

UPTON NEWS

Sir Michael Spicer
Member of Parliament for West Worcestershire
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

A great many people in Worcestershire are concerned about government proposals to regionalise the police force by amalgamating certain areas together. I support the growing campaign aimed at stopping what would, in my view, be a bad measure. West Mercia Constabulary is already one of the most cost effective in the country and, as is so often the case, big will not necessarily mean better. The worry must be that a regionalised police force will mean that resources are diverted from rural areas to big conurbations around Birmingham. What Upton needs is more police resources, not less. In this context I was pleased to learn of the appointment of a new Counter Clerk at Upton Police Station. I do hope this leads to an enhanced level of service to local residents.

Just before Christmas I met the new Acting Chief Executive of the South Worcestershire Primary Care Trust to press, as a matter of urgency, for news of the proposed new community hospital for Malvern. From this meeting I was determined to get a clear and unambiguous answer from Mr Bates as to when serious progress would be made on this project. What the PCT does not have is a plan of how to pay for the borrowings it will have to make. I was assured that a draft business plan, which I have been calling for over many months, would be available at a public meeting on Friday 24th March.

It is good to hear that Upton is already preparing a busy calendar of events for the coming year. In particular I was interested to learn of Upton Rowing Club's plans for a summer regatta to replace their annual head of the river race which has been plagued by poor weather conditions in recent years. I am sure this two-day event will attract great interest and support from local residents and visitors alike. The Pepperpot Players also look set for a splendid year; good luck to all those performing in the Pantomime later this month.

As your Member of Parliament I am always pleased to discuss local or national issues of concern. I can best be contacted by writing to me at the above address or by attending one of my monthly interview sessions at the Memorial Hall in Upton. Details can be found in the local press, by calling 01684 573469 or logging on to my website www.sirmichaelspicer.net.

Sir Michael Spicer MP
January 2006