

Catherine West MP



Spring Report 2019

Labour Member of Parliament for Hornsey & Wood Green



Crippling cuts cause misery for thousands

Nine years of crippling Tory and Lib Dem austerity, stagnant wages, savage benefit cuts and rising living costs have caused misery to thousands of people's lives across Hornsey & Wood Green.

Household debt is worse than at any other time on record, with millions of families struggling in insecure work and real wages lower than in 2010. The Government's failing policy of Universal Credit is only making things worse.

Our hospitals, schools, police and vital public services are in desperate need of long-term, sustainable funding.

As your MP, I've been standing up for our community in Parliament and against Brexit because we can't rebuild prosperity at home if we allow Brexit to devastate our economy. This Spring News updates on some of my recent activities, but you can keep up to date with my weekly blog or sign up for my e-news at: www.catherinewest.org.uk

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Public vote now!

Reckless Tories take us to the Brexit brink

This Tory Government's Brexit shambles is costing jobs and causing huge uncertainty for the 42,000 EU citizens who have made Haringey their home.

Parliament voted to take no deal Brexit off the table, yet the Government has refused. Instead they're spending £171,000 every hour preparing for something that would be catastrophic for our economy. That's £1.9 billion and counting that could pay for around 85,000 nurses, 50,000 teachers or 49,000 police constables.

I voted against triggering Article 50, sponsored an amendment to the EU Withdrawal Bill that sought to secure membership of the Customs Union and the Single Market and was one of the first MPs to call for people to have a final say.

Labour will not back this reckless Tory Government's damaging Brexit.



Catherine and Haringey council leader Joe Ejiobor (left) deliver the EU Nationals petition to Downing St

We are doing everything we can to take "no deal" off the table and are calling for a public vote that would include the option to Remain. It's crucial that voters have a final say based on where we are now, not the spin and lies of the referendum campaign. That's what I'll keep fighting for.

Crime soars as police axed

Years of Tory and Lib Dem cuts have decimated our Police Service, devastating our communities and leaving them completely exposed. 21,000 police officers have been axed and recorded crime is rising at the fastest rate in a decade.

Locally, we're seeing a worrying rise in violent crime, including moped

muggings, knife attacks, robberies and assaults on school children at the same time that police stations have closed and our local police forces have been merged.

London's Labour Mayor Sadiq Khan has raised the policing precept as much as he's allowed to fund extra officers, but it beggars belief that the Tory Government is refusing to reverse its savage cuts and provide long-term certainty of funding to recruit the officers London needs.

I supported an amendment to the Offensive Weapons Bill that would see moped criminals receive tougher sentences. I'm appalled that the Tories' failure to back it meant it was voted down. I will keep pushing for the Government to treat moped-related crime with the severity it deserves.



Catherine meets with local officers

'Plastic free' Crouch End leads the way

I'm delighted to see Crouch End become the latest "plastic free community", working to reduce plastic use and eliminate the avoidable single-use plastics that cause so much harm. It's one of over 400 across the UK and I've tabled an Early Day Motion in Parliament calling on the Government to support the creation of even more.

It's shameful that in the UK we currently only recycle around 40 per cent of the plastic packaging we use. Yet the Government's new waste strategy is unambitious and too slow. Well done to Crouch End businesses and consumers for challenging our throwaway culture. Now, the Government needs to step up and do the same.



Catherine launches Dunn's popular reusable coffee mug

Stand up for our schools



Catherine joins St Aidan's children to 'floss for funding'

How can the Tories pretend austerity is at an end when schools are struggling to cope with the loss of thousands of teachers, dilapidated school buildings, inadequate resources for special educational needs support, and increasingly relying on parent donations to pay for the essentials?

I hosted a Fair Funding for All Schools meeting in Parliament and joined children and parents at St Aidan's Primary School in Stroud Green to protest against school funding cuts as part of a national parent-led Day of Action. The Chancellor needs to listen and act.

Unjust work ban

I challenged the Home Secretary about the unjust ban that prevents asylum seekers from working. It's not only a social injustice, it makes no economic sense and leaves vulnerable people struggling to afford to live. That's why I've introduced a Permission to Work Bill to Parliament to lift this unfair and misguided work ban.

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Ambitious action on housing

Housing is the number one issue in my advice surgeries, so I hosted a Parliamentary roundtable of Haringey Council, Homes for Haringey and all the major housing associations in Haringey to discuss key issues such as funding and safety in the aftermath of Grenfell.

I believe we have to be ambitious and have a minimum of 50 per cent genuinely affordable homes in every major new development in Hornsey & Wood Green. I formally object to planning applications that don't include that target.



Catherine in Parliament with roundtable attendees including Cllr Emine Ibrahim