

## UPTON NEWS

Sir Michael Spicer  
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Upton really is thriving this summer! I was delighted to hear once again of the tremendous success of the Jazz Festival. How pleasing that the initial wet weather did not dampen spirits and the event eventually ended up in glorious sunshine. It really is a tribute to the organisers that this annual occasion, now in its twentieth year, attracts visitors from far and wide and a number of performers from overseas. The town really has embraced this event, evidenced by the fact that so many people lined the streets to watch the festival parade and attend the traditional Sunday jazz service at the parish church. Upton has really shown itself to be one of the most vibrant communities within the West Worcestershire constituency.

An indication of a lively community is often shown in the interest local people take in issues that affect them and their families. Upton has a long tradition of being a hub of activity for local parish issues and I was interested to learn of the debate taking place regarding traffic calming in the town, and the opposition of a number of local residents and businesspeople to a proposal for traffic lights at the junction of High Street, New Street and Old Street. There has been long standing concern in the town regarding increasing congestion and the speed of traffic. It is important that a sensible balance is struck between public safety and the needs of local businesses and residents. I will be interested to learn of the deliberations of the Town Council on this matter.

With work expected to start imminently on Upton's new community medical centre, I know many residents will share my wider concern over the future of health care within this area. With the news that the South Worcestershire Primary Care Trust propose to close wards at Evesham Community Hospital, the future of the new Malvern hospital is once again in the balance. I am very much of the view that existing land at the site should not be sold off, certainly not before we know the financial and physical details of what is proposed for the new facility. Some argue that the sale of part of the land would help towards financing the hospital. I am highly sceptical of this view and fear that the proceeds might simply be used to fill the South Worcestershire Primary Care Trust's financial hole and set a worrying precedent for the sale of more land. Later this summer I will be meeting representatives of the PCT to see how best the process can be moved forward. I will do all I can to persuade the authorities of the need to come up with a specific financial plan in order that real progress can be made.

On a sad note I was sorry to hear that the Upton Rotary Club is to be disbanded owing to dwindling membership. May I take this opportunity to pay tribute to those members who have supported the worthy principles of this organisation within the Upton area.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss any 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](http://www.sirmichaelspicer.net)

**Sir Michael Spicer MP      July 2005**