



Totally Tooting

Summer 2006

news from our MP

Sadiq Khan MP

Working hard for Balham, Earlsfield, Furzedown, Tooting and Wandsworth Common

A message from Sadiq...



It has been a busy couple of months – especially with the local elections at the beginning of May.

We now have over **2000 subscribers to Totally Tooting!** You may have noticed that this month's edition is less colourful – this is to reduce printing costs and ensure that more people can receive their 'Totally Tooting' every other month.

Please continue to encourage friends and family in Tooting to sign up by emailing sadiqkhanmp@parliament.uk If you are receiving a paper copy, it would help to save paper if you could sign up to receive it my email instead.

Look out in the next edition of Totally Tooting for a special event that I am organising to celebrate a year of this newsletter. I will be inviting all Totally Tooting readers to the House of Commons... more details to follow soon!

Remember to check my website for more information about what I have been up to!

Tooting's first Warm Front event

In May, Sadiq organised a special Warm Front event in Tooting. Many local pensioners attended and received confidential advice on benefits, safety, saving energy and services for the elderly.

The event was organised with the Eaga Partnership who run the Warm Front scheme – a government funded initiative which gives grants to pensioners to make central heating and energy efficiency improvements to their homes.

The local police, fire brigade, Community Safety Department from the Council, the South West London

Energy Advice Centre, Energy Watch, Age Concern, the Pension Service and the Home Improvement Agency were also present to give Tooting pensioners up to date practical information and advice.

Sadiq commented, "This was the first event of its kind in Tooting and it was a great success – it is vital that people claim the benefits that they are entitled to as these can make a massive difference to people's lives. We need to make sure that no one in our area misses out on good advice and support. I will definitely be organising more events like this in the future."



MP enjoys summer of Sport

Sadiq has been entering into the sporting fever hitting the country this summer.

On 8th June, Sadiq ran the Westminster mile for Sport Relief 2006. MPs ran in St James' Park to raise awareness for Sport Relief Saturday which takes place on 15th July.

Sadiq said, "Sport Relief is an excellent cause – helping vulnerable people in the UK and across the world. You can register to take part in Sport Relief events in London on 15th July on their website: www.sportrelief.com. You can also find details of how to organise your own event!"

On 26th June, Sadiq and members of his staff took part in the London to Brighton Bike Ride, and raised over £1000 for the British Heart Foundation.



Penwortham pupils grill MP

Sadiq recently visited Penwortham Primary School and attended a session with the School Council.

Students in years 4, 5 and 6 grilled Sadiq on issues such as climate change, litter, racism, local art, play facilities, the role of Parliament and much more! Sadiq was also given a tour of the School.

Sadiq commented, "One of my great concerns is about engaging young people with politics. We need to do more to make politics relevant to younger age groups so by the time they are able to vote, they are aware of the importance of

exercising that right.

"My experience at the School Council at Penwortham was great – the students were articulate, conscientious and cared passionately about issues in their local community, and beyond. They certainly didn't hold back and I was put through my paces!"





Sadiq in Parliament— news and debates

Round Up

The Department for Education and Skills announced an action plan for the **10 Year Childcare Strategy**. The plan includes many welcome measures, for example, extending the entitlement to free childcare from 33 weeks to 38 weeks.

The draft **Trade Union Freedom Bill** was published which proposes changes to the law to protect workers when they take industrial action. This is in line with other DTI measures to protect vulnerable workers, and to improve the accessibility of information for workers so that they know their rights.

The **Pensions Reform White Paper** was published. The aim is to create a new pensions savings culture and tackling pensioner poverty. There will be a new low cost savings scheme which all workers will be enrolled in, and the state pension will re-linked to earnings.

London Attacks

On 7th July, it will be the first anniversary of the London attacks.

Two reports into the tragic events have recently been published. One was a Cross Party Intelligence and Security Committee Report into the attacks, and the Home Office also produced a 'narrative' which tried to identify the actions and motivation of the bombers.

Sadiq took part in the debate in the Commons about the reports and asked the Home Secretary about the

criticism that the radicalisation of British citizens is still not properly understood. In his reply, the Home Secretary confirmed that the Government needs to do more to understand the strength of feeling that motivated the bombers, and that engaging with local communities was a continuing priority across government.

Sadiq commented, "A year on from 7/7, and it is clear that we still have a lot of issues to reflect upon."



Education Bill

On 24th May the Education and Inspections Bill had its Third Reading.

Many concerns were expressed during the Bill's passage, particularly over the proposals to allow schools to acquire self governing trusts. There has now been clarification that Local Education Authorities (LEAs) will continue to be the provider of community schools and will have a duty to ensure fair access for all pupils.

The Bill will help in the drive to improve standards in all schools and allow all young people to achieve their full potential.

Sadiq said, "I am absolutely committed to ensuring that there are the best possible state schools in Tooting. I did have reservations about some of the details in the Education Bill, but I am now satisfied that with LEAs having a duty to promote choice, diversity and fair access, no pupil will be disadvantaged. I also supported Martin Linton MP's amendment to ensure that the level of selection could not be increased to 1998 levels at a partially selective school. There are also many other positive measures in the Bill for personalised learning, free school travel for the poorest families."

Out and About in Tooting...



Read more about Sadiq's activities in the constituency and parliament on his blog: www.sadiqkhan.org.uk/blog/sadiqblog.htm

Tooting Fire Station

In May, Sadiq visited Tooting Fire Station to see the new solar panels that are helping to heat the station.

The newly installed heating system means that Tooting has the first fire station in London powered by solar energy.

Sadiq has now tabled an Early Day Motion at Westminster calling on other fire stations to follow Tooting's lead.

Sadiq said, "We all need to take responsibility for making energy improvements. The solar heating at the station will mean that carbon dioxide emissions are reduced by sixteen tonnes per year and result in a £3400 saving on their gas bill."



Visits to:

Burntwood School; Wandsworth Carers Centre – who have recently been awarded money from the Big Lottery Fund; Wandsworth Pensioners Forum; White Pigeon Charity Shop; British Heart Foundation Charity Shop; Roshni House in Graveney; open the Ronald McDonald House at St George's Hospital

Meetings with:

Representatives from train companies who are bidding for the franchises for Earlsfield Station and Wandsworth Common stations. Sadiq is lobbying to ensure that the access issues are addressed in the bids; Balham and Tooting Community Association; Independent Monitoring Board at Wandsworth Prison; Wandsworth Teaching PCT Patient and Public Forum (PPIF) and St George's Hospital Trust PPIF (Sadiq was a guest speaker); Senior Management Team at St George's; representatives from St Nicholas Church