



How to get in touch



Martin Horwood MP
16 Hewlett Road
Cheltenham GL52 6AA



01242 224889



martin@martinhorwood.net
www.martinhorwood.net

Martin was elected MP for Cheltenham in May 2005.

You can read Martin's latest contributions and questions in Parliament at www.theyworkforyou.com.

Martin holds regular surgeries at his Hewlett Road office and other locations around town. Feel free to get in

touch to book an appointment or look in local newsletters for more details.

Please let Martin know what you think of the report. It is paid for from public money so Martin will only continue to send it to you if you find it useful to know what your MP is doing on your behalf.

Martin Horwood MP is fighting for Cheltenham people in Parliament



Winter update 2009



*A quick update on some key local issues.
Martin*

Better rail services

After years of lobbying by Martin, we have won a significant improvement in local rail services.

The redoubling of the **Swindon to Kemble line** will mean more direct trains from Cheltenham to Swindon, Reading and London and a much more reliable service. **The campaign was backed by MPs and councillors of all parties along with local businesses.**

Local NHS funding threat

After the recession, the hangover. Billions has been spent preventing the economy from collapsing but now we have to balance the books again.

This will mean cuts in public spending and **our local NHS has now been told to expect no increases for years to come.** But because of staff pay promises and the rising cost of treatment, no increase could mean real cuts.

Martin has promised local doctors and nurses he will fight to defend a free, local NHS and called for cuts to fall on multi-billion plans for nuclear missiles and regional bureaucracies, not frontline local health services like A&E or maternity.



Battle to save the countryside

The battle by Martin and others to save treasured countryside around Cheltenham may be nearing victory.

Legal challenges are delaying the regional plans that threaten to push development beyond the urban area and onto treasured green fields. There have also been 35,000 public responses to the south-west plan from all over the region - almost all thought to be objections.

Local councils want to fully consult local people too. So the chances of the whole process being overtaken by the coming General Election are increasingly good. **Martin will continue to defend our countryside.**

Action on flooding - at last!



The Government has finally announced in the recent Queen's Speech that it will be publishing a Floods Bill to sort out some of the failings exposed by the floods here in 2007.

Martin will be his party's national spokesman on the bill in the House of Commons which will give him a great opportunity to raise issues important to Cheltenham people - from flood alerts to insurance, from flood defences to planning and controlling building in flood risk areas.

The main risk is that the government have left it so late they may run out of time before a General Election.



Recession still biting locally

Martin has continued to talk up Cheltenham's prospects and back local businesses wherever he can.

But even though there are some signs of economic recovery, we are still losing local jobs. Financial services, marketing and high-tech manufacturing - all local specialisms - have all seen cut-backs.

Martin flew to Germany (his first and so far only official flight as an MP) to try to save 150 jobs at FormFlo in Rowanfield. He's also working with public sector representatives to protect jobs in the civil service, NHS and education too.

Expenses scandal - end in sight

Martin was one of the first to speak out against the MPs' expenses system back in 2007, long before the current scandal broke. **He voted against keeping MPs' expenses secret and has now been told by independent auditor Sir Thomas Legg that he has no money to repay and no questions to answer about his own expenses.**

Another independent report - by Sir Christopher Kelly - has now set out a plan for all the abuses to be stopped. Martin has backed the implementation of all Kelly's recommendations.