



A local man with a national voice

Mike Gapes has a well deserved reputation as a hard working and experienced constituency MP and campaigner on local, national and international issues.

His busy House of Commons and constituency offices and weekly advice surgeries help thousands of people with housing, health, education, and other local services, with visit visas for relatives and many other matters. Mike is Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee. He has also served as Parliamentary Private Secretary in the Northern Ireland Office and the Home Office and as Chairman of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy.



Dear Constituent,

The world faces two urgent major challenges – the threat of economic collapse and depression and rapid uncontrolled climate change.

The Government is working hard alongside our European partners to get agreement to reduce the threat of rapid climate change at the Copenhagen summit.

I also welcome the role played by our Government in getting agreement on the co-ordinated economic recovery stimulus package at the G20 London and Pittsburgh summits.

We would be mad to undermine this fragile recovery by savage and premature cuts to public spending on health, policing, transport and education. I support fair pay and taxation. Those with the broadest backs should contribute most.

Mike Gapes

Mike Gapes MP

Working for tolerance and harmony



Mike Gapes at the Hindu Tamil Chariot Procession

Iford is home to people of different faiths with family roots all over the world. This is a great strength. I regularly attend events, festivals and celebrations at local churches, temples, gurdwaras, mosques and synagogues. I am also pleased to see our diverse communities and faith groups working together and living together side by side. Redbridge and Ilford have always been known for our tolerance and harmony.

But unfortunately some extremist groups are trying to use conflicts in

the Middle East and South Asia or the current recession to create hostility and problems here. We must stand together against all forms of extremism, including anti-semitism and Islamophobia. We must be vigilant against those who incite hatred or deny the holocaust. As I told the House of Commons in February mainstream political parties should campaign in an inclusive way to represent all communities and not appeal for votes on the basis of religious affiliation.

Campaigning for more school places

Redbridge schools have again achieved excellent results due to hard working pupils, parental support, excellent teachers and support staff and the record sums invested in education and given to local schools and Redbridge Council by the Labour Government.

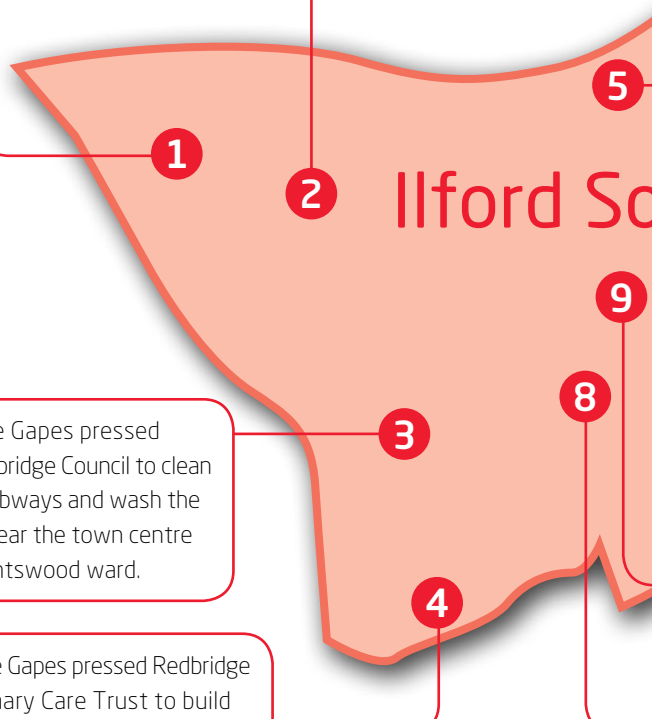
But I regularly see constituents who are told that they must take their children to schools in the north or west of the Borough, four or five miles away because our schools are full and there are no places in Ilford South. Redbridge Council has failed to plan properly to provide enough school places here. It should have been more robust with builders and developers putting so much new private accommodation in Ilford town centre to get more community facilities and schools. The belated decision to build the new Cranbrook and Winston Way primary schools was welcome but Ilford South needs even more primary school places. I welcome proposals to return to four forms of entry at Christchurch and expand Farnham Green and Downshall to three forms of entry from 2011. We also need new Secondary schools. I am pleased that the Government is funding the complete rebuilding and expansion of Loxford High School and the new Academy at Cricklefields .

1 Mike Gapes pressed Redbridge Council for more school places. He welcomes the new Cranbrook Primary school.

2 Mike Gapes supported the successful bids for Lottery Funding which have restored Valentines Mansion and Valentines Park. We must ensure Redbridge Council maintains them in good condition.

3 Mike Gapes pressed Redbridge Council to clean up the subways and wash the streets near the town centre in Clementswood ward.

4 Mike Gapes pressed Redbridge Primary Care Trust to build the new Loxford Polyclinic to serve 20,000 people on the corner of Loxford Lane and Ilford Lane



Local health improvements



Mike presents the Save King George Hospital petition

Mike Gapes is delighted to see the continuing improvement in our local health services brought about by the record investment of recent years.

Mike pressed NHS Redbridge Primary Care Trust for better facilities in Ilford South. He was delighted to greet the first patient at the new Loxford Polyclinic on the corner of Ilford Lane and Loxford Lane in June. Mike also led the community campaign to Save King George Hospital. Over 25,000 signatures were collected on the petition which Mike presented to London Region NHS. Mike says "Despite our great victory in 2008 we must remain vigilant and ensure that Ilford retains a local hospital in future".

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A national and international voice



Mike with United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon

Mike Gapes regularly meets international leaders in his role as Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

In October he visited the United Nations in New York to meet UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and then went to Washington to see leading figures in the Obama administration and Members of Congress including Senator John Kerry. Mike regularly gives interviews to UK and international media including making regular appearances on BBC Radio Today and PM and TV programmes like Newsnight and Channel Four News.

Mike regularly speaks in Parliament and questions Ministers. Recently he has been giving particular attention to the situation in Sri Lanka. Mike met with diplomats from the Sri Lankan High Commission in London to express concerns at the humanitarian situation in their country and to press for an early release of the 280,00 people being detained in the camps following the end of the civil war. The Foreign Affairs Committee has called on the UK Government to press for the setting up of an international war crimes inquiry, to investigate allegations of atrocities carried out by both sides in the Sri Lankan civil war and an end to the "culture of impunity" in Sri Lanka.

5 Mike Gapes has pressed Transport for London and Redbridge Council for road safety improvements and better security of the underpasses and crossings on Eastern Avenue in Newbury Ward

6 Mike Gapes campaigned for twenty years for Crossrail. It will lead to improvements at Ilford, Seven Kings, Goodmayes and Chadwell Heath stations and better and quicker journeys across London

7 Mike Gapes led the successful campaign to save King George Hospital Goodmayes

9 Mike Gapes supported local residents campaigning against the closure of Seven Kings Swimming Pool by the Redbridge Council and is calling for a new pool in Ilford South NOW.

8 Mike Gapes supported local residents and Labour councillors pressing Redbridge Council to improve South Park in Mayfield ward

A full time MP

"I am a full time Member of Parliament and do not have any other paid employment.

I do not have a second home. I live in my Ilford South constituency. I have never had a mortgage paid for by Parliamentary allowances. I have two full time and two part time members of staff working in my House of Commons and Constituency offices who all have contracts and are paid in accordance with trade union and House of Commons agreed scales. None of them are related to me. Full details of my expenses and allowances claims are on my website."



Crossrail is good news for Ilford



Mike Gapes at Goodmayes station

Mike Gapes is Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Crossrail Group. He campaigned tirelessly for Crossrail for 20 years. Mike is delighted that the legislation went through Parliament last year and that construction of Crossrail has now started.

Mike says "Crossrail is the biggest and most complex engineering project in Europe. It is vitally necessary for London's continuation as a global city. Crossrail will add an estimated £30 billion to UK gross domestic product, half of which will be in London and half elsewhere in the country. When it is completed in 2017 it will link together Heathrow, the West End, Canary Wharf and areas out to the east, including the line through Ilford South from Liverpool Street to Shenfield. The Crossrail project is vital to the regeneration of Ilford Town Centre bringing jobs, better transport links, improved shopping, and affordable and good quality housing. Crossrail will mean a completely new station at Ilford including bringing buses into that new station; improvements at Seven Kings and extended platforms at Chadwell Heath and Goodmayes; a freight loop line at Chadwell Heath and a train cleaning facility in Ilford. Crossrail will increase capacity taking pressure off the existing mainline and tube services. Local people will be able to travel from Chadwell Heath, Goodmayes, Seven Kings and Ilford across London more quickly and comfortably."

Newsflash

Post Office Bank

Essex Federation of Small Businesses has praised Mike Gapes for being the first Essex MP to sign a House of Commons motion supporting the formation of a new Post Office Bank.

Electoral Reform

Mike Gapes supports the Alternative Vote system which would both keep the link between a constituency and an individual MP and ensure that every MP is supported by the majority of their electorate. Mike also supports a right of recall by constituents.

Foreign Affairs

The Foreign Affairs Committee chaired by Mike Gapes has published several major reports this year including on Nuclear Non-Proliferation: Human Rights: Israel and the Occupied Palestinian territories; and Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Gaza

Mike Gapes was one of the lead signatories on a Parliamentary motion criticising the BBC for its appalling refusal to broadcast the public appeal for Gaza by the Disasters and Emergencies Committee.

Human Rights

Mike Gapes Foreign Affairs Committee has examined rendition, allegations of UK complicity in torture, transfers of detainees in Iraq and Afghanistan and the regulation of private military and security companies; and human rights abuses in individual countries of concern including Burma, China, Colombia, Iran, Iraq, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Zimbabwe and the UK's overseas territories.

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