

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.

I hosted an event in Parliament with the Royal College of Psychiatrists to raise awareness for menopause and mental health.

It was a pleasure to welcome Dr Lade Smith, the President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists and broadcaster, Davina McCall – a real advocate who frequently uses her platform for menopause awareness.

Although much progress has been made in regards to how we speak and think about the menopause, we still have a long way to go to ensure that women receive the treatment and support they require before, during, and after the menopause. I will be supporting any Government measures that help provide this.



L-R Professor Subodh Dave (Dean of the Royal College of Psychiatrists), me, Davina McCall, Baroness Hollins, and Dr Lade Smith (President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists)

I recently visited the soon to be completed same day emergency care facility, currently under construction at the William Harvey Hospital.

Our Accident and Emergency services have been under immense pressure for a long time. Part of the long-term solution to help relieve the pressure will be increasing capacity, diverting patients from A&E and into the specific services they require.



Visiting the new same day emergency care facility at the William Harvey Hospital



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
- School issues

Please make an appointment!

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



Speaking with Ashford Students from East Kent Colleges

Part of my role as a Member of Parliament is ensuring that young people feel engaged in the democratic process.

It was a genuine pleasure to meet students from Ashford who are studying social sciences at East Kent Colleges to answer their questions about my role as their MP.



March 2026



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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.



Out in Ottinge to see the issues caused by Southern Water's crumbling infrastructure first-hand.



Hosting a community engagement session with Southern Water to hear the issues faced in Kennington by Southern Water's Treatment Facility.

I'd like to thank all of the residents who came along to my community engagement session to explain the issues caused by Southern Water's Treatment Facility. I am pleased the Government have been taking steps to reduce the problems through the Water (Special Measures) Act.

Following on from my coffee morning in Lyminge, I went to see the multiple problems being caused by crumbling infrastructure in Ottinge – such as flooding, a blocked road, and continuous noise being caused by the temporary tankers.

I have already been liaising with the Environment Agency and Southern Water and will continue to do until the issues are resolved.

I understand the concern many residents have about the recent meningitis outbreak in Kent.

I have already been attending briefings with the UK Health Security Agency and visited the William Harvey Hospital on the morning of 16th March and met with local healthcare leaders. I was reassured that measures are being put in place locally to minimise the spread.

I would like to urge everyone to follow the Government's guidelines and regularly check for symptoms, which are set out on the GOV.UK website (I have attached the link at the bottom of the newsletter).

The Health Secretary provided me with reassurances during his statement to the House of Commons that the UKHSA and Government are taking this issue incredibly seriously and putting measures in place. This includes over 8,500 doses of antibiotics have been given, there will be a targeted vaccination programme for university students living in halls of residence and six form schools where there have been suspected cases.



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I made an intervention on the Prime Minister's statement on the ongoing conflict in the Middle East.

I asked the Prime Minister about the wider ranging issues domestically, both from a national security perspective but also in regards to the cost of living with the increase in fuel prices. I was pleased that Keir Starmer reaffirmed the Government's commitment to finding diplomatic strategy and a return to negotiations.

In the Environment Audit Committee (EAC), I questioned the Secretary of State for the Department of Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Emma Reynolds on the issue of large scale rubbish dumping.

This is an issue which has affected our local community, with the industrial level rubbish dumping in Hoad's Wood, just outside of our constituency.

I was pleased that the Secretary of State reaffirmed the Government's commitment to tackling this through tougher, cross-Departmental action – with DEFRA and the Home Office working closely to impose new penalties on criminals found guilty of dumping rubbish or fly-tipping.



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