

Sir Michael Spicer
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As autumn gives way to winter, I am reminded of how great an impact the seasons can have on our lives here in Worcestershire and in particular in Upton-upon-Severn. Flooding is a constant threat to the Town at this time of year. In this context, I continue to press Government Ministers to provide the necessary funding for raising the bridge at Upton on the A4104. It is essential that a decision is made to go ahead with this for the convenience of the residents of Upton and also to keep open one of the few crossings of the River Severn at times of bad weather.

In the summer I chaired a meeting in the Memorial Hall on policing in the Town. It is essential that local people are given the opportunity to air their anxieties and opinions in a forum where their concerns can be properly addressed. I was particularly delighted that the meeting was so well attended and will continue to keep a watchful eye on developments by working with the local police and the Town Council.

Upton is without doubt one of the most attractive and historic places to live in the West Worcestershire constituency. That is why I have expressed concern at the impact of lorries entering the Town and causing problems in streets not designed to cope with large, heavy vehicles. I agree with the many residents of Upton who have suggested to me that there should be a weight restriction on entry to the Town and I will continue to press the County Council to bring about this measure.

Although 2003 has been a year of uncertainty on the national and international stage it is particularly pleasing that community life in and around Upton is thriving. May I add my congratulations to all those involved in achieving a gold medal for the Town in the Britain in Bloom competition this year. Upton's regular programme of festivals grows from strength to strength.

As your Member of Parliament I am always delighted to discuss local and national issues. Should you have a particular concern please do feel free to write to me at the House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA or attend my interviews at the Memorial Hall in Upton. Details can be found in the local press or by calling 01684 573469. May I take this opportunity to wish all the readers of Upton News a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Sir Michael Spicer MP
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