



# Medway PROGRESS

Spring 2008

**Bob Marshall-Andrews QC MP** – Member of Parliament for Medway

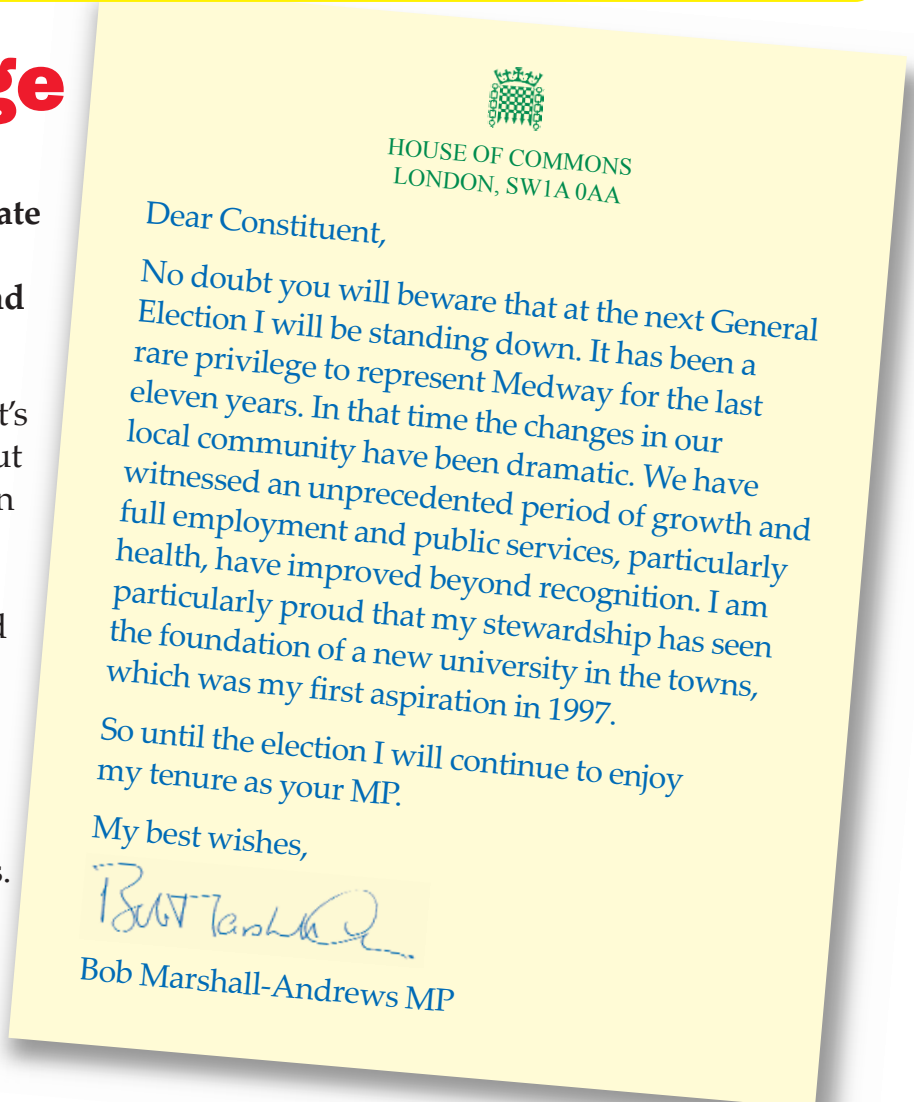
## Climate Change

**Storms, flooding, heat waves and droughts. The evidence is clear, climate change is already happening and it's affecting the way people live here and across the world.**

Last year I supported the Government's consultation on its draft Bill that set out ways we can come together as a nation and fight climate change. There was a massive response to the Bill - 17,000 responses from the general public and many containing original ideas.

As a result MPs have debated for stronger legislation making it easier to see how the Government is doing at reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Web link: Government briefing on the Climate Change Bill  
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/latest/2007/climate-1029.htm>



## Our Medway Environment



**Kingsnorth Power Station dominates river views**

Medway Council has approved the planning application to replace the coal fired Power Station at Kingsnorth. Refusal would have automatically led to a public enquiry. I have taken a considerable interest in this matter and have been in contact with the applicant company (E-ON), the Secretary of State, the council and objectors, notably Greenpeace.

My main reservations are:  
Environmental - CO2 emissions from the new coal fired plant is

only marginally improved on the current one: Political - as China builds a new fossil fuelled station a week the UK should lead by example: and Economic - there is the possibility (and no more) of combined heat & power, but crucially carbon capture & storage has not been resolved.

I am pressing the Government to hold a public enquiry. Copies of my letters to Ministers are available on my website's campaigns page.

## Newsflash

### REORGANISING STROOD'S SECONDARY SCHOOLS

There are not enough boys going to Temple to keep the school open. Medway Council is proposing to close both Chapter and Temple single sex schools and replace them with a new Academy school for both girls and boys.

I have carefully considered this matter and discussed it at length with the Council's Director of Children's Services and with the DCSF Government Minister, Lord Adnois. I have come to the conclusion that the proposal to create an academy on the Chapter site and integrate boys who would otherwise attend Temple into a co-educational foundation with many advantages, could provide a considerable opportunity for the provision of new and far better facilities.

I am, however, very aware of the valuable ethos that has been created in Chapter and its outstanding success in an area which still has selective education. I, therefore, believe that the transition should be very gradual beginning with admission at year 7 and thereafter moving through the school inevitably on a year by year basis. I believe that this progress is achievable and would have the support of the academic sponsor for the academy and local and national government.

# Justice - Imprisonment without charge

**I am zealous on the subject of civil liberty. It is the reason why I joined the Labour Party and one of the reasons why I am still in it. I believe that civil liberty is the most important part of our political agenda and it is our defining characteristic as a nation.**

The issue of imprisonment without charge or trial has been subject again to debate in the House of Commons. Only two years after extending detention of terror suspects in Police custody to 28 days, the Government proposed increasing the period of time to 42 days.

I read the Head of M15's speech on the terrorism threat to this country with detailed care and respect. In examining the primary facts, in order to decide whether the



### Speaking in the Commons

Government crossed the high threshold in persuading Parliament of the necessity, I concluded that I was unable to support any increase in the period of detention.

My speech on this and the item below are available on my website's speeches page.

## Calling for an Iraq War Inquiry

**There must be an independent inquiry to review the way Government discharged its responsibilities in relation to Iraq and in the lead up to military action in 2003 and its aftermath.**

An Inquiry must not damage or undermine the integrity of the elected Governments of the UK or of Iraq. One success of Iraq was the millions who voted in their election, while here millions did not vote. Iraq was one reason why the British electorate was alienated from the political process.

It is in the interests of our democracy that an inquiry is held that will make recommendations to future governments on the lessons of the Iraq Conflict.



### I nominated John & Ella Underwood for the Experience Corps 'Local Heroes' award

## ways to contact Bob Marshall-Andrews QC MP

① **PHONE** 01634 814687

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③ **WRITE** to Bob Marshall-Andrews QC MP, Moathouse, 1 Castle Hill, Rochester, Kent ME1 1QQ

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⑥ **VISIT** my regular surgeries take place fortnightly at 73 Maidstone Road, Rochester. Please call my office to make an appointment.