

THE CLACTON CONVERSATION
NEWS ROUND-UP FROM GILES WATLING MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR CLACTON

SAVE THE DATE: OLDER PEOPLE'S INFORMATION FAIR

Just a reminder about the Older People's Information Fair that I am holding soon. We have forty exhibitors now and I hope you can come along. It is free, and no appointment necessary!

Details: Princes Theatre, Clacton, 10am–2pm on 18th June. [Find more information here.](#)

REACTION TO LOCAL ELECTION RESULTS

I would like to, firstly, express my disappointment at the local election results in our area and I am saddened that we have lost so many hard-working councillors.

Nevertheless, this backlash was not completely unexpected given events on the national stage, and as I said prior to the vote, I do not despair at anyone who decides to vote for another party, including the Brexit party. Because I hope that the Government's negotiators, and those from the EU, will finally understand the strength of feeling on this matter, and the level of resentment that is being engendered by their actions.

What is more, I would say the same now in advance of the European elections later this month, especially given that Members of the Government are no longer listening to the requests of its backbenchers, or, seemingly, the people they were elected to represent. And while the Prime Minister cannot, currently, be challenged again until December 2019, I will not support her Brexit policy if it keeps us in the customs union or single market, as this would be in direct contravention of the Conservative Party's 2017 General Election manifesto, which sent me to Parliament with more votes than any of my predecessors in this seat. So, I want all constituents to be assured that I, at least, remember the commitments upon which I was elected.

Having said that, it should also be remembered that, through that manifesto, I am also committed to seeking a positive deal with European Union, whilst keeping no deal on the table, in case we cannot secure that good deal. Yes, I previously voted for the Government's imperfect deal, as I felt that a no deal Brexit was out of reach at that time and this was the only way to secure some form of Brexit before the 29th March 2019 deadline. However, as I said above, I will not support this outcome again if it includes membership of the customs union and/or the single market, as is currently being suggested.

I will also continue to support no deal, as I have done at every opportunity in the House, as this is now the only way to deliver the Brexit that the majority of my constituents want. Clacton residents have told me repeatedly that they want this all to be resolved as soon as possible.

Finally, according to recent media reports, the Government are also considering holding a second referendum if talks with Labour break down. As I have said many times before, some 70% of my constituents voted for Brexit, and 61% voted for me when I promised to implement that result. And let us not forget the 33% who voted for other parties that promised the same. I have no doubt, from the conversations I have had, that there remains a strong local mandate for Brexit, and I know from my discussions in Parliament that any further vote will be designed to prevent and frustrate the outcome of the first vote. Therefore, I will not vote for a second referendum.

I was sent here to deliver a Brexit that meets the commitments of the manifesto upon which I was elected, and my determination to do so will never waver.

NEWS FROM CLACTON

I am pleased that Essex County Council have confirmed that funding from the Coastal Communities Fund (CCF) will benefit the Clacton constituency. I understand that the most of key aspects of this, if not all, will be delivered in the Clacton constituency. [Read more here.](#)

I have met with Dorothy Hosein, Interim CEO of East of England Ambulance Service. I am keen to have a strong level of engagement with EEAS, so we can ensure the best service for residents in the Clacton constituency. [Read more here.](#)

A great honour to be asked to start the Corbeau Rally, which brings people from across the country to our wonderful Sunshine Coast! Our area has so much to offer! [Read more here.](#)



Waving off the first car at the Corbeau Rally – a great honour!

[I met with Steve Bushell and Steve Saxon at the Three Jays in Jaywick recently.](#) We discussed the importance of pubs as a part of our British heritage and communities. They tackle loneliness and build friendships. That is why I have written to the Chancellor to call for reduced beer duty. [Read more here.](#)

Proud to support Great Danes in Frinton who have gone through a rebrand. They are a classic example of keeping a high street alive. 95% of their products are Danish and they embrace technology to sell their products. We need more innovation and out the box thinking to keep our great high streets thriving. Congratulations to them on their successful launch! [Read more here.](#)



At Great Danes to celebrate their wonderful rebrand!

NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT

I attended a drop-in event at Parliament to discuss social care and the evidence from Independent Age on the benefits of introducing free personal care in England. [Read more here.](#)

I've joined the campaign to end visa fees for Commonwealth personnel in our Armed Forces. This change would be in line with the spirit if not the letter of the Armed Forces Covenant, which dictates that all those who have served in the UK armed forces should be treated fairly. [Read more here.](#)

I know full well how crucial Commonwealth personnel are for our Armed Forces having visited them frequently. Most recently, I visited the training base at RAF Cranwell. They are dedicated people training enthusiastic students. We are world leaders in military flying! [Read more here.](#)

I have also lent my support to a campaign by the National Federation of Women's Institutes (NFWI) and Friends of the Earth to dramatically reduce plastic pollution and the amount of plastic we use. [Read more here.](#)



With my colleague Steve Double MP at RAF Cranwell. A wonderful and world leading facility.

I welcome the introduction of Lucy's Law, which will end puppy and kitten farming. [Read more here.](#)

I have questioned Ministers from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) on financial support for vulnerable universal credit claimants. [Read more here.](#)

Finally, I met recently with Secretary of State Michael Gove today to promote proper labelling of meat. My amendment to the Agriculture Bill will inform consumers about what they are buying. Concerningly, at the moment we have no idea! [Read more here.](#)



With Michael Gove to discuss meat labelling - we have had constructive discussions.

Until next time!