

Dr Phillip Lee MP's Monthly Newsletter



Dr Phillip Lee MP

Caring for Bracknell, Crowthorne, Finchampstead and Sandhurst

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Statement on the 'Meaningful Vote'

The so-called 'meaningful vote' took place in the House of Commons on 15th January, and the Government's motion on the proposed Brexit deal was defeated by 230 votes.

Dr Lee did not vote in favour of the agreement. In a statement following the vote, Dr Lee said:

Throughout the first half of last year I reached the conclusion that the withdrawal agreement the Government was negotiating with the EU27 would be far from the Brexit that the Leave campaign had promised, and the people bought into, during the 2016 referendum. I predicted that, consequently, it would satisfy neither those who voted to remain in the EU, nor those who wanted to leave.

I raised these worries at every level in Government but was rebuffed at every turn leaving me no alternative but to resign my ministerial position in order to highlight my concerns.

Unfortunately, ministers continued to pay no heed to the increasing number of voices echoing my warnings and, as a result, last week suffered an unprecedented and unnecessary rejection of its policy in the House of Commons.

The Government has the ability, the power and the opportunity to rectify the position in which it has now placed the country. Indeed, I opposed the motion of no confidence tabled by Jeremy Corbyn in order to allow, and in the hope that it would grasp, that further opportunity.

Whether it decides to do so is not yet clear – and the initial indications are, unfortunately, not promising.

The Government must accept that the solution is not to say, “it is my deal or no deal.” It must reach out to other views - and, yes, those views may come from members of other parties and none - to see where compromise can be reached. It must abandon red-lines dictated by dogma and instead look at evidence.

And then, once it has reached an agreement that commands the support of Parliament and is acceptable to the EU27, it must put that agreement back to the British people and allow them to say whether they wish to approve the deal or, now that the facts are known, would prefer to remain a member of the EU.

Finally, this cannot be done under the shadow of an artificial deadline of March 29th imposed by a hasty desire two years ago to trigger Article 50. As a matter of urgency, the Government must stop that clock by requesting an extension of Article 50 and, if that is not forthcoming, making a unilateral revocation, which we now know is within its power.

If the Government cannot, or will not, take on this responsibility then it will be my duty and that of my parliamentary colleagues to ensure that we protect the future welfare of this country, and its citizens.

Speaking to Wokingham Positive Forum



Dr Lee addressing the Forum

Wokingham Positive Difference is a networking group based in the borough of Wokingham that brings together businesses, the community sector and local government.

Although non-political, they are regularly addressed by local Councillors and, at their meeting just before Christmas, Phillip was asked to be the guest speaker at their breakfast meeting held in the Wonderful surroundings of Wokingham Town Hall. Perhaps not surprisingly, much of the conversation surrounded Brexit, with the Meaningful Vote that had been expected on the previous night being postponed by the government.

Phillip said:

"Thank you to the Forum for giving me the opportunity - what better way to start the day than in the magnificent surroundings of Wokingham Town Hall speaking to members of the excellent Wokingham Positive Forum."

A member of the forum said:

"Thanks to Phillip for his extremely candid talk on Brexit and the current political climate at this morning's meeting in Wokingham. Fantastic insight, which went down very well with everyone in attendance."

If any business or community organisation is interested in becoming a part of this excellent organisation, please visit their website at <http://www.wokinghampositivedifference.co.uk>

Visit to Bonds Brewery



With founder Dean Bond

Sometimes as an MP it is possible to mix business with pleasure and one such occasion was the visit in December to Bond Brews in Heathlands Road.

Founded just over three years ago Bond Brews produces hand-crafted Real Ales and now have a loyal and growing clientele in a 30 mile radius around Bracknell.

During the visit, the owner, Dean Bond, explained some of the issues that face the brewing industry and showed Phillip the range of different beers they produce. Phillip has since been successful in arranging for Bond Brews to be granted a 'guest beer' slot in Strangers' Bar inside the Houses of Parliament.

Fortunately, local residents don't need to go all the way to Westminster to give their products a try, their shop is open on the Heathlands Road site and you can find the opening times at <http://www.bondbrews.co.uk>

New McDonald's Restaurant at the Lexicon



Declaring the new restaurant officially open!

Visitors to the Lexicon centre in Bracknell will have seen work being carried out for a few months on a new McDonald's restaurant and its opening officially took place just before Christmas, with Cllr Alvin Finch, Bracknell's Mayor, officially cutting the ribbon.

Phillip was there to wish Atul Pathak, the owner, and all of his team in Bracknell very best wishes for the new branch.

Dr Lee said:

"A colourful start for the new McDonald's in the Lexicon Centre! Best wishes to Atul Pathak and all his team at the new restaurant."



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Monthly Newsletter

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