



# Sally Keeble takes lead on Lebanon ceasefire

Your local MP, Sally Keeble, spent the final days before Parliament's recess lobbying for clear Government support for a ceasefire in Lebanon - and for better access for aid agencies working in the region. Since then she has continued to press for progress in the Middle East.

Sally worked with Milton Keynes based aid agency, World Vision, to table an Early Day Motion (EDM) which was signed by over 30 MPs from all parties. The EDM made her one of the first MPs to take action on this issue,

which she thinks is one of the most serious facing the world today.

*"The EDM made her one of the first MPs to take action on the issue"*

She followed with a letter to Foreign Office Minister, Margaret Beckett MP, calling again for a cease-fire and for a condemnation of both disproportionate Israeli action and Hizbollah's shelling of Israel.

In an open reply to Sally and people in our

town, the Minister, Kim Howells MP, set out the Government's response to both the political and the humanitarian crises - the full text of which can be downloaded from [www.sallykeeble.com](http://www.sallykeeble.com).

Since then, the UK has been instrumental in achieving the current-ceasefire, but Sally believes the situation needs careful monitoring. She is especially concerned about the upholding of the ceasefire and the continuing problem of delivering aid. She has tabled parliamentary questions about these.

## Review sets out the way ahead for energy

The Government has set out its plans to combat global warming and provide cheap sustainable energy, in its Energy Review.

The Review has three key aims:

- To reduce carbon

emissions by 60% by 2050.

- To protect vulnerable consumers of energy such as the elderly by preserving policies such as the Winter Fuel Payment.

- To secure reliable energy, from safe, dependable and economic sources.

The Government has promised to phase out inefficient electrical goods and create incentives for high energy users such as supermarkets or hotels to reduce their energy consumption.

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### Special points of interest:

- *Pensions White Paper promises better deal for mums and carers*
- *Local youngsters help put Alexine's Law onto the statute books*
- *More investment in green technology*
- *New anti-corruption fund to tackle fraud in the developing world*

## Energy review continued

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There will be help for people to reduce their energy bills. The average existing home needs four times as much energy to heat it as the average new one. However older homes can be converted to be more energy efficient. Sally hopes to get Government support for such projects in Northampton.

The Review also promises a concerted effort to promote cycling, public transport and simple walking over car-use. The Review goes hand-in-hand with a massive investment in public transport.

The Government will also boost

the development of renewable sources of energy through dedicated funding. It aims to have renewables accounting for at least 20% of electricity by 2020 - five times the current level. There will be more support for individuals who want to use micro-generation for example by using solar panels in their home.

The Review also discussed renewing existing nuclear power stations but made no specific commitments. In a recent survey\* in Northampton fifty percent of respondents wanted an immediate end to the use of nuclear energy with the other fifty percent happy

with the present levels as long as they could deliver significant CO2 reductions, reduce dependence on fossil fuels from the Middle East or, to a lesser extent, lower energy bills. Sally has promised to follow closely the debate on nuclear.

If all the proposals in the Review were implemented the UK could reduce its carbon emissions by the same amount that are created each year by the whole of Greece.

\*If you would like to have your say on energy, please complete and return the enclosed survey form.

## Safer roads thanks to local students

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Transport Minister Stephen Ladyman and around ten local young people celebrated the progress of the Road Safety Bill this summer with a reception at the House of Commons hosted by Sally Keeble MP.

The Bill started off as a Private Members Bill put forward by Sally. It was finally adopted by the Government after successful lobbying by the MP and the group of pupils from Northampton schools.

The Bill brings into effect 'Alexine's Law', named after a 17-year-old girl from Wellingborough who was killed tragically in a road accident in 2004. The driver of the car was found to be driving care-

lessly and received a fine of just £500. Alexine's Law creates the new offence of causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving. The new Bill will therefore end the scandal of lenient punishment for careless drivers who cause fatal accidents.

It is hoped the Bill will complete its journey through parliament in October. It has been welcomed by national road safety groups and charities.

The pupils were each awarded certificates in recognition of their part in the political process and their contribution to road safety in the UK.

## Schools for Africa

For the past two years Sally Keeble has been running a scheme to enable children in our town to help children in poor regions of Africa. Each year hundreds of gift boxes are packed up by local school children and sent to orphans and vulnerable children in Zimbabwe, Kenya and Tanzania.

The 'Schools for Africa' project has cross-party support and is sponsored by Kappa, Communicate Research and DHL. The project goes hand in hand with a lesson plan pack for UK teachers to help their pupils learn about African life. Any schools interested in joining should contact Sally's office on 01604 716275 or email [keebles@parliament.uk](mailto:keebles@parliament.uk)

## Our Town *will* be an Olympic winner

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Northampton is pioneering a proactive approach to the Olympic preparations. Local MP, Sally Keeble has brought together a committee of people from the private and public sectors to agree on the town's approach to the 2012 Olympics and how. Barclaycard have supported the

project by dedicating a senior officer to chair the committee. 'The 2012 Olympics present a huge opportunity in terms of business, the local tourist industry, education, culture, health and even infrastructure.' Sally said. 'We are not just going to sit back and wait until the Government offers us

benefits, we are going to go out and find them.' The MP has already had meetings with senior people in the Treasury and has more meetings planned with Tessa Jowell, the UK-Minister for Culture Media and Sport. She is also lobbying regional officials.

# Britain leads the mission to end world poverty

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Northampton's voice was heard in drawing up the UK's policies for ending the scandal of international poverty. Following a local meeting earlier this year, Sally submitted our views to the Minister for International Development so that they could be included in the White Paper, a document setting out the Government's plans for the future.

Since then the paper 'making Governance Work for the Poor' has taken up some of Northampton's points. As suggested by you there has been:

- A focus on fighting corruption

- A better balance between supporting developing country government and supporting charities.

Government aid is now set to increase from the current 0.47% to 0.7% of national income by 2013. This money will target developing countries' essential services such as education and water and sanitation systems. The government will also lobby to make international trade fairer, by for example cutting charges on goods brought into Europe from Africa.

These commitments are underpinned by a programme to tackle corruption in developing countries. Aid will be tracked to ensure it is used for the intended purpose and a new Transparency Fund will be used to try and drive out a culture of corruption where it exists.

Sally has written to Hilary Benn MP, Minister for Development, congratulating him on the Paper but asking for further information on his plans to support AIDS orphans and disabled children. To find out more about the white paper go to [www.dfid.gov.uk](http://www.dfid.gov.uk)

## A fairer, more simple pensions system

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The new Pensions White Paper sets out plans for long-term security for people after retirement. It builds on the progress already made by the government towards ending poverty amongst pensioners through systems such as the Winter Fuel Allowance, the Minimum Income Guarantee and the Pensioner Credit scheme.

The new paper is designed to tackle today's challenges: rising life expectancy; lack of saving for retirement; and the problems facing women and carers who currently loose out. A new pensions scheme will be set up into which employees will automatically be enrolled. It will be low-cost compared to existing pension products and pensioners should receive significantly more on their

retirement due to lower admin charges.

The new minimum contribution towards an individual's pension will be 8% on salaries between £5k and £33k. Individuals will contribute four percent themselves, their employers will contribute three and one percent will come from Government. Pension contributions from employers will be phased in slowly and attention will be paid to the particular needs of small businesses.

At the heart of the new scheme will be the re-linking of the pension to earnings, to be done by 2012. Lower paid employees will also be eligible for a top up to the basic state pension. This will create a safety net to ensure

no pensioners are left in poverty.

The new scheme will recognise the social contribution of mothers and unpaid carers. The number of years' work needed to qualify for a full state pension will also be reduced to thirty. These changes will mean that by 2010 the percentage of women of retirement age qualifying for a full, basic state pension will rise from 30% to 70%. As life expectancy rises, the scheme will gradually raise the state retirement age to 66 by 2024.

Sally Keeble MP will be writing a detailed briefing on this issue. If you would like a copy please contact Sally's office on 01604 716275 or email [keebles@parliament.uk](mailto:keebles@parliament.uk)

## Lobbying against NHS cuts

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Your local MP, Sally Keeble, is lobbying health authorities and Government to scrap proposed cuts in local health services. For the past few years the local NHS has benefited from a huge increase in funding each year. Since 1997 the area has benefited from over 700 new doctors and over 2300 nurses.

However, despite extra investment, the local NHS may cut services to prevent the projected overspend this year.

Sally Keeble MP met Health Minister Patricia Hewitt along with representatives from Amicus and Unison unions, to argue against

sudden cuts in services and for more time for local NHS bodies to balance their books. Sally has visited the services that may be affected.

She will continue to work with the unions and will be meeting the new Chief Executive of the Regional Health Authority this month.



## **This briefing is published by the office of Sally Keeble MP**

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**As your MP, my job is to take up your concerns, and act as your advocate. Please keep me updated with your views. This way I can make sure that the voice of the constituency is heard loud and clear in Parliament and that our Government takes the needs and aspirations of people Northampton North into account.**

**As a Labour MP I am committed to building a strong economy and a just society, characterised by opportunity for all, support for vulnerable people and the chance for everyone to thrive. I take a particular interest in the economy, family finances, law and order issues, housing and pensions and international development.**

## **What's on**

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### **September**

- 9th** Advice Surgery, Emmanuel Church, Weston Favel
- 13th** Billingbrook School Tour of Parliament
- 15th** Advice Surgery, Northampton
- 15th** Minister for Constitutional Affairs, Harriet Harman, and charity, African charity, Afruca, and Sally Keeble meet in Northampton to discuss trafficking of children.
- 17th** Residents' Community Day, Brookside
- 18th** Dawn Primarolo MP, Treasury Minister, visits Northampton
- 23rd** Sally's Gala dinner
- 24th-26th** Labour Party Conference
- 29th** Special Advice Surgery at Citizen's Advice Bureau, Northampton

### **October**

- 6th** Advice Surgery Guildhall
- 7th** Northampton Rail Users Meeting
- 9th** Schools for Africa Launch in Parliament
- 9th** Road Safety Bill- Lords hearing
- 9th** Select Committee for Foreign Affairs holds enquiry into Lebanon
- 10th** Meeting with Tessa Jowell (Minister for Culture Media and Sport) and Jack Straw (Leader of the House of Commons) re. Olympics.
- 10th** Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Bill, the 2nd reading.
- 11th** Debate: Developments in the Middle East
- 11th** Disabled Children's Review
- 12th** Climate Change Debate
- 14th** Advice Surgery at Emmanuel Church
- 20th** Advice Surgery Kings Heath
- 26th** Disabled Children's Report is launched.
- 3rd Nov** Advice Surgery at Guildhall.

## **Lobbying on the issues you care about**

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Constituents have been busy writing to Sally Keeble MP over the summer. Here are some of the issues she has taken up in response:

**Valuing carers.** Sally lobbied in support of the 'Carers Deserve Better' campaign. This campaign has been successful and the Identification and Support for Carers (Primacy Health Care) Bill is now going through parliament.

**NSPCC's Don't Hide It Campaign.** Sally supported the NSPCC's campaign to encourage children to speak out about sexual abuse and called for access to therapeutic services for all children who have been sexually abused in response to constituents' letters.

**Overcrowded Homes.** Sally has been lobbying for years change the law to end the scandal of overcrowding and ensure that families are allocated decent homes that do not require children to sleep in kitchens, living rooms etc. The Government has taken this issue up in its latest Housing Bill.

**Premature Babies:** Sally is working to raise the profile of the issue of premature babies and neo-natal mortality in the UK and world-wide.

**The Treasury Select Committee:** Sally is a member of this committee which is made up of MPs of all key parties. The Committee looks at government policy on the economy and makes recommendations for change. Its current focus is financial inclusion and helping people on low incomes to access basic financial services. It is also considering the impact of globalisation.

**Crime and Policing:** Sally conducted a poll in Northampton and used the results to lobby Government for more protection from anti-social behaviour.

# Energy Review Questionnaire

## 1) Your priorities

Please rank the following points by how important you think they are in the box after each statement. 1 will be the point you think is most important and number 6 the point you think is least important:

No power cuts		Low CO2 emissions		Locally sourced energy	
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Using energy from renewable sources		Fuel grants for young families/disabled people/the elderly	
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## 2) Energy types

Which of the following types of power generator would you be happy to have locally?

- wind power turbines       nuclear power station       solar panels

## 3) Energy saving and recycling

I use energy efficient lightbulbs at home.

- I do not leave my television on standby during the day.  
 When I boil the kettle I only fill it with the amount of water I need.  
 I recycle my paper and glass  
 I avoid food in the supermarkets with excessive packaging.  
 I sometimes buy organic food.

## 4) Nuclear

Tick as many boxes as apply to you:

- I am happy for nuclear power to continue to be part of the UK energy mix:  
 if it can deliver significant reductions in CO2, the gas which is harmful to the environment.  
 if it means my energy bills are lower  
 if it means we are less dependent on fossil fuels from areas such as the Middle East.  
**Or**  I am not happy for nuclear energy to continue to be part of the UK energy mix

## 5) Please could you tell us about yourself?

- retired       working full or part time       full-time carer       student

Please write in capitals

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return your questionnaire to Sally Keeble MP at  
Unit 5 Barratt House, Kingsthorpe Road, Northampton, NN2 6EZ**