



## **Dr Phillip Lee MP**

Serving Bracknell, Crowthorne, Finchampstead and Sandhurst

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### **Dr Phillip Lee MP announces his support for UK to remain a member of the European Union**



Dr Lee making his speech on *the UK's role in the world and its relationship with the European Union* at the Frontline Club

I held an event at the Frontline Club last week on 'The UK's role in the world and its future in Europe'. The Frontline Club serves as a meeting place for journalists, photographers and other like-minded people who work in international affairs. The venue echoed the content of my speech, which considered the strategic, diplomatic and geo-political implications of the UK's decision to leave, or remain part of, the European Union. I took the opportunity to explain how I will be voting on 23rd June and my reasons for coming to this decision. You can read the full text of my speech [here](#).

The evening was attended by ambassadors, journalists, academics, business leaders and members of the public. I was also joined by a panel of distinguished speakers, including Professor Mary Kaldor, Professor of Global Governance at the London School for Economics; Griff Witte, London Bureau Chief at the Washington Post; and Professor Richard Whitman, Professor of Politics and International Relations at Kent University and Director of the Global Europe Centre. The panel generated a lively discussion which was expertly chaired by Tim Marshall, former Former Diplomatic Editor and Foreign Affairs Correspondent at Sky News.

You can watch my speech and the subsequent panel discussion on my Youtube channel [here](#).

## Dr Lee Seconds the Loyal Address



It was a huge honour to be chosen by the Prime Minister to second the Loyal Address at the State Opening of Parliament on Wednesday 18th May.

The State Opening of Parliament is the inaugural day of the new parliamentary session. The Queen comes to the Palace of Westminster to deliver her speech to the two Houses, setting out the government's agenda for the forthcoming year and outlining proposed policies and legislation.

It was a tremendous privilege to second the Loyal Address, particularly as the first MP for the Bracknell constituency to do so. I was also especially honoured to do so in the year of Her Majesty's 90th Birthday.

My speech is available to view [here](#).

## Dr Lee holds public meeting in Bracknell on the European Union Referendum

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On Friday 3rd June I chaired a debate on the UK's membership of the European Union at Wellington College in Crowthorne. The meeting was attended by over 300 Bracknell constituents, all of whom had yet to decide how they will vote in the upcoming referendum.

We heard from eminent speakers on both sides of the debate. Professor Julian Lindley-French (a leading strategic analyst, author, advisor and commentator) and Charles Grant CMG (director of the Centre for European Reform) put the case for Remain, whilst advocating voting to leave the EU were Ryan Bourne (Head of Public Policy at the Institute for Economic Affairs) and Anna Firth (founder and co-chair of Women for Britain). The speakers presented their sides of the argument, debated the issues between them, and answered questions from the floor.

As a neutral Chair I organised the meeting to facilitate debate and offer reasoned arguments from both sides. I maintained my neutrality by not declaring my position on the UK's membership until after the public meeting in Bracknell. I announced my position a week later at an event in London, which you can read about above.

You can view footage of the meeting on my [Youtube channel](#).

## Agreement reached on Broadband upgrade at The Parks



The public meeting was attended by so many concerned residents, it had to be held outside the Parks's Community Centre

The prospect of all residents at The Parks housing development having access to Broadband fit for the 21st century has moved a bit closer. This comes as the result of an offer by the estate's developer, Taylor Wimpey, to fund improvements to two of BT's broadband cabinets that serve the area.

I was pleased to make this announcement during a meeting my office organised at the Parks Community Centre, in conjunction with local community leader, Martin Reilly.

The meeting was so well attended by local residents angry at the standard of broadband they currently receive, that it overflowed from the intended room in the Centre and had to be held instead in the car park.

After months of pressing BT on the subject, I am delighted that the logjam had been broken by an offer from Taylor Wimpey to contribute funds towards the £25,000 cost of the upgrade, which BT had previously described as being "commercially unviable".

Stacey King, BT's Regional Partnership Director for the South East and Andrew Rinaldi

from Taylor Wimpey told the residents that they hoped to sign the funding agreement during the next week, at which time planning for the upgrade could commence.

I am grateful for Taylor Wimpey for stepping up to the plate and helping to resolve this issue. I am only sorry that it should have come to this before we can provide adequate broadband speeds to the residents of a new estate in the most technologically advanced area of the country. I will continue to monitor this situation to see if we can get something completed sooner than the current 12 month estimate.

## **100 NOT out. Finchampstead residents head into their second century**



Dr Lee with Maisie Murgatroyd, who reached her centenary year in May

I popped into the Wild Acres Care Home recently to help one of its senior residents mark her 100th birthday.

Maisie Murgatroyd reached the milestone on 14th May and I was pleased to join Maisie and the other residents to celebrate in the Wild Acres lounge with tea and birthday cakes.

However, compared to another one of the residents at the party, Maisie is just a youngster.

Grace Rudder was born before the outbreak of the First World War and will turn 103 on 16th June. Janet Elliott, Wild Acres registered manager, said that despite her years, Grace is showing no signs of slowing down and is still the Care Home's reigning Scrabble champion.

She told me that both her mother and sister lived well into their 90s and that she is looking forward to many more years.

It is encouraging not only that more people are living into their nineties and beyond, but that they are doing so whilst still living rich and fulfilling lives. With the baby-boom generation just starting to enter into their seventies, it is essential that, as a country, we start to plan now how we will look after increasingly large numbers of elderly people.



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