

THE EDDISBURY REPORT

EDWARD TIMPSON CBE MP

Your Member of Parliament for **Eddisbury**



CHESHIRE ON TRACK FOR BETTER BROADBAND



Edward connects a home to the fibre network in Winsford

In 2019, local Member of Parliament, Edward Timpson CBE, made a pledge to work to improve broadband and digital connectivity in Cheshire. 16 months later, the Eddisbury constituency has seen massive investment in future-proof gigabit connections, deployment of the Connecting Cheshire fibre contract, and a significant increase in the number of community-led ultrafast builds.

Speaking in Parliament on this issue, Edward Timpson said: "There is no doubt that our national digital infrastructure has the potential to make or break many of the opportunities and challenges that we as a nation have lying ahead of us. The past seven months have simply magnified and accelerated the necessity for every house in every part of the UK to be able to play its part."

are now working with providers in Kelsall, Audlem and other Cheshire villages to build localised gigabit projects.

When Edward was first elected in December 2019, future-proof gigabit broadband comprised only 4 per cent of connections in Winsford. This year we are at 70 per cent fibre coverage, with full completion expected this autumn.

This year, the Government re-launched their Rural Gigabit Voucher Scheme: a programme which provides grants for rural homes and businesses. Some communities have taken advantage of the Scheme, and

In November 2020, Edward Timpson hosted a virtual roundtable for MPs and internet company CEOs to highlight some of the issues faced in Cheshire and the North West of England. ■

HELP CHESHIRE BROADBAND IMPROVE: FILL OUT EDWARD'S SURVEY

To take part in Edward's short mobile phone and broadband survey, click:

edwardtimpson.com/broadband



DEFENCE AGAINST FLOODING

Your local MP Edward Timpson worked closely with communities on the ground to improve the initial response to the intense winter flooding across Cheshire.

Edward commented:

Since I first began reaching out to local volunteers in January, I have witnessed the fallout from flood damage, but by working with parish councils, residents, the UK Government and its agencies, we are bringing together the right people to solve long-term issues in Malpas, Church Minshull and Winsford.



Edward has raised local flooding issues directly with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and continues to monitor this situation closely. ■

LOCAL VOLUNTEERS SAVE HUXLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

At the beginning of the school year, Edward was contacted by a group of volunteers worried about the closure of Huxley Primary School.

With low pupil numbers and challenges arising from the pandemic, the local authority began a consultation to close the community's local primary school.

Working with school governors, local residents and volunteers, Edward raised this matter directly with the council's chief executive and ministers at the Department for Education.

After weeks of hard work, pupils, parents, and residents were delighted to hear that the school reopened this September as one of the first flexi-schools in the country. Flexi-schooling

gives pupils a balance between learning from home and interacting with their friends at school.

A new headteacher and board of governors has been appointed, and Edward is looking forward to working with them closely on their groundbreaking new flexi-schooling initiative. ■



Edward speaks at the Huxley Village fête to thank volunteers for their work

BEESTON & TARPORLEY STATION PLAN GETS GOVERNMENT GO-AHEAD!

An ambitious project to re-open Beeston & Tarporley Station has received the go-ahead and Government funding to progress to the next stage of design.



Edward with Mike Flynn, Chair of the Reopening Group, at the station site.

The project is one of 50 being taken seriously by the UK Government, and the Beeston Castle & Tarporley station could reopen as early as December 2022.

Michael Flynn, Chairman of the Beeston and Tarporley Station Reopening Group, is delighted at the latest news.

He commented: "This is just the start of a long process, but it is a major achievement for all of those who worked so long and hard to prepare an outstanding proposal.

"I would particularly like to thank our local MP Edward Timpson for his

unswerving support and sponsorship, without which this success would simply not have been possible."

The award is for £50,000 towards developing a formal business case.

Eddisbury MP Edward Timpson added: "This is excellent news which I'm delighted to welcome, and it underlines how passionate people are about reconnecting communities. "Improving local transport links

is vital as we level up access to opportunities across the country, reconnect our lives and kickstart our recovery from Covid-19." ■

RURAL CHESHIRE BENEFITS FROM BOOST TO BUS NETWORKS

Edward Timpson has welcomed the Conservative Government's announcement of a revolutionary new bus strategy, backed by £3 billion of investment, that will see passengers across Cheshire benefiting from more frequent, more reliable, easier to understand, better coordinated and cheaper bus services.

Alongside the new bus strategy, the Conservative Government has also announced that Cheshire East Council will receive £1.26 million, whilst Cheshire West & Chester Council will receive

nearly £1.1 million as part of its £20 million Rural Mobility Fund, designed to trial on-demand, responsive transport in rural and suburban settings—such as minibuses booked via an app—where a traditional bus service isn't appropriate.

This new funding will make a significant positive impact on the lives of people living in more remote communities across Eddisbury, by boosting their local transport links, as well as providing valuable insight into an innovative approach to bus travel. ■



Edward speaks to local bus users regularly to hear their views on rural transport

EDWARD TIMPSON MP: THE POST-LOCKDOWN INTERVIEW



Q As well as better bus connections, what are your thoughts on the frequency of the rail services in your constituency, especially for Winsford residents?

A With Winsford growing as a business and light industrial centre, there's a strong case for more regular train services. Winsford Station Quarter plans—if they happen—will increase the local residential population looking to use the rail network. Also, bizarrely, there is no railway station between Crewe and Chester, which makes my bid for the Department for Transport to reopen Beeston Castle & Tarporley Station all the more important. Work continues apace on

the technical case for that. Finally, good bus services can have a transformative role in places like rural Cheshire, unlocking job opportunities, boosting businesses and supporting economic growth. That's why I campaigned on

better bus connections for our villages at the last election.

Q The data for fly tipping in Cheshire West is concerning. What are your thoughts on the issue?

A Fly tipping is the scourge of town and country alike, and deeply depressing. It's also very expensive to clear up. I see it regularly when I'm out running and cycling in our area, and I always report it. It does seem to have become worse during lockdown. Although there are severe penalties for those found to be responsible, it is often hard to trace them.

Q What do you think the impact of better broadband connections will be on residents? Has this issue come to light more since working from home and home schooling?

A Broadband has become a vital utility for us all. But there is a digital divide exposed by Covid-19. Recently I went to see the BT Openreach roll-out of full fibre broadband across Winsford, that is well on the way to being completed. I even got to patch on some of the wiring myself!

Q In terms of home schooling, do you think enough has been done to ensure that children don't get left behind as a result of missing out on in-person education?

A The Government did the right thing in ensuring that schools were the last in and first out of all lockdowns. Huge thanks to all teachers and school staff for doing all they could to keep children learning through those trying periods. I'm also extremely keen to ensure our youngest

children don't miss out, and that we start early in our efforts to narrow the gap and raise the bar so that all children are school-ready when they reach 5 years old.

Q What's your favourite feature of the Eddisbury constituency?

A Completing the Virtual London Marathon in 2020 along the Sandstone Trail, through the heart of Cheshire, reminded me how fortunate we are to live so close to such beautiful countryside, views and landscapes. I also think The Flashes in Winsford are a hidden gem offering many outdoor leisure activities in a natural and peaceful setting.

Q Which local project are you most excited about?

A Winsford Town Centre. This significant, £9.98 million commitment by the Government to the town is hugely welcome. It will also help bring more jobs and investment into Winsford as we recover from the pandemic. ■

WINSFORD HIGH STREET FUNDING BOOST

In a major boost for the high street, Winsford is set to receive £9.98 million of investment from the Future High Streets Fund, following a concerted campaign by Edward Timpson CBE MP.

As one of only 15 towns to receive the full sum that they bid for, local residents are looking forward to transforming the centre into a hub of skills, jobs and growth.

Thanks Edward!

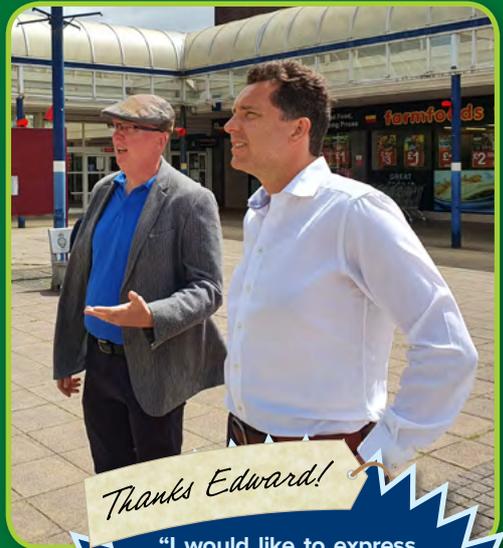
"Thank you for taking time to be in touch about this very important issue. I very much appreciate the time that you have taken to speak with farmers about the very real issues which they face, and I am grateful for the support which you are giving to ensure that proper parliamentary scrutiny is applied to future trade deals."

A.L. (Acton)

Mike Baynham (pictured), Councillor for Winsford Over and Verdin, said:

"This is fantastic news for our town. Having worked closely with Edward and the council on their plans, I'm pleased the UK Government has fully backed them."

Edward Timpson said: "This announcement couldn't have come at a better time for Winsford, with businesses firmly aware of the investment from the Government and the opportunities born of future-proof fibre broadband. I'm proud that more local companies are choosing Winsford to create jobs and investment."



Thanks Edward!

"I would like to express my thanks on behalf of Wrenbury Hall, and the local wedding industry, for highlighting the specific difficulties faced due to the impact of Covid 19 measures in the recent Parliamentary debate. We hope that the information supplied by your colleagues and yourself to the Minister, will provide greater insight and increased understanding, of the difficulties faced by more specialist parts of the hospitality sector. Your support and understanding is very much appreciated."

D. J. (Wrenbury)

Parliamentary Fact



Edward has mentioned Winsford **15** times in the House of Commons since his election!

Thanks Edward!

"As a traditional Labour voter (didn't like Corbyn last time) I thought Starmer would be an antidote to Boris, but this year has taught me a tough lesson. They would have been worse. They would have done longer and harder lockdowns, and removed and kept more of my freedoms. You have my vote back, I am grateful Boris and your party are libertarians at heart. Many of my friends feel the same."

C.J. (Tarporley)

FARMING UPDATE



Edward with Gavin Large, local dairy farmer, in Kelsall.

Throughout the pandemic, we have taken time to rightly thank our NHS, care and shopworkers, but some of the quiet heroes of the pandemic have been our farmers.

Edward Timpson said: "I appreciate the real concerns people have for the farming community, including here in Eddisbury, accentuated by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic."

Following pressure from Edward Timpson on the UK Government, ministers launched the Hardship Fund for Dairy Farmers. This fund has provided additional financial support for farmers impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic.

Edward works particularly closely with the Cheshire branch of the National Farmers' Union—no more so than on the recent trade negotiations where he has argued hard to protect farming businesses from being undercut by other, lower quality agricultural economies.

BREXIT IN BRIEF

■ Five years ago, the British people voted to leave the European Union. Under the Conservative Government, that vote has been delivered on and we are **claiming our place as Global Britain**.

■ Outside of the EU, the UK has more control over several areas, including borders with a new **points-based immigration system**, and trade with **over 70 deals** with countries and blocs around the world.

■ Post-Brexit, and post-pandemic, the Government also has ambitious plans to level up, including plans to spend over £600 billion in public investment; a **£2 billion Kickstart Scheme** already

providing young people with fully subsidised jobs; and a £2.5 billion **National Skills Fund**, which is also offering skills training to adults.

Thanks Edward!

"Thank you so much for your reply. It actually feels like someone in the world has listened and will support me."

J.G. (Winsford)



SWIMMING LESSONS: VITAL FOR OUR CHILDREN'S WELFARE

LET'S PUT P.E. RIGHT AT THE HEART OF SCHOOL LIFE

The pandemic has taken a huge toll on our children and young people. Schools and playgrounds were of course closed to many of them for long periods, and with this went the opportunity for many of them to experience physical education and to be active.

The simple truth is that our children and young people are nowhere near active enough.

This was the case before 2020, and the last year has made things worse.

One of the starkest, and perhaps most worrying, statistics of all, is the proportion of children who cannot swim.

At the end of 2019, 150,000 of them left primary school unable to swim or carry out a safe self-rescue, and numbers continue to rise.

There is widespread support from teachers, politicians, sport stars, parents and—most importantly—young people themselves for more PE, and for it to be a more ambitious curriculum.

The answer to this does not all lie in funding—though it is important.



Edward presents his report on early years support to the Prime Minister

A taskforce I have chaired is calling on the Government to adopt our central recommendation by making PE a core subject.

All children and young people have a right to be physically, emotionally, socially and cognitively well, so that they can achieve their full potential.

Now is the right time to make sure that this becomes a reality. ■

(VIRTUAL) MARATHON MAN

Edward bumping into the BBC's Louise Minchin and Rob 'Judge' Rinder on the Sandstone Trail



Following the cancellation of the 2020 London Marathon, Edward Timpson decided to bring the challenge to Eddisbury and walked over 26 miles along Cheshire's Sandstone Trail.

Working to increase awareness of local charities, Edward and his wife Julia raised over £1,700 for Home-Start Cheshire and over £2,000 for St Luke's Cheshire Hospice. With restrictions now easing, Edward is back to running the London Marathon in the capital and will continue to raise funds for Cheshire community-based charities. ■

MINI WORDSEARCH

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FIND: Regeneration, Audlem, Sport, Malpas, Farndon, Tarporley, Winsford, Broadband, Tarvin, Beeston Castle, Kelsall, Eddisbury, Peckforton, Buses, Sandstone Trail

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?

Name

Address

Mobile no

Email

How Edward uses your information

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