

# Sojan Joseph MP

Ashford, Hawkinge, and the Villages



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

It's now been one year since I was elected as your Member of Parliament and I would like to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to represent you!

Here's a Top 10 of Highlights From My First Year as Your MP:

1. Over 4,600 Cases and Policy Inquiries handled.
2. 19 Surgeries held across the constituency.
3. 148 Written and Spoken Contributions in Parliament.
4. £13M funding secured for East Kent Hospitals.
5. Positive steps towards getting European rail services back to Ashford International.
6. Served on two Bill Committees.
7. 4970 more children now eligible for Free School Meals in Ashford, Hawkinge, and the Villages
8. £34M 'Connect to Work' funding for Kent.
9. £54M for road maintenance in Kent.
10. Voted for Bills to improve the rights of workers and put more money in your pockets.



At the 'Save our Green' Campaign at Quantock Drive in Ashford. Green spaces play an important part in peoples' wellbeing and I wish the residents well in their endeavour to get their landlords to remove the fence preventing them from accessing the space



Meeting with Kent and Medway Social Care Partnership Trust to talk about community health concerns with cross-Party MPs from across the county

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July marks the 77<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our NHS. As most of you probably know, this is the issue closest to my heart in politics and one I have fought hardest for since being elected as an MP.

The Thursday directly preceding the anniversary saw the Government publish its '10 Year Plan' for the NHS - it's something many of us who have taken a close interest in the reforms and changes to the NHS have been waiting for and paying close attention to.

It set out how the NHS will move away from an analogue model and digitalise. This will allow records to be easily transferred between healthcare professionals and open up the use of apps for self-referrals. It's something I know will be welcomed by both patients and many of my ex-colleagues in the NHS as it will massively improve efficiency.

The plan is also moving towards a Community Health model - offering care out of a single unit, such as mental health support, x-rays, dental care, outpatient services, and even advice on debt services. This will alleviate much of the pressure currently put on A&E departments.

It will also begin to centre the NHS around preventative care, rather than treatment. It is vital we shift our focus towards tackling the preventative diseases and illnesses which are adding to our public health crisis before people need to seek emergency or require hospital care. Whether it's obesity, smoking, alcohol dependency, or even many forms of cancer and heart disease - 1 out of 8 deaths in the U.K according to the King's Fund are preventable and I am pleased the Government are taking steps to address this.



**SOJAN JOSEPH**

Member of Parliament for Ashford, Hawkinge, and the Villages

**Get in touch!**

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I will be holding more surgeries across the constituency - I have had discussions with constituents regarding the following:

- Local healthcare
- Pensions, benefits, or welfare concerns
- Council disputes
- Political Policy

Please make an appointment!

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



Visit to Ashford Safe Haven. A free mental health facility available to everyone in Kent aged 18+ between 18:00-23:00 - it's a really great resource for people who need help. However, it's vital East Kent Hospitals are successful in their bid for a 24 hour Safe Haven to provide round-the-clock support.



**July 2025**



# Ashford, Hawkinge, and the Villages

**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.**

This month also saw the nation, and our constituency, celebrate Armed Forces Day. It gives us an opportunity to recognise the vital role of the brave men and women who have given their service in our Armed Forces.

I'm pleased the Government has introduced new measures and legislation which recognise the essential role service people play in keeping us all safe at home, secure abroad, and protecting the values we hold so dear. There are now measures being introduced which will see £7 billion invested in housing for Forces' families. Military personnel will also receive an above inflation pay rise of 4.5% (3.75% for senior officers) in recognition of their contribution – meaning that Armed Forces personnel have received a cumulative pay award of 10.5% (8.75% for senior officers) since July 2024. The Government have also launched a programme which will give military veterans easier access to care and the essential services they require after serving.

The new boost to cadets is also a plus. I recently asked the Parliamentary-Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, Luke Pollard MP what steps the Government would be taking to support them. It was good to hear that he shared my view that the cadets offer a platform which can provide key skills and opportunities for later life and the Government would therefore be making future announcements in regards to investment to support our cadets.

It is fantastic that Service personnel are getting proper recognition for their extraordinary professionalism.



**With my fellow MPs at the end of the Mental Health Bill Committee**

And finally, this month I made an appearance on the 'A Mucky Business' podcast with Tim Farron MP. It was great to speak with Tim about my journey before coming into politics, what motivated me to join Labour, the role faith has played in shaping my outlook in life, and my views on some recent votes in the Commons.

I have attached a link to the podcast below the newsletter for you to go and have a listen (available wherever you get your podcasts)!



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Discussing the Treasury's plans for the constituency with Minister James Murray



At the Armed Forces Day Celebrations in Ashford

