James MacCleary MP report June 2025

A259 Update

Recently I met the Roads Minister to press her ahead of the Government Spending Review, for the much-needed improvements to the A259 through central Newhaven and Seaford, including improvements that were recommended in the Major Roads Networks study at key A259 accident blackspots like the junction with Bishopstone Road. Unfortunately, as I'll come on to - there was no new money announced during the review speech.

East Sussex County Council has confirmed though that plans for the new eastbound bus lane that would have cut across the Sainsbury's junction has been scrapped. I will continue lobbying Minister's to take this issue seriously.

Spending Review

The Spending Review was disappointing for us in the South East, with not one project announced or supported locally. Our roads are choked, our railways are unaffordable and local services underfunded and broken. While the NHS spending is welcome, without fixing the crisis in our social care sector, I fear it will not achieve the outcomes we all desperately want. Sussex shouldn't be an afterthought for Ministers.

Youth Services

I was sad to hear news that the Youth Club in Newhaven was closing its sessions after the recent combination of the Minimum Wage and National Insurance Contributions rises. Too many local organisations are being penalised for doing the right thing – creating jobs and supporting young people. It's not right. We need proper, long-term funding for youth services – so that our young people get the best possible start in life. I have spoken about this in the House and will continue fighting so that our young people get a fair deal.

HMP Lewes

I recently raised concerns about the prison in the chamber, in regards to the report of high levels of violence, drug misuse and alarming levels of self-harm. The Minister has assured me that the site continues to make improvements under the charge of the new Governor and will be keeping me up to date on progress made. I am keen to make sure that our prison staff are safe, backed up and that our community is kept safe.

Road safety around Schools

I receive numerous reports from residents about dangerous parking or driving around schools and am glad to see parents at Chyngton Primary in Seaford starting a petition to highlight their concerns and demand action. The County Council must do more to keep our children safe. I have seen the dangers faced by children in Ditchling and Polegate when walking to and from school first hand, it's unacceptable that this issue is not being addressed with the seriousness that it deserves.

Local Government Reorganisation

There is a consultation now underway open until the 23rd of June and I strongly encourage you to participate and share the opportunity to have your say with your residents. Please visit the below website to take part:

https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/EastSussexLGR/

Constituency Visits

As well as looking forward to my summer recess tour, recently I have been to our local Ridgeview winery to hear about the fantastic contribution they make to Sussex's wine industry; attended the Seahaven Business Awards; have visited local schools like Ringmer Primary to take questions from pupils; as well as visiting local charities like Lewes Homelink to hear about the excellent work they do.