

**Maria Caulfield MP's**  
**Update for Ringmer Parish Council**  
**November 2022**

**1) Remembrance Sunday**

I am looking forward to attending Remembrance Sunday events across the constituency in the coming days to remember all of those from the Lewes constituency who have given so much in the service of the United Kingdom and defence of freedom. This week I will also be laying a remembrance cross in the Royal British Legion Constituency Garden of Remembrance at the Houses of Parliament.

**2) Solar Farm Norlington Lane**

I have called in the above planning application with the Secretary of State, Michael Gove, for determination by himself. In the instance of Ovesco Solar Farm on Norlington Lane, I cannot agree to losing 70 acres of prime agricultural land. I would like to clarify I am not against Solar farms in anyway, but they need to be placed where it causes minimum impact on our agriculture and be appropriate.

**3) Road Safety Measures**

I have recently spoken in Parliament to raise the issue of road safety in rural areas. I raised with the Transport Minister that many rural parishes in the Lewes Constituency have tried to implement road safety measures such as reducing the local speed limits and the number of HGV's cutting through the villages but have been told by the local transport authority that there haven't been enough people killed or seriously injured to justify a change. I encouraged the Minister to look at whether this policy can be changed to ensure the safety of rural communities.

The Minister responded by confirming that local transport authorities do have the power to put measures in place, such as reducing speed limits and that the Department for Transport issues guidance to support this so I will be asking the County Council to rethink their criteria to allow safety measures to be put in place.

I have recently been in contact with constituents who took part in the HGV protest in Ringmer. If it would be useful to meet with the parish council on this matter please let me know.

**4) Raising Farmer's Concerns in Parliament**

I recently raised the concerns of farmers from across the Lewes constituency in Parliament during the Farming and Agriculture in Sussex debate. I meet regularly with farmers in my constituency but the key issues for them are the cost and availability of fertilizer, certainty over the payment schemes that are being introduced, and the effects of Avian flu which is the worst we have ever seen this year.

Avian flu is a huge problem in Sussex due to the scale of the outbreak. I am pleased to hear that since this debate, the Government has announced changes to the compensation scheme for farmers when they lose birds to the disease.

**5) Rampion 2 Consultation**

I have been a big supporter of Rampion in my time as the MP for Lewes, the wind farm delivers enough power for 350,000 homes and they also do a lot of work in the community through various projects and funds. I would encourage people to take part in the Rampion 2 consultation to have their say on the proposals before they are submitted next year. They are launching a six-week statutory public consultation from Tuesday 18th October - Tuesday 29th November. The consultation can be found at <http://www.rampion2.com>