

More power for our villages and towns – and a win in my campaign against Labour’s early release scheme



A record of action, a promise of more

I believe local people ought to decide far more about what is right for their immediate community. That is why I have long campaigned for town and parish councils to have the powers and funding they need to decide things like local speed limits and road safety measures.

I have held so many public meetings in towns and villages all over West Suffolk where there is a clear problem and Highways simply refuses to act. Following my recent meeting in Little Wratting – where the speed limit on Old Haverhill Road, which is little more than a quiet lane – I said I would raise these issues with the new County Council.

A group of people are gathered outdoors in a wooded area, listening to a speaker in a suit. The speaker is standing in the center, gesturing with his hand. The audience consists of several people, some standing and some sitting, all looking towards the speaker. The background features a small stone building with a gabled roof, partially obscured by trees. The scene is set in a grassy area with many trees and fallen leaves, suggesting an autumn setting.

Our fight against Forest City continues in Westminster. Labour ministers have persistently failed to rule out creating a development corporation, with the power to compulsorily purchase and bulldoze homes. This week, I wrote to Angela Rayner, who has been re-appointed Housing Secretary, to demand she rules out a development corporation once and for all.

NICK TIMOTHY MP – “The London developers’ plan is not credible. They openly insult residents. Let’s tell them where to go.”

Your support can help SAVE our area



SAY NO TO THE FOREST CITY





Sign Nick’s PETITION to say NO

Promoted by Sarah Pugh on behalf of Nick Timothy MP and the West Suffolk Conservative Association, all at The Conservative Office, Moulton Road, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 8DY

This week, my research exposed how Albanian gangs are still running their criminal operations from prison. Albanians are the largest foreign nationality by number in our prisons, accounting for more than 1,200 prisoners, followed by Poles and Romanians. But data I extracted from the Ministry of Justice shows Albanian prisoners made 157,962 calls from prison in just six months – equivalent of 900 a day, and more than twice as many as any other nationality. Experts agreed this is because they continue to run drugs from their prison cells.

It is shocking that Ministry of Defence officials have failed to carry out the appropriate risk assessments into the Sunnica solar and battery farm project, which is not only a disaster for the local community but a serious security risk to RAF Mildenhall and RAF Lakenheath. Regular readers will know I have raised this before with Ministry of Defence ministers, in a debate in Parliament, and with the US Air Force. One MOD official even called it a 'wind farm', which suggests an alarming lack of understanding. I strongly oppose this development, and I will challenge the new Defence Secretary to think again.

Listening to you

My last two-minute survey was on Labour's appalling plans to grant early release to thousands of prisoners, including rapists and killers, about which more below. Thank you to all who responded. Over 98 per cent of you believe that granting early release to convicted sex offenders, including members of the rape gangs, must not be allowed to happen. More than ninety per cent believe that this Government is soft on crime.



This week, I am asking for your views on the new Prime Minister. In the last few days, we have started to piece together what Andy Burnham's government might

do: even more spending, with no information about how to pay for it, and the threat of looming tax rises in the autumn. Please take a moment to let me know your thoughts.

Out and about in Suffolk

At a public meeting in Brandon, I listened to residents' concerns about traffic, the state of our economy, and plans to house illegal immigrants at RAF Barnham. I was sorry to hear about how difficult it is for students to use the 86 bus route, which now costs £4.80 a day and is often overcrowded. The Government has just announced a national £2 bus fare cap – reinstating a Conservative policy scrapped by Keir Starmer – and I will push Suffolk County Council for better bus services.



I visited the beautiful 1,000-year-old church in Kedington, which is the oldest of eight churches overseen by the tireless Fr Chris Giles – my own local vicar – in the Stourhead benefice. Labour have stripped churches of the right to reclaim VAT on repairs, which is putting huge strain on their finances. Local churches are a vital part of our inheritance and identity, so I think it is mad – at a time when so many need repairs – that the leadership of the Church of England is talking about paying reparations to Caribbean countries instead of looking after churches like St Peter and St Paul.

I was delighted to visit Clare Community Primary School's wonderful Forest Garden. Most children now take part in growing their own fruit and vegetables, which they consume at school or donate to local food banks and care homes. The project has really brought the community together, with local residents bringing all their apples to make 560 bottles of delicious apple juice and apple cider vinegar – and they were kind enough to offer some to me! I am keen to support them in expanding the scheme to other schools, and I look forward to their next Apple Day on 25 September – the deadline for donating your apples is 10 September.



In the media

As part of my campaign against Labour's early release scheme, I wrote in *The Telegraph* this week about the plans to let rapists, paedophiles and many other serious criminals out of prison early – starting this September. Even the men who brutally killed PC Andrew Harper were set to be released, less than seven years after their atrocious crime. PC Harper's mother rightly called this an insult "beyond anything able to be put into words."

I worked with the *Sunday Telegraph* to expose how police officers are being forced to write 'anti-racism reflections' during compulsory diversity training. We need a major culture change in our police forces – and indeed all our important institutions – and we need to abolish the Public Sector Equality Duty. This is how

tragedies like Henry Nowak happen. We have to return to the principle of equal treatment before the law.

Westminster Life



Nick Timothy
MP for West Suffolk

Why Forest City is still a threat

I brought the fight against the proposed Forest City development all the way to Parliament recently. This appalling proposal to construct a city the size of Birmingham between Haverhill and Newmarket has caused people in West Suffolk a great deal of anxiety about their future and that of their communities. And with good reason. It would destroy our way of life.

Shiv Malik and Joseph Reeve, the London-based developers behind Forest City, call on the Government to establish a development corporation with compulsory purchase powers to back their scheme. My debate in the House of Commons gave me the opportunity to challenge ministers to rule it out for good.

During the debate, Matthew Pennycook, the Minister for Housing and Planning, confirmed that Government officials and advisers had met the developers. But while he reassured me there were no immediate plans to back the proposal, he refused to rule it out entirely. With a change in direction coming for the



A concept image of what the new city might look like

Labour Government under Andy Burnham, I am worried this disastrous proposal will get a second look.

Closer to home, some Labour politicians have confirmed they support this threat to our way of life. During the debate, for example, Peter Prinsley, MP for Bury St Edmunds, told us here in West Suffolk to “use

our imaginations” and support this “shining city ... in the flatlands of Suffolk”.

Local councillors Pat Hanlon and Quinn Cox, both of Haverhill, have also recently expressed their support. Local residents do not want the campaign against Forest City to become party political - and I understand that - but it is shocking

that the scheme has won this local support. Regardless of other parties, I will not stop fighting against Forest City until the proposal has been killed off completely.

And even if the Government will not give us straight answers in Westminster, people can still make their voices heard in West Suffolk. The developers know local people are

not on their side, which is why they have cancelled public meetings and insulted local residents. It is why they want to bypass the standard planning procedures.

To provide all the facts in one place, and help people get involved, I have launched an official ‘Say No to Forest City’ website at noforestcity.co.uk. I will be chairing the new campaign committee, which will bring together experts and concerned residents so we can stand up to the developers. We recently held our first action day in Cowlinge, followed by a gathering at Wickhambrook Fete, where I won universal support for the campaign.

It has been great to meet so many dedicated volunteers, who have gone door-to-door gathering support for our petition. I am delighted to report that we have exceeded 10,000 signatures from concerned local residents who, like me, believe that Forest City represents a catastrophic assault on our way of life. We cannot afford to slow down in our fight against it. I encourage you and your family to visit the website and let me know how Forest City affects you.

I also issued an urgent warning in the *Haverhill Echo* about Forest City. We cannot afford to slow down in our fight against it. If you have not already done so, I encourage you and your family to visit our new ‘Say No to Forest City’ campaign website at noforestcity.co.uk and join the more than 10,000 residents who have signed my petition.

Scrutinising the Government

Thanks to our pressure, Andy Burnham has said he will “pause” Labour’s early release scheme. But the releases must go ahead on 2 September – the day after the House of Commons returns from summer recess – unless Parliament urgently changes the law. In a letter to the new Justice Secretary, Alex Norris, I asked him why the Government has given no clarity about what this “pause” will mean. I have proposed emergency legislation to keep these criminals behind bars – before it is too late.

This week I worked with *The Times* to expose how Labour’s effective abolition of short-term sentences means serious criminals are getting away with no custodial punishment at all. By refusing to jail criminals for sentences of less than a year, the Government has effectively legalised crimes like shoplifting, and made sure most knife criminals will avoid being locked up.

Shoplifters and knife-wielders 'spared jail' by Labour changes

Serious criminals are being given suspended sentences under laws passed in the same bill as the early release scheme that Andy Burnham has paused



Prison sentences of less than a year are now being suspended automatically, The Times has been told

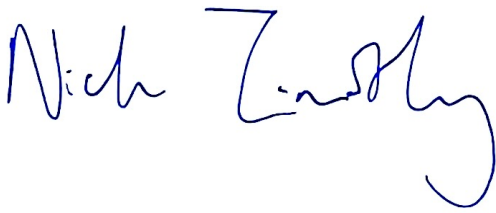
I am pleased that both David Lammy, my opposite number as Justice Secretary, and Lord Hermer, the Attorney General, were sacked this week. Hermer is the man who chased British soldiers through the courts, even though he knew they had almost certainly done nothing wrong. And Lammy was the man behind Labour's attack on jury trials – an ancient English right. Under Lammy, the Ministry of Justice was prepared to go to court to avoid answering my questions about sex crime rates of foreign offenders by nationality. Will Alex Norris, the new Justice Secretary, tell the country the truth?

Surgeries and support

Parliament has now risen for its summer recess, returning in September, and so I am looking forward to spending even more time listening to you in West Suffolk. If you need any help at all you can reach me at nick.timothy.mp@parliament.uk

And if you know anyone who you think might welcome receiving this email, please do forward this onto them and mention that they can sign up by writing to nick@nicktimothy.com

Very best wishes



Nick Timothy
MP for West Suffolk

**PS Please click here to sign my
petition to STOP the Forest City if
you have not already
done so. Many thanks**

Nick Timothy

Member of Parliament for West Suffolk

Published and promoted by Nick Timothy MP, all at The Conservative Office,
Moulton Road, Newmarket, Suffolk, CB8 8DY

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