

Sojan Joseph MP

Ashford, Hawkinge, and the Villages



Thank you for signing up to my monthly newsletter. I will be using this to keep you informed about my work in the constituency and Westminster.

Since the election I have strived to be a local and accessible Member of Parliament, I have held 16 surgeries across the constituency – in Ashford, Hawkinge, Lyminge, Singleton, Stanhope, Mersham, and Willesborough. It has been fantastic meeting so many people from all over the constituency and being able to hear your stories and the issues that matter to you has been a real privilege.

I have attached the link to book future surgery dates in this newsletter – it would be great to meet even more of you over the coming months. Since July my team and I have sent over 5,100 emails and closed over 2,600 pieces of casework. It has been a pleasure picking up all your local concerns, resolving your personal issues and responding to your policy inquiries.



South Eastern Labour MPs Meeting with the Rail Minister

I have consistently been campaigning for the restoration of European travel to Ashford International. It is vital for businesses and our regional economy and Labour colleagues from across the South East and I have been meeting with many potential operators and relevant partners. We have had positive steps in the campaign – such as the support of the Government and the Prime Minister who has said he is “keen” to see travel restored in response to the question I asked him in January.

We also have seen the publication of Office of Rail and Road’s (ORR) provisional report. This has given the green light to other operators to use the Temple Mills depot. This has the potential to break up the Eurostar monopoly on international rail travel.



SOJAN JOSEPH

Member of Parliament for Ashford, Hawkinge, and the Villages

Get in touch!

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As some of you may know, I spent 22 years working for the NHS – primarily in mental health services, which is why it was such an honour to hold a Westminster Hall debate on improving mental health services last October. I have been holding regular cross-party meetings with the local ICB to take up your local healthcare concerns with the senior governing body.

I have also raised the issues facing the William Harvey Hospital multiple times in the Commons – including in my maiden speech.



Visiting students at The John Wallis C of E Academy during my first ever UK Parliament Week as an MP



April 2025

Every month, I will update you on the progress I am making on your behalf in Ashford, Hawkinge, and the Villages – and in Westminster too.

Since February, I have had the privilege of serving on the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill Committee– this ended last month. Although I voted against the Bill at the Second Reading because I wanted to see safeguards strengthened, it was an immense pleasure to serve on the Committee with this particular group of colleagues. The way debates, discussions, and speeches were handled was truly Parliament at its best and I am very grateful to have been a part of the process with an incredibly professional group of clerks and fellow Parliamentarians.



Hosting an event for 'Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse'

Helping local schools has also been one of my top priorities. I managed to help resolve an issue with low water pressure at the Towers School which was preventing them from operating at full capacity.

I also helped The John Wallis C of E Academy stop their sports facilities from being sold off by Kent County Council.

Finally, just a quick reminder that we have local elections on 1st May in Kent. You have until 11:59pm on 11th April 2025 to register to vote. There is a link on the side which includes all the details you'll need to register and what you'll need to vote in person.



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I have regular meetings with Ministers to discuss the issues facing our local healthcare services. I recently met with Karin Smyth MP to discuss GP waiting times, access to local healthcare and A&E services at the William Harvey Hospital.



Meeting with Karin Smyth MP, the Minister of State for Secondary Care

Surgery Sign-Up:
<https://www.sojanjosephmp.com/surgeries/>

1st May Election Details:
<https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>

