

Steve Webb MP and the Liberal Democrats - standing up for South Gloucestershire



● The Government seems determined that local communities will lose their identity. First they merged the control rooms for all the fire services in the South West, scrapping our local centre near Bath. Then they merged our ambulance service with those in neighbouring counties and are planning to do the same with the Police. Now they are talking about abolishing the Primary Care Trust that oversees health services in South Gloucestershire and merging it into a Greater Bristol PCT. Local MPs have worked together to fight this plan, and we have been successful in getting the option of keeping South Gloucestershire PCT retained in a consultation that is currently underway.

Standing up for South Gloucestershire: **Keeping us on the map**

Standing up for South Gloucestershire: **An award winning MP**

● Following my success in winning an award at the Channel 4 political awards, I have now won a Europe-wide award for my website and use of e-mailing to keep local people informed! For more information, visit www.stevewebb.org.uk

Standing up for South Gloucestershire: **Get in touch with Steve Webb**

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STOP PRESS! Parliamentary boundaries are changing! In future, South Gloucestershire will contain three constituencies - Thornbury and Yate (covering much of the present Northavon seat), a revised Kingswood constituency, and a brand new seat of Filton and Bradley Stoke, which will include Winterbourne, Almondsbury and Pilning & Severn Beach. This new seat offers a real prospect of electing a second hard-working Liberal Democrat to represent South Gloucestershire in Parliament.

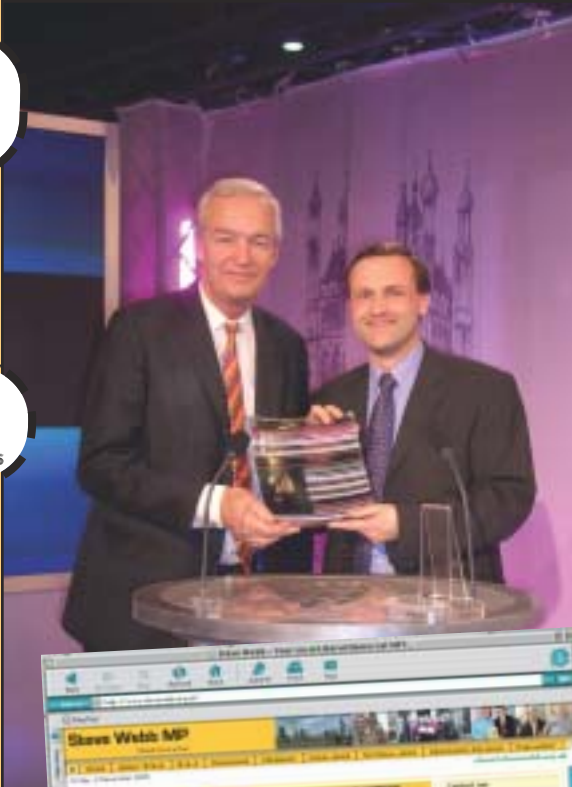
Standing up for South Gloucestershire: **Defending our green belt**

● As a relatively small local authority on the edge of a larger city, we need to be constantly vigilant to protect our distinctive identity. Nowhere is this more obvious than in the threat to our Green Belt from mass housebuilding being imposed by John Prescott. We certainly need affordable homes for local people to live in, but we also need to ensure that massive housebuilding does not ruin the local environment.



Standing up for South Gloucestershire: **Fighting for Frenchay**

● As we go to press, plans are proceeding to concentrate acute hospital services for North Bristol and South Gloucestershire on the Southmead site, with Frenchay being reduced to a community hospital of around 100 beds. I have worked closely with the Save Frenchay Hospital Group, jointly presenting a petition of over 40,000 names to the Department of Health and have also worked with local councillors to raise our objections.



STEVE WEBB MP

Annual Report 2006 - from your local MP



STANDING UP FOR SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE



Dear Resident,
I have pleasure in presenting my latest report back to you on the work I have been doing on behalf of local people. In May 2005 I had the privilege of being elected as your MP for the third time, with a further increased majority, and I would like to thank everyone who placed their confidence in me.
Both before and after the Election I have spent a lot of time on the campaign to save Frenchay Hospital, and I know that this is an issue on which many local people feel passionately. I have also been heavily involved in a successful campaign with local people to save King Edmunds Community School in Yate and have continued the vital work of seeing individual residents each week at my surgery to help with individual problems and concerns.
On the national stage, I have been promoted within the Lib Dem Shadow Cabinet to speak out in Parliament on health issues, and also regularly raise the concerns of the people of South Gloucestershire at Westminster.
I hope that you find the enclosed report interesting and would, as always, value your comments and feedback.
With best wishes,
Steve Webb MP
PS This report is just a summary of some of the work that I have been doing. If there is something that you care about that is not covered, do let me know and I will get back to you.

Steve Webb MP
Poole Court, Poole Court Drive, Yate, BS37 5PP

Standing up for South Gloucestershire:
Out and about backing local groups



● Fighting for the rights of local people to buy the vitamins and herbal supplements of their choice



● Using the national and local media to campaign on key issues



● I am a patron of a local charity to help people with drug and alcohol problems, the Two Bridges Trust



● Opening the newly-refurbished post office at Coalpit Heath



● Visiting a local primary school



● Presenting a petition in March to the Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon in support of the campaign to save the Glosters Back Badge

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Standing up for South Gloucestershire:
An update on Steve's campaigns



On your side with Tax Credits and the CSA

● A regular feature of my work is supporting local people in their battles with bureaucracy. Two of the worst culprits are the Child Support Agency and the Tax Credits system, both of which too often make peoples' lives a misery with their inefficiency and complexity. I regularly help and support local residents in their dealings with government bodies, and have often been able to bring things to a satisfactory resolution.

Local schools for local communities

● Following my highly successful campaigns in support of village schools in previous years, I was able to work closely in 2005 with the people of Yate this year to secure the long-term future of King Edmunds Community School. The School had for too long suffered from under-investment, and a question mark had been placed over its future. Working with pupils, staff, parents and councillors I was able to help ensure that the School now has a bright future and that millions of pounds earmarked for new school facilities is now being released.



Fighting for a fairer, greener world



● As well as speaking out over local issues, I believe in using my position in Parliament to fight for a world where trade is fairer and where the environment is taken seriously. I have been pleased to work in partnership with the South Gloucestershire Fair Trade Network, meeting them on a lobby at

Westminster and speaking at local events. I have also supported Parliamentary motions and bills designed to tackle key environmental challenges such as Global Warming. I was also one of 91 MPs present in Parliament to back a bill to require parliamentary approval before going to war, but progress was stalled because not enough MPs attended to register their support.

Cinema for Yate - update

● The campaign for a cinema for Yate has attracted huge support and made real progress. Plans were drawn up for a cinema and restaurant complex, and a cinema operator had been identified. Unfortunately, the decision by the previous shopping centre owners to sell the centre has caused a delay. I have however now met the new shopping centre owners and will be working with them to get the cinema plans back on track!



Standing up for South Gloucestershire:
Justice on Pensions



● If you are involved in a community group, school or local charity or are a local employer and you would value a visit from your MP, please do not hesitate to contact the office, as I would be delighted to meet you.

● I continue to take an active interest in pensions issues. My longstanding work to demand a fair deal for women pensioners has made real progress with a report at the end of 2005 from the "Turner Commission". This recommended a number of improvements to the position of women pensioners in particular, which the Government is now considering. I am also fighting for justice for a number of local people whose company pensions were slashed when their company went out of business.



● For many years now the number of NHS dentists has been steadily declining, and growing numbers of local people have found that their dentist no longer takes NHS patients. The Government is about to make matters worse by changing the rules about how dentists are paid which will drive many more out of the NHS. I have met a number of local dentists and am campaigning to save NHS dentistry before it is too late.

Standing up for South Gloucestershire:
Saving NHS Dentistry

