

# 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.

Before the upcoming reforms to the special educational needs system (SEND) system, I held a roundtable for parents with lived experience.

It was fantastic to receive such valuable insight from those who attended, and I have provided the feedback to the Secretary of State for Education, Bridget Phillipson, in a letter – which you can read by clicking the link attached to the bottom of the email.

It is clear from what they told me that the SEND system is not working for children or parents – waiting times for EHCPs (specialised plans for children with educational requirements) are far too long and there are far too few SEND-trained teachers in mainstream schools. I am pleased the Government is looking at reforming the system.



Hosting a roundtable for families with lived experience of the SEND system, ahead of the upcoming reforms.

I have also been dealing with a large amount of casework regarding housing issues over the past few months – especially in relation to property management companies. Last month, I set up two meetings with FirstPort in Hawkinge and Ashford to give residents an opportunity to discuss any ongoing issues with their management company in person.

I plan to hold regular coffee-mornings to give constituents an opportunity to come and speak with me about any issues they care about.



**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/>



Visiting the IC24 HQ in Ashford – a not-for-profit social enterprise delivering integrated Urgent & Primary Care. I got to see the important work carried out by their staff, including in the 111 call centre.



September 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.

At the end of August, the Good Growth Foundation published a report into the financial benefits of reinstating international rail to Ashford. The report found that restoring international travel could bring £2.billion into the tourist industry over the next 5 years. I have since met with the Office of Rail and Road, along with several of my colleagues, and made the case for the need for competition in the European rail market to generate this necessary growth for our constituency and the wider region.



Meeting with representatives from the Office of Rail and Road with my fellow MPs, Tony Vaughan, Helena Dollimore, and Jim Dickson

Recess also provided extra time for me to visit constituents and businesses, and organisations from around the constituency. Here are a couple of photographs from many visits during recess.



A visit to the Southeastern Rail Ashford Depot on their 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration open day. It was great to see such a large turnout!



The first ever Willesborough Fair at Hythe Road Recreation Ground. A really fantastic community event!



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Presenting staff at Victoria Park with an Early Day Motion (EDM) to celebrate their Green Flag award.

The award is a recognition of their hard-work and dedication to keep the park well maintained and tidy.

Green spaces are incredibly important for mental health and wellbeing and a fantastic resource for our community.

Thank you to all of the staff at Victoria Park!

