

Your local MP is here to help



Geoffrey says: "One of the most satisfying things about being an MP is being able to help my constituents. People become very frustrated trying to deal with bureaucracy - it can appear there is no way forward. While I cannot promise always to solve a problem, I do promise to do my best to help."

Geoffrey Cox has surgery sessions by appointment in towns across Torridge and West Devon, and maintains his constituency office in Bideford.

For matters relating local government it may be appropriate to refer to your local Councillor in the first instance.

To contact Geoffrey:

Write: 2 Bridge Chambers, Lower Bridge Street, Bideford, Devon, EX39 2BU.

Telephone: 01237 459001 or Fax: 459003

Email: tellgeoffrey@geoffreycox.co.uk

Website: www.geoffreycox.co.uk

Advice surgery dates and venues

Please note that all surgeries are by appointment only. To arrange an appointment please contact the Constituency office

Bideford

Saturday	14 April 2007	10am-11.30am
Saturday	12 May 2007	10am-11.30am
Saturday	02 June 2007	10am-11.30am
Saturday	07 July 2007	10am-11.30am

Holsworthy

Saturday	21 April 2007	10.30am-12noon
Saturday	9 June 2007	10.30am-12noon
Saturday	28 July 2007	10.30am-12noon

Okehampton

Saturday	28 April 2007	9.30am-11.00am
Saturday	19 May 2007	9.30am-11.00am
Saturday	23 June 2007	9.30am-11.00am
Saturday	21 July 2007	9.30am-11.00am

Tavistock

Saturday	28 April 2007	9.30am-11.00am
Saturday	19 May 2007	9.30am-11.00am
Saturday	23 June 2007	9.30am-11.00am
Saturday	21 July 2007	9.30am-11.00am

Great Torrington

Saturday	14 April 2007	10am-11.30am
Saturday	12 May 2007	10am-11.30am
Saturday	02 June 2007	10am-11.30am
Saturday	07 July 2007	10am-11.30am

Support Geoffrey's campaign to keep local Post Offices!

We the undersigned wish to express our concern at the possibility of local Post Offices closing. Post Offices are at the heart of rural communities and we believe that they remain vital to local people.

Name(s)

Address

..... Postcode

Email

Signed

Send to: G. Cox MP, 2 Bridge Chambers, Lower Bridge St, Bideford, EX39 2BU

Useful Contact Numbers

Cut out & keep

For Emergencies dial 999

Devon & Cornwall Police 08452 777444

NHS Direct 0845 4647

Out of Hours GP service 0845 6710270

Fire Safety Helpline 01392 872288

HM Coastguard
North Devon coast 01792 366534
South Devon coast 01803 882704

RNLI Appledore 01237 473969
Clovelly 01237 431224
Plymouth 01752 662623

Water Leaks 0800 1691144

Gas Leaks 0800 111999

Power Cuts 0800 365900

Floodline 0845 9881188

Geoffrey Cox MP 01237 459001

Torridge District Council 01237 428700

West Devon Borough Council 01822 813600

Devon County Council 01392 382000

Dartmoor National Park 01626 832093

Citizens Advice Bureaux
Bideford 01237 473161
Holsworthy 01409 253372
Okehampton 01837 52574
Tavistock 01822 612359
Torrington 01805 626126

Rural Stress South West 0845 6 03 79 06

Jobcentre Plus
Bideford 01237 496900
Exeter 01392 474700
Okehampton 01837 673100
Tavistock 01822 636400



Torridge & West Devon's MP

Issue 2

Geoffrey Cox Reports

Keep up with Geoffrey online at www.geoffreycox.co.uk

Save our Post Offices!



Save Our Post Offices - with local campaigners in Downing Street and ...



in the Constituency!

Geoffrey Cox's high-profile campaign to protect our local post offices from enforced closure entered a new stage recently when he called on the Government and the Managing Director of the Post Office to ensure there will be genuine local consultation when identifying local branches for possible closure as a result of the Government's plan to cut 2,500 sub-post office branches nationwide. He has also pledged his personal support for any branch in Torridge or West Devon threatened with enforced closure.

Geoffrey's fight included welcoming local postmasters to Downing Street and Parliament, where on the floor of the House of Commons he spoke of the indignation at the government's proposed closures and the strong attachment of local people to their village post offices, when presenting a petition of over 6,200 signatures from the constituency to the Speaker. Earlier, with local campaigners, he handed in a copy of the petition to Number 10 Downing Street, as well as thousands of paper hearts to symbolise the rural post office as at the Heart of the Community.

He said; "We don't want a single post office branch in Torridge and West Devon to close. Each one is a priceless asset to the community it serves. That is the message I want the Managing Director, and the government, to get from this campaign."

Geoffrey continued; "Instead of ordering the closure of hundreds of rural post offices, having steadily cut the ground from under their feet, the Government should be making more use of them, by freeing them to offer the greater range of products and services which at the moment they are contractually unable to do. It should make Post Offices one-stop shops for advice and access to government services and local councils too should be encouraged to use them."



Listening to residents in Westward Ho!



Geoffrey Cox at work for you in Torrridge & West Devon

Hard at work, these are a few of the things Geoffrey has been doing at Westminster and around the constituency....



Getting the message across. Geoffrey has been leading the local fight to protect the rural post office network from the Government's massive closure programme.



Geoffrey welcoming Members of the North Devon PPI Forum to his office in Bideford. Geoffrey maintains regular contact with local PPI Forums, as well as with the new Devon PCT, to monitor local health services



Geoffrey donates a prize for the Bideford Sorting Office Christmas Charity Draw.



Presenting a cheque from the Ruby Run to Okehampton Community Transport Group. Geoffrey believes firmly in the importance of community transport and has repeatedly raised the inadequacy of our rural transport infrastructure with the Government.



Geoffrey Cox and fellow Devon MPs presenting NHS Minister Rosie Winterton with a jar of sugar teeth to symbolise the state of NHS Dentistry in Devon. Geoffrey has consistently fought for better provision of NHS dentistry in Torrridge and West Devon.



With "Operation Sunshine" helping to send a container to Africa.



Visiting Bideford Bay Surf Lifesaving Club. Geoffrey strongly supports our local sports clubs and backs improved facilities for them.



Speaking at the Beef & Growing Cattle South West Event at Hatherleigh. Geoffrey has powerfully campaigned for urgent action to tackle Bovine TB, and the plight of the dairy industry, and continues to take the battle to the heart of government. He has been appointed to the Defra select committee and is President of the Rural Stress Information Network SW.



Geoffrey Cox with Modern Matron, Jan Summers, at Tavistock Hospital. Geoffrey is a founding patron of CHANT, which campaigns nationally to preserve community hospitals.



Geoffrey meeting local Nurses' representatives at Westminster. He has campaigned strongly against the cuts in nursing posts and the erosion of local health services.



Buying local cheese after opening the new Okehampton Farmers' Market. Geoffrey has pressed for more government support for local supply chains and locally branded food.



With exhibitors at the successful Winkleigh Renewable Energy Fair jointly organised by Geoffrey Cox MP and local association DARE. Geoffrey is a member of the Environment Select Committee in the House of Commons and takes a keen interest in micro-generation as one way of combating climate change.



Geoffrey meeting members of the Holsworthy Stroke Club at Holsworthy Hospital. Geoffrey closely monitors services for carers in the constituency and has pressed the Government and the County Council for better support.



Supporting volunteers and helping out at Torrridge Poverty Action Group's Christmas Lunch.



Geoffrey presenting the prizes to the winners of the Ruby Half Marathon Run.



Visiting Great Torrington Junior Schools 'Forest School'. Geoffrey regularly visits schools in the constituency and supports them in any way possible. He has continued to urge the government to redress the unfair funding for Devon's schoolchildren.



Geoffrey meeting two of Santa's Elves when visiting Okehampton Hospital. Geoffrey maintains a keen interest in the welfare of our community hospitals.



Geoffrey was present to congratulate Christine Lovelock on completing her epic walk around sites in Devon threatened by proposals for gigantic commercial wind turbines. He has been forthright in his public condemnation of plans to site these huge machines in the sensitive landscapes of Torrridge and West Devon.



Listening to a Consultant at the North Devon Hospice. Geoffrey is a Vice President and keen supporter of the Hospice, which was his MP's charity in 2006.



Judging the fancy dress competition at Westward Ho! Potwallopers' Festival. Geoffrey supports a wide range of events put on by local volunteer organisations and charities

Visit Geoffrey's website www.geoffreycox.co.uk for regular updates