



David Ruffley

from David Ruffley
MP for Bury St Edmunds

THE BURY ST EDMUNDS Observer

Delivered to homes in Bury St Edmunds and the villages

SUFFOLK'S HEALTH CRISIS

What is going on? local MP David Ruffley 'speaks out'

The state of Suffolk's health service has led Bury St Edmunds MP David Ruffley to hold a crisis meeting.

Local clergy and members of the public have met with David Ruffley at Christ Church, Moreton Hall, Bury St Edmunds to discuss cuts to services in our area.

The latest figures obtained by David show that Health Trusts in Suffolk are to end the 2005/06 financial year with a **deficit approaching £50 million.**

David said: "The health service in Suffolk is facing a full-on crisis. Beds are being cut and vital

facilities are scheduled to close. My meeting with local clergy highlighted the very real concern, felt across Suffolk, that the NHS in Suffolk will face cutbacks of services.

"Mental Health facilities are threatened and trusts have been threatened with fines for failing to balance their books! This is money that could otherwise be spent on patient care.

"It is simply scandalous that we will only be receiving 82 percent of the national average funding per head of the population in 2006/07.

"I will continue to fight for a better deal for Suffolk health care."

David Ruffley MP makes a point at the meeting



David with West Suffolk MP Richard Spring speaking at the the recent meeting in Moreton Hall, Bury St Edmunds

THE FACTS ABOUT THE NHS CRISIS Shock Cuts in Suffolk

- + Closure of 55 Beds at the West Suffolk Hospital
- + Closing the Old Fox House
- + Closure of 80 beds and one theatre at the Ipswich Hospital
- + Closure of the Hayward Day Hospital

Pictures courtesy of the Bury Free Press

Standing up for Suffolk – www.davidruffleymp.com

The Thin Blue Line

Bury MP David Ruffley, demanded a high level meeting with Hazel Blears, Minister of State at the Home Office, to discuss London's changes to Suffolk's police force.

Ministers are forcing Suffolk Constabulary to merge with the poorly performing forces in Cambridgeshire and Norfolk.

David said: "This is bad news. I and others have long argued that these mergers

will be incredibly expensive, disruptive and not necessarily deliver savings.

"London Ministers are forcing these reforms through against the advice of a report carried out by their own department.

"Cambridgeshire Constabulary is still going through

changes and up until March of 2005 it was forced to work with the Home Office to reform its management structure! These problems are so acute that it led our Chief Constable in Suffolk to brand them the 'Billy no mates' of policing.

"Then Norfolk Constabulary has debts. If Norfolk have run up

huge debts, Suffolk council tax payers should not be left to pick up the tab!

"This merger could lead to Suffolk taxpayers paying for second rate services as officers are forced to police crime hot spots such as Peterborough. It is yet another ridiculous piece of bureaucratic nonsense from the Civil Servants in the corridors of Whitehall, many of whom are completely out of touch with rural communities such as Suffolk."



LEFT: David talking to Headteacher, Alex Bedford, about the state of the art facilities at the new Abbots Green Primary School.



Reporting back...

David's latest online survey reveals huge opposition to regionalisation

An online survey by our local MP via his website www.telldavidruffley.com revealed:

- 95.9% of people support David Ruffley's campaign to keep Suffolk's police and fire services based in Suffolk.
- 95.4% would rather see Suffolk Constabulary retained in its current form.
- 94% think regionalisation will lead to a loss of the local knowledge our emergency services have.

Abbots Green: Our local School for the 21st Century

David Ruffley MP was delighted to visit Moreton Hall's new Abbots Green Community Primary School at the invitation of Headteacher, Alex Bedford.

David was given a tour of the new school by Mr Bedford and saw at first hand the impact of the cutting edge technology on the classroom and pupils. Exciting features include interactive whiteboards in every classroom and a plasma television communications system.

David said: "This school is not just unique to Bury St Edmunds, it is one of the first of its kind in the country.

"Abbots Green is a remarkable asset to the local community. Its environmentally friendly ethos and the vision of its Headteacher have created what I imagine will become the model for schools in the twenty first century."

Did you know?

- Abbots Green is an Eco Friendly School.
- Rainwater is recycled to reduce mains usage.
- Power is partly provided by solar panels.
- The roof is plant covered to aid insulation.

See www.abbotsgreen.co.uk

Our Environment: We're in this together



RECYCLING FACTS

More than half of St Edmundsbury's waste now goes to be recycled instead of sent to landfill sites.

Our Council's approach has been adopted as a model for all Suffolk local authorities and is being promoted as best practice to councils across the UK and Europe.

Your local Household Recycling Centre is on Rougham Road, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 2RN.

David Ruffley is a strong supporter of green issues and ensures that the vast amount of paper waste from his Westminster and Suffolk Constituency Offices is recycled.

David has campaigned for increased recycling locally and was delighted when St Edmundsbury Borough Council came top of the national league table for recycling.

This year David pressed for greater recycling of the vast amount of waste produced over the festive season. David recycled his Christmas cards with managers and staff at the local Tesco store as part of the Woodland Trust initiative aiming to recycle 60 million Christmas cards across England.

Our MP said: "Dealing with green issues responsibly is a big challenge for Suffolk today. This isn't about national politics, it is about each and every one of us doing our bit to improve the environment and quality of

life for future generations.

"The fantastic achievement of St Edmundsbury Borough Council in topping the national recycling league table was an amazing result not only for Councillors and Borough Officers but also for our local residents who have shown unstinting support for the recycling scheme.

"We're all in this together. We need to recognise that we have a shared responsibility to act. All of us together – Government, business, families and individuals – must play our part if we are to tackle the environmental issues that are so important to our future."

ABOVE: David recycling Christmas cards at Tesco as part of the Woodland Trust's scheme.



Malthouse project

David Ruffley has been to visit the Malthouse project in Bury St Edmunds where the last remaining old Malting in the town is being fully restored as a valuable community facility.



New office for Beckett Group

David Ruffley is an active supporter of local businesses and recently visited the Beckett Group, which delivers financial services across the UK, to perform the 'turning of the sod' ceremony at their new development.

Local MP promoted to Shadow Minister for Welfare Reform

Our MP, David Ruffley, has been promoted by David Cameron, new leader of the Opposition, to become the Shadow Minister for Welfare Reform in Work and Pensions.

David said: "I am delighted to be working in an area where we are developing new ideas on social justice, fairness and help for those in need."



David with staff at the Women's Refuge in Bury St Edmunds

David Ruffley visits Bury St Edmunds Women's Refuge

Local MP, David Ruffley, made a visit to the Women's Refuge in Bury St Edmunds to experience the vital work they do there.

David is an active supporter of campaigns against domestic violence such as the White Ribbon Campaign. During the last campaign David organised the sale of White Ribbons through his constituency office in Woolpit in order to raise awareness of domestic violence and its implications.

David said: "Domestic violence accounts for more than a third of all violent crime in Suffolk. It is a crime that can often go unnoticed and unpunished. Victims must know that the support they need is available, that they will be listened to and most importantly they should not be afraid to ask for help."

Picture courtesy of the Bury Free Press



Extra £2 million bill for A14 Rookery Crossroads

Delays to the Rookery Crossroads Scheme on the A14 could cost taxpayers £2million. And it was not finished on time.

Will the big works to start at the Haughley Bends go the same way?

David Ruffley MP has demanded answers over the delays and spiralling costs from national Highways Agency boss, Archie Robertson.

David said: "The opening of the Rookery Crossroads was a very welcome day. I had been campaigning for these vital road safety improvements since my election in 1997. But, the taxpayers have every right to question the delays to this project and the spiralling costs that resulted.

"I have written to Archie Robertson, Chief Executive of the Highways

Agency, asking for an explanation for why the project was completed six months late and reportedly £2 million over budget. I have also sought his assurance that everything will be done to ensure future projects on our County's main trunk road, such as the proposed improvements to the Haughley Bends, will be better managed and arrive on time and at their projected cost.

"These improvements were vital to road safety but when a project is completed six months late and well over budget questions have to be asked of those in charge."

"With me, my constituents come first. If you ever feel you need my help, please do get in touch. I'll do what I can to assist you and your family."

David Ruffley

WHY NOT CUT THIS OUT AND PUT IT BY YOUR PHONE?

Here to Help Your Community

David hopes you'll find these numbers useful

POLICE

Bury, Mildenhall & Brandon Stowmarket
01284 774100
01473 613500

WEST SUFFOLK HOSPITAL

SWITCHBOARD A & E
01284 713000
01284 713333

ELECTRICITY EDF

0800 7838838

GAS TRANSCO

0800 111 999

ANGLIAN WATER

0345 145 145

ST EDMUNDSBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

SWITCHBOARD EMERGENCIES
01284 763233
01284 763252

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

SWITCHBOARD EMERGENCIES
01449 720711
01449 675899

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

01473 583000

SUFFOLK FIRE SERVICE

01473 588888

DAVID RUFFLEY MP

01359 244199

Standing up for Suffolk – www.davidruffleymp.com

Need to contact your MP?



Write to:
David Ruffley MP
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

Or ring David's Suffolk office on:
01359 244 199

Email: info@telldavidruffley.com