



Ian McCartney MP



Constituency Report

September 2008

An Update from Makerfield MP Ian McCartney to his Constituents

PROUD TO SERVE

A dedicated team working with Ian McCartney MP resolve over two thousand individual issues every year. From housing to planning, benefit queries to antisocial behaviour the team in Makerfield & Westminster are proud to serve.

Lynda Birch heads Ian's constituency office and provides a dedicated casework function. In addition Paul Kenny works with local community groups and is also responsible for press liaison ensuring that Ian's campaigning work is brought to the attention of constituents. Mike Barnes ensures that a busy London and constituency diary allows Ian to be accessible to constituents, business and community organisations. Based in Westminster David Tarbuck provides research capacity so that Ian can meet with ministers and key people in Whitehall to fight for improved services for Makerfield in the corridors of power.

Ian's Team

Lynda Birch Tel. 824029	Personal Assistant and Office Manager
Patrick Hunt Tel. 824029	Caseworker
Paul Kenny Tel. 248958	Community Worker & Press Officer
Nigel Ash Tel. 237072	Caseworker
Mike Barnes Tel. 237072	Diary Secretary
David Tarbuck Tel 0207 219 4033	Researcher based in Westminster Office



Ian is pictured with back row l-r: Paul Kenny, Nigel Ash, Mike Barnes and David Tarbuck.
Front row: Lynda Birch, Ian McCartney MP and Patrick Hunt.

Ashton Forward

Ian recently launched the Ashton Forward campaign to obtain support from business, key stakeholders and the local community for a masterplan for the regeneration of Ashton Town Centre - backed by a £50,000 grant from the North West Development Agency which Ian secured.

Ian said, "I have spent the last few months talking with local people about what they want to see. Many in the local community have signed my petition and local businesses are backing the campaign. The time for talking is now over. We need action not words."

Already health bosses have promised a major 'state of the art' health facility for Ashton which Ian says will be the biggest single investment in the town for many years and will provide a real kick start to the future regeneration of the town centre."



Ian is joined by local residents and Cllr Nigel Ash at the launch of the Ashton Forward petition



Bryn Station is set for refurbishment thanks to TIF

Ian Hails Package of Transport Investment as Good News for Makerfield

Makerfield is set for a multi-million investment bonanza in public transport as a result of a £2.5 billion investment in public transport across the Greater Manchester area.

The Transport Infrastructure Fund (TIF) will provide rail station improvements at Bryn as part of a multi-million pound refurbishment of rail stations across the borough including improvements at Hindley, Ince, Pemberton, Gathurst and Appley Bridge as well as major work creating a 'state of the art' interchange to improve connections between Wigan Wallgate and Wigan North Western, along with improvements to bus stops across the borough. Plans to develop a new Golborne Station are also included in the package and Ian's support for the proposed congestion charge is conditional on the substantial package of improvements in public transport being delivered before any proposed congestion charge starts.

Minister Visits Ince Central Estate

At the invitation of Ian, Hilary Benn MP - Secretary of State, Dept of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs visited the Ince Central Estate to meet with local residents and view for himself the £9 million remediation project which is clearing the estate of a cocktail of contaminants.



Ian is pictured with Hilary Benn MP, Wigan MP Neil Turner and Ince Ward Councillor David Molyneux on site.

Better Health Services for Higher Ince

Ian has been campaigning for improved health services in Higher Ince and has met with the local Primary Care Trust to secure improvements to the Higher Ince Clinic, which will provide GP practices and primary care services on site and will join the 'state of the art' health centre 'Claire House' in Lower Ince in providing modern health care for the local community.

Former Open Cast Site Begins a New Chapter in its History as a Green Space for the Community

Following a landmark victory to stop the former open cast pit at Sandyforth Farm being developed as a waste landfill site, Ian McCartney secured over £2million for environmental improvements to the site from the North West Development Agency.

Ian joined supporters of the campaign - People Against Landfill (PALS) and local councillor Rona Winkworth on site to receive a progress report on work completed to date.



Ian is joined by Dave Watts MP, Cllr Rona Winkworth and members of PALS on site to view the transformation of the former open cast pit.

News in Brief

- Ian is working with the council, primary care trust and CLS to develop an older peoples' campus in Platt Bridge. Phase I of the building work has already started with a range of services planned to promote independent living.
- Ian is working to improve the safety of betting shop workers after a spate of attacks on staff who are often asked to carry large sums of cash on their person without security.
- Ian is continuing to work hard to secure a new health centre for Orrell & Billinge. Ian is working with Ashton, Leigh and Wigan Primary Care Trust and is fighting to ensure that local people have access to a modern 21st century health facility in the same way that new health centres are improving the health and welfare of local communities in other parts of Makerfield like Worsley Mesnes, Ince, Golborne and Platt Bridge.

Ways to Contact Ian McCartney MP

As your Member of Parliament it is very important for me to keep in touch and hear your views.

I hold regular surgeries across the constituency. I also regularly visit local schools, colleges, businesses and community organisations to hear your views.

Five ways you can get in touch with me:

By Letter: Ian McCartney MP
Gerrard Winstanley House
Crawford St
Wigan WN1 1NA

By Phone: 01942 824029

By fax: 01942 492746

By Email: ian_mccartney@btconnect.com

On the web: www.ianmccartney.com

A Bright Future for Worsley Mesnes

Wigan is set to become a major European centre for trade with China after ambitious plans for a textile manufacturing hub were unveiled. At least 1,000 jobs will be created and Ian is working with local councillors to secure job opportunities for local people. Dubbed 'Chinagateway', the development will create the largest clothing and textile industry centre in Europe - a 'textile city' that will be home to a large number of Chinese companies trading with the UK and Europe.

A further 3,000 jobs in spin-off industries will also be created. An international quality hotel for exhibition delegates and buyers visiting Wigan will also be built, along with a direct link from the site to the A49 and M6.

Ian said, "The benefits to Makerfield in terms of job creation are enormous. Makerfield is ideally positioned to benefit from this £125million investment. Our borough, once at the heart of the region's textile industry, will once again be a pivotal player in textiles. I am currently working with local councillors to increase training and skills provision to ensure local residents have the necessary skills to apply for these jobs."

Ian is also working hard to ensure that local jobs are protected as a result of the proposed sale of the Wigan based Tote. Ian added, "It is great news that new jobs are coming to the town, but I want to see established jobs also kept in the borough. That's why, working with Neil Turner MP, we are fighting to secure the future of the Tote and the local jobs it provides in the borough."



Ian is pictured with Tony Proctor - Deputy County Fire Officer

20th Anniversary of Killer Foam Regulations

A campaign led by Ian and supported by Fire Fighters across the country led to the 'life saving' Furniture & Fire Safety Regulations 1988.

The country bore witness to the ferocity and speed of dangerous foam fires made worse by a complete lack of smoke alarms. Hundreds of deaths a year and over 2,500 injuries were recorded with fires an all too often weekly headline on national, regional and local news.

The 1988 regulations have had a dramatic effect;

- 14,000 lives saved
- 100,000 injuries prevented
- Millions of smoke alarms installed in homes across the country
- A furniture industry renewed with £1billion of safe furniture sold last year employing thousands of people across the UK
- The safest foam furniture in Europe

A Lot Done - A Lot More to Do!

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the regulations. Ian has been honoured by the UK Furniture Industry and the UK Fire Services in recognition of the landmark regulations.

Ian is working with Britain's Fire Fighters, the Furniture Industry, Trading Standards and the Government to review and update the regulations and is working to secure an end to the illegal importation of killer foam furniture from abroad and in particular Eastern Europe.

In addition, Ian is campaigning to see 'internal roof sprinkler systems' installed in all new schools as standard across the country.