

InTouch



Update from Great Yarmouth Conservatives



Post Office threat sparks campaign

Brandon Lewis reacted with grave concern to Government plans to close 2,500 Post Offices across the country, on top of the 4,000 already shut since 1999.

The cuts will start next summer.

For Great Yarmouth, this could potentially mean the closure of four Post Offices, from the current level of 26, which is already down from 33 in 1999.

Brandon said: "Post Offices can be the lifeblood of a community. But their future is now under real threat."

These cuts will hit the vulnerable and the elderly the hardest.

Brandon Lewis

"These cuts will hit the vulnerable and the elderly the hardest. Labour Ministers need to recognise that if the local Post Office closes, often the last shop in the vicinity closes as well, and a van for a couple of hours a week is no replacement for a Post Office open full time."

Conservatives have called for Sub-Post Offices to be given greater freedoms to offer a wider range of commercial products and are pushing for more Post Offices to be 'one stop shops' for central government services.

What do you think about the Post Office closures?

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Eric Pickles, MP for Brentwood & Ongar, was on hand to help Great Yarmouth's new Conservative Party parliamentary candidate Brandon Lewis, move into his new office.

Brandon already has a New Year resolution for local residents ...he will be surveying them to find out what issues they see as important.

"It's a chance for me to get a full understanding of what residents care about or are concerned about," said Brandon.

Look out for more information in 2007.

Brandon launches business forum for Great Yarmouth

A new business club is being launched for Great Yarmouth by Brandon Lewis – the Conservative Party parliamentary candidate for Great Yarmouth.

This club will give business the chance to put their views to the Conservative party in Westminster. It will also give them a chance, during the year, to speak to and quiz senior Conservative MPs on business and the issues that affect them in the commercial World.

Brandon said "This is a way for me to get to know the business community in Great Yarmouth and I look forward to liaising with all of the business representatives like the FSB, Chamber of Commerce, and the Institute of Directors, to work to ensure Great Yarmouth's business community is

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well represented in Westminster.

"This new club will allow local business to get involved and to ensure we are fully aware of the issues that affect their businesses. We intend

to launch the club with full details shortly after Christmas.

"Members will get a regular newsletter on what is happening and could impact on their business.

"They will also get a chance to regularly speak to me about what is happening, as well as current Westminster MPs who can take their views back to help inform policy for the future.

"I look forward to meeting as many of the Great Yarmouth businesses as possible and will be approaching people to join this club over the coming months."

Go to: www.brandonlewis.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON BRANDON LEWIS, THE PARLIAMENTARY SPOKESMAN FOR CONSERVATIVES IN GREAT YARMOUTH

Cold call clampdown gets a warm welcome



A plan to step up the ongoing fight against doorstep rogue traders and bogus callers has been met with approval from Brandon Lewis, the parliamentary candidate for the Conservative Party in Great Yarmouth.

The "No Cold Calling Zone" is being spearheaded by Trading Standards at Norfolk County Council and is being piloted in East Harling in Thetford. If the scheme is successful it could be expanded to other areas across the county.

No Cold Calling Zone signs will be put in place in a bid to reduce uninvited salesman and possible distraction burglars.

Residents are also being encouraged to note

down details of suspicious people and their vehicles.

Brandon said: "This is something which needs to be stamped out. The scheme seems like a positive step in the right direction towards tackling this issue but it needs everyone in the community to support it and look out for one another.

"We all have a responsibility to help others in the community including the elderly and vulnerable, so if people see anyone acting suspiciously I would urge them to call the police.

"This project sends a clear message to bogus callers and distraction burglars that people in the community will do everything they can to see them brought to justice."

InBrief



A campaign to secure vital funding for a national children's charity has received the full backing of Brandon Lewis.

He believes Government should do more to help voluntary services. He thinks the respective charities would be more cost effective if they were in charge of their own finances rather than being controlled by Government guidelines.

The Sun newspaper is calling for the Government to provide funding for child abuse telephone hotlines used by vulnerable young people in need of help.

Mr Lewis said: "Telephone help lines such as this are so very important to hundreds of young people.

"The stories we hear sometimes from the NSPCC are nothing short of shocking. The phone line acts as a life line for so many young people who are in trouble. It is vital that these charities receive the funding they need."

■ Norfolk County Council chief executive David White's call for parents to push their youngsters to greater levels of education has been met with approval by Brandon Lewis.

He believes in the importance of young people getting a good education and endorses the idea that parents working closely with their children can help achieve this.

Norfolk has dropped down the league table of local authorities for children starting high school without the expected reading, writing and maths skills.

Promoted by Barry Stone on behalf of Great Yarmouth Conservatives, all at Suite 20, Yarmouth Business Park, Suffolk Road, Great Yarmouth, NR31 0ER and printed by Great Yarmouth Conservatives at Suite 20, Yarmouth Business Park, Suffolk Road, Great Yarmouth, NR31 0ER.

Lewis vows to battle maternity unit cuts

News that Great Yarmouth's maternity unit at the James Paget Hospital could be under threat of closure has sparked great concern from Brandon Lewis.

The Conservative Party's parliamentary candidate for Great Yarmouth believes any closure or downsizing of the unit, which handled a little under 2,000 births in 2004 to 2005, could have serious consequences for future mothers who depend on facilities there.

He has vowed to take action and fight to protect the maternity unit. He is writing to the hospital management pledging his support for maintaining the unit in its current capacity and to see what can be done to ensure it remains this way.

Brandon is also writing to the secretary of state for health to seek clarification over the entire situation and to gain assurances that patient care will not be affected.

His concern stems from a report that one in six of England's 282 maternity units could be closed by NHS trusts which

If we lose the unit in Great Yarmouth expectant mothers would have to drive to Norwich. That could take up to 45 minutes in a car or even longer.

Brandon Lewis



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What do you think about closing the James Paget maternity unit?
Email brandon@brandonlewis.org or telephone: 07071228999

are battle huge financial deficits.

The James Paget unit is one which faces closure, reconfiguration, or being downgraded to a midwife-led unit as are the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in King's Lynn and West Sussex Hospital. The news comes just after Yarmouth and Waveney Primary Care Trust announced around £10million of cuts to the local National Health Service (NHS). Brandon said: "If we lose the unit in Great Yarmouth

expectant mothers wanting to have their babies in a fully equipped maternity facility would have to drive to the closest hospital which is in Norwich.

"That could take up to 45 minutes in a car or even longer if there are problems on the roads. And what about those who do not have cars? We need to do all we can to protect these units, not just at James Paget, but across the country."

Brandon signs up with neutralising scheme

GREEN-thinking Brandon Lewis has signed up to Targetneutral, a new scheme spearheaded by BP to help protect the environment.

Now he is encouraging others to take the few minutes and simple steps needed to make a difference to the environment.

"The project is aimed at neutralising the harmful effects of carbon emissions from vehicles. There are a number of good schemes around."

For more information on Targetneutral, go to www.targetneutral.com

Targetneutral calls on people to leave their cars at home and use public transport if possible to help

reduce the amount of CO₂ fumes which are emitted. All the money raised from the scheme will be put towards developing renewable sources of energy.

Brandon said: "The more people who get behind this sort of project the better. We all have a responsibility to look after our environment, both for ourselves and for future generations."

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