

John Redwood's

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and surrounding areas

WESTMINSTER Report

Welcome to this edition of
Westminster Report. Inside I would
like to tell you about some of the
things I have been doing as your
Member of Parliament.

John Redwood

John Redwood MP



Redwood discusses development in Wokingham

Local MP John Redwood visited Blagrove Lane to congratulate the residents on the successful appeal against development.

He said, "There has been very bad news, following our victory to stop development south of the M4 at the beginning of last year. The government and the Council have now decided to put a large number of extra houses into the local plan, dispersing these through many settlements. It is going to make it much more difficult to prevent medium and large scale development in future. They want 7750 new houses in the District over the next fifteen years, but many of you are opposed to this.

I have regularly intervened on behalf of the local community and Council where developers have appealed against a refusal of planning permission. In some cases we have been successful. There is nothing I can do if the Council

decides to grant the planning permission in the first instance. There is no appeal against a grant of planning permission, and the Member of Parliament has no power to intervene when the Council makes its decision.

I will continue to put the case nationally for more development in parts of the country that need more jobs and prosperity, and for fewer new houses on the greenfields of Wokingham and West Berkshire. I have also put forward suggestions on the siting of mobile phone transmitters to reduce their visual impact, and to keep them well away from schools and homes."



Local MP discussing railway problems

The biggest single issue that comes in my postbag and at my surgery is transport.

It affects all of us. We live in a busy and successful part of the world. The Planning authorities are ever ready to require more house building, but less clear about how we can cope with the traffic and the demands on public services it creates.

RAILWAYS

My number one priority is to improve the local trains, and to persuade the government to sort out its Railtrack problems as quickly as possible. I have tabled more than fifty questions on train issues, written an article for the FT setting out how Railtrack could be restored to some health, and written in other publications on

the financial, safety and operational issues raised by the decision to put the company into Administration. I have held meetings with local train operating companies and the Angel Trains, the largest leasing company for rolling stock. I have participated in several Commons debates to put my points directly to Ministers.

I have been urging the local Council, the train companies and Railtrack to commit themselves finally to a new station for Wokingham. The plan I have in mind will include a new road link to the station from the Reading Road, an improved roundabout junction between the Station road and Wellington Road, a bus and taxi interchange and a new more secure car park. An important part of any successful scheme should be movement of the station further towards Reading to cut the time the level crossing gates have to be down. We need more road capacity generally in the Station area so more of us can get there in the morning and find a car parking place more easily. If people cannot get to the stations they are unlikely to try to use the trains.