



Parliamentary News Claire Ward MP

Working hard for Watford

Autumn 2008

Action on the economy

Claire says "The big issue facing us all is the economy - how we protect savings, make sure that interest rates and inflation are stable and help small businesses and families get through these tough times."

"Firstly we need to stabilise the economy in the face of the global financial crisis. Also important is the government's commitment to guarantee all savings worth £50,000 and below.

"I know that times are tough for my constituents, with rising gas and electricity prices and job uncertainties for some too. I recently raised with the Prime Minister at a meeting in Downing Street my concerns for small businesses and hard working families in Watford and he assured me that

he is listening to those concerns and taking action."

Claire has backed some key proposals to help constituents such as -

- **An increase in the winter fuel allowance for 12 million people.**
- **Help for low income households to reduce fuel bills**
- **The postponement of an increase in petrol duty for a full year.**
- **A tax cut of £120 for 22 million basic rate tax payers.**
- **Help for first time buyers including a stamp duty holiday for properties costing less than £175,000.**



Gordon Brown responds to Claire's representations on behalf of Watford

Celebrating the NHS



Claire presents local NHS with 60th birthday card

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the founding of the NHS. Claire said of the anniversary, "The NHS is one of this nation's greatest achievements, founded on the values of fairness and equality."

"In recent years, record investment has meant that the waiting lists have been slashed with 80,000 extra nurses and 35,000 extra doctors in the NHS."

"I've seen the improvements first hand at Watford General Hospital - this year my son, Oliver was born there. I am delighted that more investment will be put into the NHS in Watford - £23 million of public money will fund an extensive building programme at Watford General and plans for the Health Campus are making good progress."

"The NHS has a proud history and a bright future."

MP welcomes schools investment



Claire opens study centre at St Michael's with Headteacher and pupils

Claire has welcomed the continued investment being put into education in Watford. The MP was recently guest of honour at St Michael's Roman Catholic School in Garston at the opening of a new study centre.

The St Thomas Aquinas Centre - which took two years to build and cost £500,000 -, was funded by government

grants as well as savings raised by the school. Guests joined students at a Mass, before Ms Ward officially opened the new building.

A blessing was given by Father Paul McAleenan, from Holy Rood Church.

Headteacher John Murphy said: "The Aquinas Centre is a quality sixth form study and research facility which underlines the school's commitment to the highest academic standards."

Claire added "St.Michael's is a fantastic school which has improved its results and facilities over the last few years. It's now recognised as outstanding by Ofsted. This centre will provide more facilities for Sixth formers to study and gain the best results to take them into university and college."

Sure Start for Families

Claire and her two young children had a starring role in a video shown nationally on Channel 4. The video highlights the success of Sure Start centres, bringing together early years education, childcare and family support.

The scheme has been particularly successful in Watford where there are now 6 new centres covering the area.

Claire said: "Sure Start is a fantastic achievement and I am proud to have backed their introduction in Parliament.



Claire at the Littlebury Sure Start centre

Newsflash

Help with Fuel Bills

Claire has urged Watford constituents, particularly pensioners, to seek help with fuel bills during these tough times. For free, independent and local energy saving advice please call the Energy Savings Trust on 0800 512 012.

Claire promoted

Claire was recently promoted to Vice Chamberlain of HM Household making her the government's official representative to Buckingham Palace. Claire will also continue in her role as a senior government whip.

Dormant Bank Accounts

Claire has launched an urgent appeal to savers in her constituency to reclaim any money that may be lying dormant in forgotten bank accounts. The Halifax and the Bank of Scotland have identified 135 accounts in Watford where money has not been reclaimed. Constituents can check if they have unclaimed dormant funds via these websites www.boslocateaccounts.co.uk or www.mylostaccount.org.uk or telephone 020 7216 8909.



ways to contact Claire Ward

- 1 PHONE 01923 213579
- 2 FAX 01923 213595
- 3 WRITE to Claire Ward MP
House of Commons,
London SW1A 0AA
- 4 WRITE to Claire Ward MP
270 St Albans Road,
Watford, WD24 6PE
- 5 EMAIL wardc@parliament.uk
- 6 WEB www.claire-ward.org.uk

