

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

Along with many residents and traders in Upton-upon-Severn I remain deeply concerned about the impact on the town of the restrictions on the Upton bridge as a result of the repair of the viaduct. I recently met the Chairman of the Tourism and Trade Association who confirmed for me the great anxiety amongst businesses, following an open meeting. The situation is serious for many traders in what is one of the most vibrant towns within the whole of the West Worcestershire constituency. I understand that many are suffering from a worrying loss in trade. I am currently in touch with the Minister for Small Business and Enterprise and the Chief Executive of Malvern Hills District Council and Worcestershire County Council to enquire whether it is possible to relieve the financial pressures on local businesses. In the meantime it is most important that the message that Upton remains 'open for business' is re-emphasised and I will continue to do all I can to ensure that the present difficulties are resolved as swiftly as practical.

Tourism is without doubt a vital element of the local economy in and around Upton. It is most important that public amenities are of a high standard and are readily accessible for visitors. I am aware of growing concern over the closure of the public lavatories on the Hanley Road car park and was particularly disturbed to learn that the initial closure had been the result of serious problems associated with anti-social behaviour. It is my understanding that refurbishment of the toilets is due to commence in the near future and I am anxious that the amenity should be available as soon as possible for local people and visitors, without the possibility of undesirable activity commencing again.

As Member of Parliament for a rural constituency such as West Worcestershire, I am very conscious of the needs of our agricultural industry and the desire of many farmers to diversify into a variety of different areas of business. Diversification is often easier said than done and I am supportive of initiatives to try and help this process. I was pleased to learn of the success of the inaugural Upton Farmers' Market in June and I am delighted to add my support to the development of such schemes in Worcestershire. It is a tremendous boost for a variety of local producers to be able to sell direct to the public in this way.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have a local or national issue 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
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