

Dear Cllr

Welcome to my latest newsletter. There's plenty to catch up on, with updates from local campaigns and national initiatives to important announcements.

10 arrests and more expected following serious criminality in and around Manea

Rural crime directly impacts residents, their families and their businesses, which is why what happened in and around Manea over the weekend of 25th January was so disturbing. We saw serious disorder and criminality involving up to 25 vehicles. I requested the Cambridgeshire Police Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner attend a public meeting within 48 hours to hear the level of concern directly from residents. As a result, within a week, the police made several arrests, and confirmed more cases were being actively investigated. So far ten arrests have been made, with a number of vehicles and hare coursing equipment also seized, and investigations are continuing at pace. I will continue to liaise closely with our farmers, local businesses, residents and the police to ensure that all those who committed these crimes are tracked down and prosecuted.

The UK must leave the European Convention on Human Rights if we are to have secure borders and deport foreign criminals

Secure borders are essential to keeping our country safe, as is the ability to deport dangerous foreign criminals. Yet time and time again, activist judges use the ECHR in order to frustrate the will of Parliament in deporting those here illegally.

Illegal migrants commonly use arguments under the ECHR, such as the "right to family life" to stay in the UK. The same is true of foreign criminals, including those convicted of the most serious crimes like murder, sexual offences and drug dealing, who routinely use ECHR arguments to avoid deportation. The ECHR was also one of the central blockers to getting the Rwanda plan up and running, which as well as facilitating removals, had the potential to serve as an effective deterrent to prevent people from making a dangerous journey to the UK when they are already in a safe third country.

Whilst in the Cabinet as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, I wrote a paper for the then prime minister recommending that leaving the ECHR was the only certain way to deliver secure borders and tackle small boats crossings of the Channel - but frustratingly it was felt too many in Parliament were opposed. The Government instead sought incremental improvements elsewhere. Free of the constraints of Government, I have been setting out why it is so important to leave the ECHR. Re my article in the Telegraph [The time has come to pledge to leave ECHR, Steve Barclay urges Kemi Badenoch](#)

Wisbech Incinerator

There has been some talk on social media about why I did not go to the developers' MVV meetings about the Wisbech incinerator project. I view this community engagement from the developer as a sham consultation and a smokescreen to justify an appalling eyesore that will pollute the town.

The news that the developer had already made a payment to the County Council rather than the local consultation group, and did so before the meetings even took place, suggests this view was correct.

Instead of playing the developers game, we should undermine the business case for the incinerator by refusing it waste from local authorities.

This is why I have asked all councillors at the county council to sign a pledge to boycott the MVV incinerator. You can see the names of those who are joining me in this boycott and those who have refused here. stevebarclay.net/campaigns/wisbechincinerator

And rather than doing the developers bidding, at the time of the meeting I was instead in Parliament representing Fenland.

Five years on from Brexit

Last month was the 5th anniversary of Brexit which had a particular resonance for me having been the Brexit Secretary when we finally delivered our exit from the EU. This gives our country much greater control over our future, whether it is how we regulate new technology like AI, enables us to re-design key areas of policy such as leaving the discredited common agricultural policy where half of payments went to just a tenth of landowners, or have control of our waters and increase the tonnage of fish our fleets can catch. Please do visit my website where I have written more fully on this issue: stevebarclay.net/news/brexitatfive

Building a New Hospital at Queen Elizabeth Hospital Site in King's Lynn

Building a new hospital on the Queen Elizabeth Hospital site in King's Lynn is hugely important locally, given the damage to the concrete of the existing building, which currently requires steel props for support. Following an engineering report which showed concerns with the current building, as Secretary of State for Health, I announced in May 2023 that a new hospital would be built in King's Lynn. It was also confirmed with the Treasury and senior health officials that funding would be prioritised within the NHS to do so.

Yet the Labour Government is now causing huge anxiety and confusion over when building work will start by saying it needs a further engineering study before any construction can begin. Ministers have not said why another report is needed, how many months the report will take, or how long it will be before construction work begins. As any patient who has visited King's Lynn hospital knows, this work needs to be done as a priority.

There is no excuse not to proceed with the original timeline. I will be asking for answers from ministers and do all I can to ensure work starts as quickly as possible.

Join my new WhatsApp Group

Designed to keep you informed and engaged with all the latest updates, news, and events happening. By joining, you'll receive timely notifications about important announcements, initiatives, and opportunities to get involved. Be the first to know about special events and activities, important local, national news and updates, and initiatives and campaigns that matter to you. Recently this has included my work on better securing our borders, opposing wasteful DE&I spending, and highlighting the overreach of activist judges.

To join, simply click the link [WhatsApp channel](#)

And finally

I hope you find this update informative. You can get more regular updates on what I have been up to by following me on [Twitter "X" at @stevebarclay](#), [my Facebook Page](#) or subscribe to my [YouTube channel](#), All of which are updated regularly with my activities, campaigns and up to date information on both my parliamentary and constituency-based work. If you have not completed my recent parliamentary survey yet, please do let me know your views at [letstalkfens.com](#)

Do feel free to get in touch if there is anything I can ever help you with [contact me](#). I think that is enough for now, thank you for taking the time to read this Roy.

Yours Sincerely



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