

MEDIA RELEASE

ENGAGEMENTS DOMINATE FIRST WEEKEND AFTER ELECTION

18 May 2010

Henley MP, John Howell, has resumed his hectic schedule of constituency engagements over the first full weekend following the general election.

He began with an informal meeting with parish councillors in Kirtlington in the new part of the constituency near Bicester. Local campaigners there are trying to implement a hydro-electric scheme similar to that proposed in Goring.

The MP was able to make links between Kirtlington and other similar activities many of which had been the subject of a recent seminar at the River and Rowing Museum in Henley.

The MP took in a visit to the Day Centre in Thame and this was followed by him welcoming and thanking a visiting choir from West Texas who visited the constituency to give a concert in Watlington despite a packed European tour.

The weekend also included three events in Henley itself: attendance at the Townlands Community Group meeting, the Henley Civic Service and a meeting and discussion with the Henley Youth Council.

John said:

"It was good, now that the election is behind us, to get out and about again in the constituency. I was glad to be able to get back from Westminster to attend the Townlands Community Group meeting.

"One of the issues raised, in addition to the delays on the project due to the PCT's handling of procurement, was the possibility that medical cover for our community hospitals might be put out to tender by the PCT. We need to be very careful with this. My experience of this is not good as it can disadvantage local GPs and can also be used as an excuse to cut the hours of medical cover below what local residents would consider acceptable.

"The highlight of my visits, however, was meeting again the members of the Henley Youth Council. They clearly had enjoyed their visit to Parliament earlier in the year and it was good to see that this had made the general election more relevant and interesting for them."

The MP also announced a first list of surgeries to take him up to the end of July. The next Henley surgery (held at the Town Hall) will take place on 26 June. Surgeries at other locations can be found on www.johnhowellmp.com

To book a surgery appointment residents should ring 01491 613072. All surgeries are on Saturday between 10.00 am-12.00 noon.