

WINTER 2022/23

THE EDDISBURY REPORT

EDWARD TIMPSON CBE KC MP

Your Member of Parliament for **Eddisbury** *Produced and delivered at no cost to the taxpayer*

COST OF LIVING: HELP FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

A trip to the supermarket in recent months is burning a slightly bigger hole in the pocket each time. With Christmas now around the corner—a particularly expensive time of year—this doesn't pair well with a cost of living challenge. Eddisbury is no exception.

After the April energy price cap was announced, the Government put forward a whole variety of support measures to help with the immediate adjustment Cheshire residents had to make:

- The Energy Bill Discount takes £400 off energy bills for every household in Eddisbury. This automatic, non-repayable discount will be applied in six instalments between October 2022 and March 2023.
- A non-repayable £150 cash rebate has been provided for homes in Council Tax bands A-D: 80 per cent of all households. Also £144 million has been given to local authorities to support those not eligible

for a Council Tax rebate. This means all households will receive £550, with lower-income families receiving more.

- The Government is providing a one-off Cost of Living Payment for those on means-tested benefits—such as Universal Credit, Jobseeker's Allowance and Pension Credit—of £650.
- The Government is also providing pensioners in receipt of the Winter Fuel Allowance a £300 one-off Pensioner Cost of Living Payment, and Eddisbury residents registered for disability benefits received an additional, one-off £150 payment in September.
- The Government has raised the National Insurance threshold and is raising the National Living Wage, enabling people to earn more and keep more.
- Universal Credit recipients are being permitted to keep more of their benefit in addition to employment income.

■ The Government's Energy Price Guarantee is discounting the unit costs for gas and electricity until April 2023.

■ The Government's Energy Bill Relief Scheme is providing a discount on wholesale gas and electricity prices for all non-domestic customers whose bills have been significantly inflated by the global energy markets.

■ The Energy Bill Relief Scheme will include all UK businesses, the voluntary sector, and the public sector — including Cheshire's schools and hospitals. This support is the equivalent to the Energy Price Guarantee for households.

I hope that sets the support measures out clearly for you—and again, please do get in touch if you require any clarification or have questions about eligibility.

For further updates online please visit:
bit.ly/govcolsupport
and
bit.ly/eddisburycab



Sean and Nick of Winsford's stalwart Citizens' Advice Bureau with Edward, joining-up the cost-of-living support they are both providing

GRACIOUS, HAPPY, GLORIOUS: A LONG AND FAITHFUL REIGN REMEMBERED



Her Late Majesty at Leighton Hospital in 1972 following its construction

The death of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was a huge and sudden shock to us all in Eddisbury, and indeed to all of her subjects worldwide.

She was the rock on which modern Britain was built—its very spirit—and our United Kingdom unquestionably flourished under her 70-year reign, for which we will ever be grateful.

And I have no doubt that that same spirit will endure following the passing of The

Crown to His Majesty The King—heavy as it may weigh.

With his family, we continue to feel the loss of Charles III's mother, but must remain steadfastly together as a people—both to support him as a fellow human being, and to help him assume the great responsibilities

that will ever lie ahead of him as head of our nation, his other realms and territories, the Church, and the Commonwealth.

We offer him our loyalty and our allegiance, and many of us are already fond of hearing what is a 'new' refrain: "God save the King!" ■

SPEAKING UP FOR YOU NATIONALLY

BOOSTING BROADBAND

Since his election in 2019 Edward has been working hard to improve access to ultrafast gigabit-capable broadband in Eddisbury — a speed of 300 Mbps!

In 2019, only 1 in 10 households had access to ultrafast internet in Eddisbury, but thanks to Edward's campaign this has increased to 6 in 10.

Thousands more people are now able to access the reliable, quick broadband needed for their personal, professional and educational lives thanks to local internet providers like Kloud9—currently upgrading Kelsall's infrastructure.

"Lightning-fast broadband is vital to levelling up towns and villages across Cheshire, but for too long hard-to-reach areas have suffered from slow speeds," said Edward.

"Whilst there's still plenty of work to do pushing connectivity in Eddisbury, I'm delighted that private investment by companies like Kloud9—supported by the Government's Gigabit Voucher Scheme—has boosted coverage by more than 50%, and connected thousands more premises in Eddisbury!"



Edward, Cllr Claire Deruty & Kloud9 reps marking new fibre roll-out in Kelsall

BETTER RURAL BUSES

Just over a year ago, Edward celebrated the Government's £1.1 million investment in Go-Too on-demand buses Audlem, Wrenbury, Bunbury and Nantwich as part of its £3 billion National Bus Strategy.

Since then, Edward has used this exemplary success to campaign for better buses for thousands more users living and working across rural South Cheshire.

Edward said: "Buses are a lifeline for millions of people, supporting town centres

and villages alike. The Government-backed Go-Too scheme gives people the flexibility to live and work in our rural communities.

"In the Autumn Budget, the Chancellor also announced a series of bus transformation deals to deliver London-style improvements in fares, services and infrastructure in places like Eddisbury."

Residents can find out more online at www.go-too.co.uk.



Edward waiting for a new Go-Too bus in Wrenbury

BACKING BRITISH FARMING

Prior to Back British Farming Day, Edward held another of his regular meetings with Cheshire farmers and growers.

Hosted by the National Farmers' Union and one of its local student ambassadors, Joe Bramall, farmers discussed the pressures they face and the potential for Government support—messages that Edward makes sure agriculture ministers listen to.

The meeting followed Edward's nomination of Stanthorne farmer, Philip Smallwood, for

the NFU's Community Farming Hero award. Edward added:

"I'm really very proud of the fantastic farmers we have here in Eddisbury and rural South Cheshire.

"When I heard about the superb job that Philip does in bringing his farm to young people, the community, and the world wide web to share the vital work that farmers do, I felt I must nominate him for this award."



Edward with local NFU student ambassador & young farmer, Joe Bramall, in Parliament

SUPPORTING YOU LOCALLY

"We invited Yuliia and Maksym into our home following the launch of the Homes for Ukraine scheme, and asked our MP Edward what more we could do to support our guests as they made their way to Great Britain. "Edward shared our concerns directly with Government ministers, and now we're very happy to have Yuliia and Maksym staying with us!"



Edward formally swearing his solidarity with Ukraine in Parliament

Jo Mason, Homes for Ukraine Host, Nr Tarvin

"Edward shows an active interest in improving dementia outcomes, and it was a pleasure to chat with him when he joined us at the Dementia Café in Winsford. I was so impressed to hear that he and every member of his team is trained as a Dementia Friend. Thank you, Edward!"

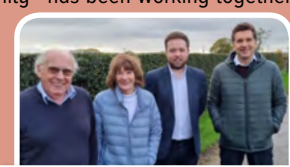
Bill Young, Dementia Friend & campaigner, Winsford



Edward discussing dementia with clients and carers at the successful Winsford Dementia Café

"Our part of rural Cheshire missed out on previous plans to upgrade to gigabit fibre, but thanks to this Government scheme, we've been granted thousands of pounds to enable Openreach to invest in our local network. Edward Timpson MP, Councillor Rachel Bailey, Digital Cheshire—and every member of our Broomhall and Newhall community—has been working together to secure this project, so I'm delighted to say that it's finally been approved! Great teamwork!"

Anne Pye, Broadband Campaigner, Broomhill & Newhall



Edward & Ann discussing broadband improvements with Dean from Digital Cheshire

SOAKING UP SOUTH CHESHIRE TO PERSUADE STRONGLY IN WESTMINSTER



Edward at Crown Farm Quarry to hear more about Tarmac's nature reserve and conservation efforts



Edward unveiling the locally-made Willington noticeboard—replaced after a hit-and-run incident



Edward visiting the new Weaver Vale Housing Trust 'Greedy Pig' development and grounds



Edward presenting prizes to budding young artists who topped his Christmas card competition



Edward with local happiness providers & Snugbury's ice cream owners Hannah, Kitty & Cleo



Edward with Cllrs Charles Fifield and Pat Chimes celebrating Her Late Majesty's Platinum Jubilee



Edward with Mike Flynn, rail planner and Chair of Beeston Castle & Tarporley Station Reopening Group



Edward meeting staff at Winsford manufacturer, Coveris, about plastic recycling and local industry



Edward discussing Tattenhall transport with Cllr Mike Jones



Edward assisting residents on Coole Lane, Nantwich, following a collision on the dangerously icy road



Edward meeting with a wildlife ranger on Eddisbury's stunning Sandstone Ridge



Edward and Audlem Councillor Rachel Bailey speaking with residents outside Boots on Cheshire Street



TURBULENT TIMES: EDWARD TIMPSON GIVES A GLIMPSE INTO LIFE OF AN MP IN AN UNCERTAIN & UNPREDICTABLE YEAR



Edward in the Commons pushing for equal Government support for Eddisbury's rural off-grid energy users.

SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR MOBILE PHONE CAMERA TO SEE EDWARD SPEAK!

Q What is a typical week like as MP for Eddisbury?

A It starts off like any 'normal' job really on a Monday morning—get up, get children up, get children out, get into car, drive to station. But that's about it for 'normal' and 'routine'.

On the train to London I go over my diary of meetings, debates, and votes, and then start filling in the gaps with actions arising from all of my meetings and visits in Eddisbury on Friday and Saturday—be that collaring an agriculture minister after a meeting with local farmers; chasing up ministers whose departments have been slow in dealing with individual constituents' problems—such as Ukraine visas, or ensuring

still a country to run. Keep your head down; do your job; be straightforward with the people who sent you there.

People tried to pull me this way and that during the various leadership sagas, but I made my support clear for Rishi before it all started and stuck with my choice—he's a bright, competent, capable guy. The one exception to all this was when I was appointed as Her Late Majesty's last Solicitor General. This was a brief period back in ministerial office, but one in which I started to restore relationships between the Government and the legal community, and some confidence in the legal system for victims and their families by challenging unduly lenient sentences, and prioritising the way in which we care for victims of crime.

Q What local issues have you been able to raise in Parliament, and what impact has that had?

A Heating oil. No, it's not a particularly sexy topic, but in a constituency like Eddisbury where so many properties are off the gas mains or even electricity grid, it was important to speak up for them as everyone else was breathing a sigh of relief about receiving Government support for their energy bills—both domestic and business. I got to speak on that twice in one day, in both the Commons chamber and Westminster Hall, and appropriate provision is going to be made.

But it's also the issues you raise in the corridors, letters and chance meetings that have the biggest impacts—and of course nowadays, on Zoom. My biggest success here was an unrelenting campaign to ensure the survival of Tarporley War Memorial Hospital—new rural outpatient services to provide in our community, a new clinical structure to provide them lead by the Countess of Chester, and new funding from the NHS to get them through a tough transition. The Hospital has long been at the heart of Tarporley charitably—as

well as medically—so to see it go from near-closure to providing the sort of care our community and the County needs was worth banging heads together for.



Edward visiting Leighton Hospital's construction works for a new A&E

Q How do you relax?

A This is the wrong year to ask that question! I'll tell you in the next issue. Though I've already had the phone call from the London Marathon asking me to run again next year, so the answer may well be training-related! Watch this space! ■



Edward with Tarporley War Memorial Hospital trustees—following his support in securing the site for rural patients

existing projects in my constituency don't get overlooked at a time of global crises—like the A&E rebuild at Leighton and the reopening of Beeston Castle & Tarporley railway station.

Q But this year has been far from typical.

A That's for sure. 2022 has seen a lot of unexpected events.

Q How have these affected you as a constituency MP?

A The key thing is not to let yourself be distracted by the Westminster bubble. Whilst it fills newspapers, the machinery of Government still whirrs — there's



Edward, wife Julia and border terrier Stanley on a Sandstone Trail walk!

PUT THE 'PHYSICAL' AT THE CORE OF OUR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

An Association for Physical Education (PE) taskforce—chaired by Edward Timpson MP—has published a report issuing a clear call to the Government: put physical education at the heart of school life.

"A longer-term commitment to PE funding, through to the next general election—alongside stronger spending accountability and measurement of the positive impact of PE on our children—would better enable schools to plan for and deliver the very best of the outcomes we know high quality PE can achieve for children," Edward stated.

England rugby superstar, Jason Robinson OBE, strongly

supported this view, saying, "PE was a vital part of my life growing up, and gave me so much—playing an instrumental role in the success I went on to achieve in my career. PE has a unique power to inspire, but often isn't taken seriously enough."

The pandemic closed schools and playgrounds for long periods, preventing many children experiencing good quality PE and an active lifestyle—but barely 50% of children were keeping healthy before the pandemic.

"The key solution lies in the Taskforce's central recommendation: establish PE as a core subject in schools," Edward concluded.

"With the right initial teacher training, professional development, funding, and rigour, backed by both inspection and relevant monitoring and evaluation. Then we'll see happier, healthier, and higher-performing kids." ■



PE Taskforce: Edward Timpson MP & Jason Robinson OBE

MINI WORDSEARCH

FIND: MALPAS, TARPORLEY, FARNDON, PECKFORTON, AUDLEM, FARMING, EDDISBURY, SPORT, TARVIN, KELSALL, REGENERATION, WINSFORD, BUSES, HOSPITAL, BROADBAND

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EDWARD REMEMBERS MUCH-LOVED SHIRE HORSE CENTRE FOUNDER

The past few years have been incredibly difficult—for some more than others. The Cotebrooke Shire Horse Centre teetered on the edge of closure during the pandemic, as restrictions made it increasingly difficult to operate.

With the help of their MP Edward Timpson, Alistair King and his wife

Janet campaigned successfully for an easing of restrictions to allow their outdoor centre to reopen to visitors.

Sadly, Alistair passed away recently following a lifetime's passion for horses, but he leaves behind at Cotebrook an extraordinary manifestation of his commitment that brings joy to families across the County and further afield.

Edward Timpson remembered:

"Alistair was a passionate Shire horseman throughout his life, and opened his Centre to share his love for horses. He bred many National Champions for over 50 years at Cotebrook, and while

he had great success in competitions, it was the impact on the Shire breed and his community that made Alistair a much-loved man.

"It is, of course, sad that Alistair is no longer with us, however I know the Centre will continue to honour his memory in caring for this increasingly rare breed, and bringing a calm enjoyment into many people's lives when they meet his horses." ■



Much-loved: Alistair, 'King' of the Shire horses



Edward and family—seasoned Shire horse visitors!

DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN FILL THIS IN ONLINE AT EDWARDTIMPSON.COM/CONTACT?

YOU CAN ALSO GIVE YOUR VIEWS THROUGH EDWARD'S SURVEY ON HIS WEBSITE!

REPORT YOUR EDDISBURY ISSUES

Edward regularly holds help and advice surgeries to support constituents across Eddisbury.

Would you like more information about how to register for a surgery appointment? Yes ☐ No ☐

What issues would you like to raise with Edward?

How would you like to receive updates from Edward? Email ☐ Phone ☐ Post ☐ Text ☐

Name

Address

Mobile no.

Email

Please only complete these boxes if you consent to being contacted in these ways. Complete and post back.

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