizer/BioNTech Vaccine has been tested on over 40,000 volunteers and interim results suggest it is proving 90 per cent effective at protecting people against the virus.

But we haven't yet seen the full safety data, and these findings also need to be peer-reviewed. We have cleared one significant hurdle but there are several more to go before we know the vaccine can be used. What I can say is that if and when this vaccine is approved, we, in this country, will be ready to start using it. Earlier this year the UK Government ordered 40 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine – enough for about a third of the population, since you need two doses each. If the Pfizer vaccine passes all the rigorous safety checks and is proved to be effective then we will begin a UK-wide NHS led programme of vaccine distribution. We will decide the order in which people are offered the vaccination taking account of recommendations from a group of scientific experts, the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation.

But – and you know I am going to say this – I must stress, these are very, very early days.

The biggest mistake we could make now would be to slacken our resolve at such a critical moment.

On Friday 6 Nov 2020, SAGE reported that the R is above 1 in England.



Alas, the death figures are tragically rising, running at an average of over 300 a day – sadly double where they were 24 days ago.

Irrespective of whether there is a vaccine on the way or not we must continue to do everything possible right now to bring the R down. And that is why we hope and believe that mass testing will help.

But neither mass testing nor progress on vaccines – both vital arrows in our epidemiological quiver, both key parts of our fight against Covid – are at the present time a substitute for the national restrictions, for social distancing, for hand hygiene and all the rest.

But we must get through this to 2nd December, when these measures expire and we plan to move forward with a tiered approach.

Remember the basics, hands, face, space, and the follow the rules, that is how we can together protect our NHS, save lives and get this virus back in its box.

And that is what we will do.

Conservative Policy Forum



The CPF continues to hold discussions on-line and all members are invited to take part. Any member who would like to be involved now or in the future should contact Ray Boyd for information on this important forum. Our CPF Chairman, George Whittaker, will get our local discussions going again as soon as permitted. Once we get through this current period we will be contacting members about meetings.

Copy for the next issue must be received by 10th January please. Contributions and letters from members are welcome but some editing may be necessary by the editor. You can email the editor, Ray Boyd at ray.boyd@talktalk.net
All emails will be acknowledged.

ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

Our regular meetings have been suspended during the lockdown. There was a Management meeting in September, and recently, on 6th November, an Executive meeting. These were both virtual meetings via Zoom.

The Chairman reported that the Association continues to run smoothly and the financial position has become stronger during the lockdown periods.

It is gratefully recognised that the regular contributions from our elected councillors play a vital part in our financial well-being.

We must now prepare for the elections next year and the Chairman will be contacting all members for their help with this.

The Annual General Meeting is planned for **Friday 5th March 2021.**

Confirmation and full details will be supplied to all members as soon as possible.

THE CHRISTMAS DRAW

Thank you to everybody who took part in our Christmas Draw . The response during this difficult time was better than we could ever have expected, especially as the November lockdown meant we had to stop hand-delivering the letters and tickets when it came into force.

Our volunteers worked tirelessly throughout the constituency making sure that as many as possible of our supporters were contacted and a huge vote of thanks is recorded to them.

Apart from the record response to our appeal we also received some splendid donations, both big and small, on top of the ticket sales. This is especially encouraging when considering all the other worthy causes appealing for our help at this time of the year.

Thank you again to all for helping and taking part.

The results of the draw will be in the next issue of this magazine.

If you don't win in this draw you can always try the big monthly one which is advertised on the front page!

DO YOU GET OUR MAILCHIMP EMAILS?

We have 470 members on our email list and a regular email is sent out to keep members informed of latest news.

Unfortunately a number of members have reported that they have not seen these emails. It is likely that they have gone into their spam box so this should be checked and the sender marked as acceptable for future emails. When you find our email just click on 'Add to Address Book' at the end.

If you are still not receiving them please email the editor on ray.boyd@talktalk.net and your address will be checked. If there is still a problem then copies of Mailchimp emails can be sent from the office email address.

And of course you can always check our website which also contains the latest magazine and other news. Go to: www.cenca.co.uk

WE ARE THE 2020 NUMBER TWO CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION IN THE WHOLE OF THE EAST MIDLANDS.

THE MISERABLE OLD GIT - 'I FEAR FOR OUR FUTURE'

16 Nov 2020

Here we are approaching Christmas not knowing whether or not we can celebrate this great Religious festival as normal or not. I have to say that the media is so taken up with the prospect of us 'not having Christmas' that I'm beginning to get tired.

Christmas is no longer the culmination to a year which used to be so simple that December 25th was something to be celebrated with close family, and celebrated in a quiet style with children usually at the centre of the day. No, Christmas is now the centre of a terrible 'consumerism' which has manifested itself so steadfastly since the middle 1950s. In those days there were no advertisements on British TV and the highlight of the 25th December was 3 pm when the Queen spoke to the nation. Since then, within a decade, credit had become available to the poorest in the land. The consumer revolution was born and consumption was king. This reigned until March 23rd this year when everything closed down. What if we don't have the latest iPhone, what if we don't have the latest smart TV, what if we cannot go out to drown ourselves in so many 'shots' that we don't remember, what if we can't have the latest designer fashion which we can discard at a moment's notice and what if we cannot get high in the weeks preceding Christmas as normal. Well the world could end. And end it nearly did...

On a more pleasing note, it looks like the scientific community has really worked their socks off to provide us with a vaccine which will hopefully bring some normality to life next year. Let's hope so, and let's thank them for their very hard work in all this. They are working over and above their remit and we should all be grateful. BUT, try to get into a bank. This is proving more difficult by

the day and its nothing to do with Covid 19. It's more to do with bank profits which will blossom once they stop their customers from visiting a branch. Try to get an appointment at



your Doctors. There again we are all supposed to use online tools to consult. Try to go to Sainsbury's, Tesco, Waitrose or elsewhere like them and you will be welcomed by staff earning little more than the minimum wage and you can fill your baskets to your hearts content. What's the difference between their staff and those at the Bank??? Nothing.....

I really now believe that our society is unrecognisably damaged with what has preceded this epidemic. Only the other day I heard from a friend who spends her day assisting others in our society who need help to claim, help with debt or the like. She said that she is now so often hearing that these people and others think that it's their 'right' to have everything in life.

We can't go back to the early 1950s but I certainly mourn the times then and I also fear for our future unless we somehow try to get back to some form of basics.

Have a great Christmas all, and don't over-indulge. 2021 will I'm sure be a better year than 2020.

MOG

MOG's comments are obviously his own opinion which do not necessarily reflect the views of the

Conservative Party, our members, the

Conservative Association or its management.

MOG is a long-time active, subscribing member of the Party.

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ABSOLUTELY WITH
COVID GUIDELINES
TO KEEP US ALL SAFE**



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Chief Executive: Lord Smith of Hindhead, CBE

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POLITICAL LIFE

Our magazine is available as a small printed booklet.

Issues are also available in a format suitable for reading on iPhones, iPads and PCs. Details of publication date are emailed to members via Mailchimp.

A copy of recent magazines is also available on our website at

www.cenca.co.uk

Printed circulation is restricted to Conservative Party members.

Non-members who would like to receive news of our magazine regularly will need to join the Association.

Please contact our office by email at office@cenca.co.uk or telephone 01536 742954

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