

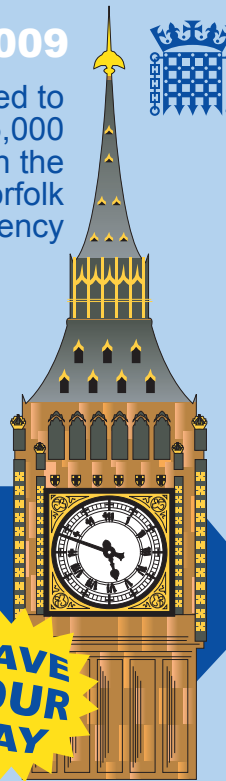


# Mid Norfolk

# WESTMINSTER Report

Autumn 2009

Delivered to  
over 35,000  
homes in the  
Mid Norfolk  
Constituency



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# MP calls for rethink on new housing

**LOCAL MP, Keith Simpson has commented on the Government's proposals for more than 25,000 new homes in east Norfolk over the next 20 years.**

Keith stressed that, while there was no doubt extra homes were needed, it was essential that a "vision" for the developments was in place and made clear to an increasingly cynical public.

### IMPACT

Keith said, "We are going to have to absorb new homes in this area and I think local people reluctantly accept that. The real

issue is how many and how we manage that and the impact on the established communities. Clearly there is opposition to the development of an eco-town at Rackheath and I will be forcefully putting those views to local councils and Whitehall. Will they just get swamped or will it be properly integrated? People want to know if there is going to be improved transport and facilities such as GP

surgeries and schools. But people have become cynical and fear developers will just shove the houses down and all the promises about infrastructure will not be kept.

"What is needed is a clear strategy and for people to know their views will be taken into account."

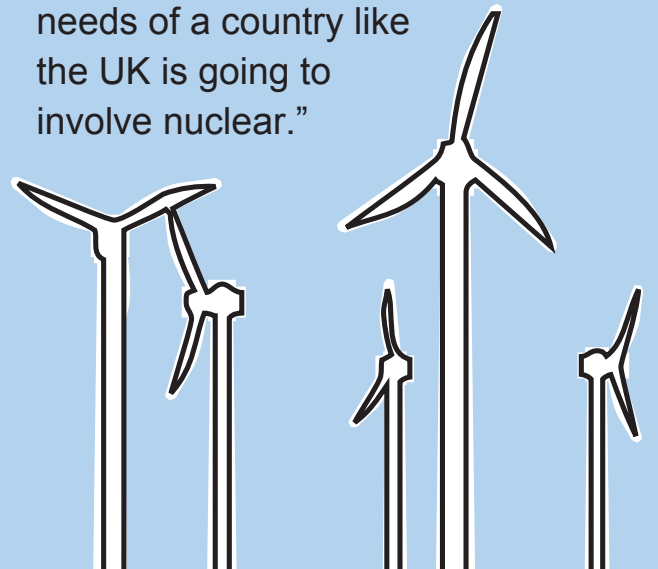


## Keith comments on Government's Renewable Energy Strategy

**KEITH Simpson MP has commented on the launch of the Renewable Energy Strategy.**

Keith and residents of the Mid Norfolk constituency have been campaigning against the proposed onshore wind farm in Guestwick for over three years, with residents having to find the money to challenge it.

Keith said, "I'm not saying wind farms are a waste of time, I think they have a part to play in meeting energy requirements in the future but equally, even if we try to reduce the amount of energy we use, and we can all do things to do that, to meet the growing needs of a country like the UK is going to involve nuclear."



Keith recently met with representatives from The Royal British Legion. Keith said, "I was delighted to meet with The Royal British Legion. They have an important role to play in highlighting the needs of the whole Armed Forces family. I have pledged to do my bit and would encourage everyone to do the same by visiting the general election manifesto website [www.timetodayourbit.org.uk](http://www.timetodayourbit.org.uk) to find out more."

## Keith Simpson MP - working for Mid Norfolk all year round



## Keith's work as an MP

**KEITH** spends three days a week in the constituency; from Thursday evening until Monday morning he is in the constituency catching up on the week's important events, visiting schools, businesses, organisations and councillors and talking to his constituents at his regular advice surgeries.

The rest of the week Keith is at Westminster, representing the people of the Mid Norfolk constituency. On a normal day, he arrives at 8.00 am and has various meetings relating to business at Westminster and the constituency. The rest of his time is spent preparing for business in the House of Commons and for work in committees. Since May 2005, Keith has served as Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs.

## How can Keith help me?

- As well as voting on legislation in the House of Commons, Keith deals with a whole host of constituency issues. MPs deal with their own constituents allowing everyone the same access, whatever their political persuasion.
- Keith will always listen to your views and try to help you with any problems you may have. He is best able to help in cases where Parliament or central government is responsible, such as tax problems, pensions and benefits, immigration, etc. An MP cannot offer legal advice in a specific case.
- Keith can also ensure that constituency matters are raised in the House of Commons, and lobby Government Ministers on constituency matters.
- Constituents should understand that there are limits to what Keith can do - there is no magic wand. For your grievance to be redressed, a change in the law may be required. This is not something that an individual MP can guarantee to deliver.

# MP meets with EDP bosses over redundancies

**LOCAL MP, Keith Simpson recently chaired a meeting with Archant executives following announcements of redundancies at the Eastern Daily Press. He told the meeting that the way the consultation on job losses had initially been handled had been "bad for morale" among senior editorial staff.**

Keith emphasised that although he understood Archant was a commercial organisation, the EDP and Evening News "fulfil an important social role and are part of the glue of society".

Archant executives outlined the financial impact of the economic recession on the regional media industry. They also outlined the threat the BBC and other taxpayer-funded media pose to the regional press.

## MP disapproves of MoD compensation appeal

**KEITH Simpson disapproves of moves by the Defence Secretary to overturn a Court's award of compensation to an injured soldier which he describes as "completely out of step with public opinion".**

Keith added, "Despite the recession, we have a commitment to these men and we have a moral duty to fulfil it." Lance Corporal Anthony Duncan was a Norfolk-based Light Dragoon and was shot by a lone gunman while leading a patrol in Iraq in September 2005.



**KEITH Simpson MP joined forces with Breast Cancer Campaign to raise awareness of for its award winning fundraising event, wear it pink, on Friday 30th October 2009.**

Keith said, "Every year over 45,500 women and 300 men in the UK are diagnosed with breast cancer. Like many others, I know people who have lost friends and family members to breast cancer. I would like to thank everyone in my constituency of Mid Norfolk and throughout the country who supported wear it pink, to raise valuable funds for breast cancer research."

# Keith Simpson visits Commonwealth War Graves in Fromelles

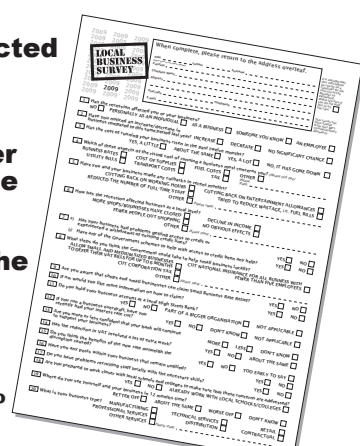
**MID Norfolk MP, Keith Simpson, is a Commonwealth War Graves Commissioner, and recently visited Fromelles, where hundreds of WW1 soldiers' bodies - brave men from Norfolk and Suffolk among them - are being recovered from mass graves. Speaking of the visit Keith said, "I hope that the men will finally receive the honour they deserve".**

## Local impact of the recession

**EARLIER** this year Keith Simpson sent out a business survey to constituents on his business database.

This year the survey concentrated on the impact of the recession and on the Government's attempts to help local businesses. The results certainly made interesting reading, a selection of which are detailed below:

- Only 7% of people who responded said they had not been affected in some way by the recession, be it personally, through their business or someone they knew.
- Two thirds said that they had seen a decrease in business over the past 12 months and over 40% felt that they would be worse off in 12 months time.
- 90% said that the cost of running their business had risen in the past 12 months. Most businesses had taken steps to make various cutbacks in recent months; the largest steps being to reduce wastage and the number of full-time staff.
- Asked about what the Government could do to help them, 29% said that there should be a cut in Corporation Tax and 43% said that there should be a cut in National Insurance for all businesses with fewer than five employees.
- The large majority also felt that the benefits of the new rate of VAT did not outweigh the disruption caused.



Keith said, "I am most grateful to the 177 people who took the time to complete and return my survey. The results provided me with a valuable insight into how local businesses are faring in the current economic climate."



## Fancy a trip to Parliament?

**IF YOU would like to visit Parliament for a tour or to listen to a debate, please contact Keith's Westminster office on 020 7219 4053.**

Full tours of Parliament only take place when the house is not sitting, which is on Monday mornings until midday and on Friday afternoons. Partial tours, which do not include areas used by MPs and Lords, are available for the rest of the week.

When Parliament is in recess, tour arrangements are different. During August, most tours cannot be booked through an MP, and tickets must be brought from the House of Commons Ticket Office.

## The boundary changes explained

**EVERY ten years, the boundaries for the Parliamentary constituencies in England are reviewed with the aim of ensuring that each MP represents roughly the same number of constituents. In 2007 the latest boundary review was accepted by Parliament.**

It is a process that took years, and on this occasion, it has a significant impact locally. The impartial Boundary Commission has recommended that in Norfolk a new seat be created to take account of population growth, and one result of this is that the current Mid Norfolk seat now represented by Keith Simpson is being split up.

Local people now find themselves in one of two seats when the next General Election is called. One seat will carry the new name of Mid Norfolk,

although it covers a significantly different area to the current seat of this name. The other named seat is called Broadland which will be made up of a majority of the current Mid Norfolk seat. Until after the next General Election, local residents will continue to be represented by their current MP.

Keith is keen to make it clear that until a General Election is called, he continues to represent EVERYONE in his current constituency, regardless of which seat they will be in after the Election.

### THE TWO SEATS IN DETAIL

**THE BROADLAND CONSTITUENCY** will have 71,241 electors. It will be made up of twenty wards of the District of Broadland:- Acle, Aylsham, Blofield with South Walsham, Brundall, Burlingham, Buxton, Coltishall, Drayton North, Drayton South, Eynesford, Great Witchingham, Hevingham, Horsford and Felthorpe, Marshes, Plumstead, Reepham, Spixworth with St Faiths, Taverham North, Taverham South, Wroxham; In addition it will cover six wards of the District of North Norfolk:- Astley, Lancaster North, Lancaster South, The Raynhams, Walsingham, Wensum.

**THE MID NORFOLK CONSTITUENCY** will have 68,328 electors. It will be made up of twenty-three wards of the District of Breckland:- All Saints, Buckenham, Burgh and Haverscroft, Dereham-Central, Dereham-Humbletoft, Dereham-Neatherd, Dereham-Toftwood, Eynsford, Haggard De Toni, Hermitage, Launditch, Necton, Queen's, Shipdham, Springvale and Scarning, Swanton Morley, Taverner, Templar, Two Rivers, Upper Wensum, Upper Yare, Watton, Wissey; seven wards of the District of South Norfolk:- Abbey, Cromwells, Hingham and Deopham, Northfields, Rustens, Town, Wicklewood.

## How does Parliament work?

There is a website run by Parliament itself which provides a full range of information about the workings of Parliament, together with search engines that allow you to look up any topic or speech made by an MP. You can find the website at:

**[www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk)**

The Parliamentary Education Unit also runs an excellent website for children and students at:

**[www.explore.parliament.uk](http://www.explore.parliament.uk)**

## Lessons in Democracy

**Keith Simpson is always keen to ensure his younger constituents understand the wonders of our democratic process! If you are a teacher and would like your pupils to tour the House of Commons, please do not hesitate to write to him at:**



**Keith Simpson MP  
House of Commons  
SW1A 0AA**



## MP linked to the web

**Determined to use every avenue open to him to keep his constituents informed of his work on their behalf, Keith regularly updates his own website. The site can be found at:**

**[www.keithsimpson.com](http://www.keithsimpson.com)**

Commenting, Keith said, "Visitors to the site can access speeches, press releases, photographs and specific issues on which I have concentrated my time. I hope you will find this tool of use."

**Keith Simpson MP - working for Mid Norfolk all year round**

# YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

In light of recent interest in MPs' expenses, I have published my expense claims online at [www.keithsimpson.com](http://www.keithsimpson.com)

## KEITH SIMPSON'S MID NORFOLK Digital Communication Survey



As your Member of Parliament, I am keen to know the views of constituents on local issues. If you could spare a couple of minutes to complete this short survey and return it to me, it would be much appreciated. It really is vital for me to know the views of those whom I am honoured to represent.

Thank you

**1 Do you use broadband at home?** YES  NO

**2 Do you think that it is justifiable to charge more for broadband in rural and remote areas?** YES  NO

**3 Has the internet changed the way you live?**  
 YES, AS A BUSINESS  YES, PERSONALLY  NO

**4 Do you think that the BBC TV licence fee is justifiable?** YES  NO

**5 Were you aware that Anglia TV region will switch over to digital television in 2011?** YES  NO

**6 Have you taken any steps to prepare for the switch over?** YES  NO

**7 What is your main source of news?**  
 NEWSPAPER  INTERNET  TV   
 Which one? Which site? Which channel?

**8 Any comments?**

**Data Protection Act** - The answers to this survey will be recorded for the sole use of Keith Simpson MP and his team. The information you have provided will not be made available to any other person/organisation.

**WHEN COMPLETE, PLEASE RETURN THIS SURVEY TO:**  
**Keith Simpson MP (Digital Survey), House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA**

TITLE ..... INITIALS ..... SURNAME .....  
Please use block capitals

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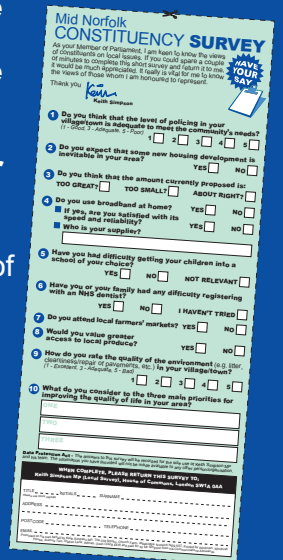
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# Listening to you...

Thank you to all the local people who took the time to tell Keith their views on local issues in the Mid Norfolk constituency by filling in the survey that appeared in his last Westminster Report.



**POLICING** - 45% thought that the level of policing in their local village or town was adequate to meet the community's needs, whilst 55% felt that police coverage was poor.

**HOUSING** - Three quarters of those that replied do not expect that some new housing development is inevitable in their area. Whilst two thirds felt that the amount currently proposed is too great.

**BROADBAND** - Over half use broadband at home. Of those that use it, half are happy with the speed and reliability of the service.

**DENTISTS** - Over three quarters said that they have had no problems registering with an NHS dentist or have not tried.

**SHOPPING** - Half of those who replied already attend local farmers markets, whilst 90% would like greater access to local produce.

**ENVIRONMENT** - 50% feel that the quality of the environment in the Mid Norfolk constituency was excellent or adequate.

**LOCAL PRIORITIES** - The top three local priorities as decided by you are:

- 1) Improvements to roads and traffic (maintenance, traffic calming measures, reorganisation)
- 2) More police on the beat
- 3) Public transport improvements

**Keith said, "My sincere thanks to all those who took the time and trouble to respond to my local survey; it really is very useful to hear the views of Mid Norfolk residents on local issues."**

## MID NORFOLK PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY

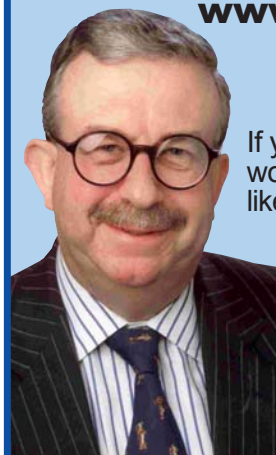
If you need help or advice, contact your Member of Parliament

# Keith Simpson

at:  
**House of Commons, Westminster, London SW1A 0AA**  
 Tel: (020) 7219 4053

or: **The Old Smithy, Church Farm, Attlebridge, Norwich NR9 5ST**  
 Tel: (01603) 865763

[www.keithsimpson.com](http://www.keithsimpson.com)



If your group, organisation, business or school would like a visit from Keith Simpson or would like to visit the House of Commons, then please get in touch. He would be pleased to hear from you. Surgeries are held regularly. To book an appointment just contact his office on:

**(01603) 865763**