



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

**PADDY TIPPING LABOUR MP FOR SHERWOOD**

July 08

Newark Advertiser Article

Local young people have been giving me a tough time lately. Nevertheless, it has been a positive and rewarding experience. In recent weeks I've responded to concerns and invitations from three Nottinghamshire primary schools to meet pupils.

Pupils at the Crompton View Primary School in Bilsthorpe are concerned about development issues. They want every child wherever they live in the world to have the opportunity to read. They made a great case, both in education and economic terms. The school has links in Kenya. They've been running a great campaign and were concerned that their voice was heard in Westminster and Whitehall. Progress is being made but action is urgently needed, a child is only young once. The amount of development aid has more than doubled under this Government. It's important to see it properly focused – young people are a vital forum.

Environmental issues were top of the list for the School Council at Halam Primary School. Waste and cardboard used to be collected and recycled from the school with Nottinghamshire county Council meeting the costs. Unfortunately, The County Council decided to withdraw financial support to the scheme Newark and Sherwood District Council were unable to take it on.

At present some of the pupils are taking paper and cardboard back home with them so that it can be put in the recycling bin there. In the long term this isn't sustainable and collection from the school need to be restarted.

We spent a long time discussing the importance of recycling. Paper and cardboard is a resource not a waste. It shouldn't be dumped in landfill sites. More particularly, we try to devise a strategy to get the recycling restarted. There's a short term difficulty but perhaps next year Newark and Sherwood District Council will pick up the scheme.

Representatives of the Council would do well to visit the school themselves to hear directly from the young people.

And perhaps the leader of Newark and Sherwood District Council, Councillor Tony Roberts would like to visit Lakeview Primary School in Rainworth. The pupils here can't understand why later this year the Council plans to close their local leisure centre a swimming baths at the neighbouring Joseph Whitaker School. The Council have announced all kinds of explanations but

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they won't wash with the young people. At the end of the day, they know the swimming pool is being closed quite simply to save money.

Pupils point out that swimming is a valuable activity. In the long run it will save rather than cost money. What's more they want to see representatives of the Council and the school sitting down for meaningful discussions about keeping the pool open rather than blaming each other.

I agree. The Government has just announced extra funding for swimming. I've written to the council asking if they intend to take it up but still await a reply.

It's all too easy to focus the problems caused by young people but lets be clear that they are a power for good. Investing in young people is a sound investment for a better future for us all.

Finally, our schools break for their summer holiday next week. I want to thank all school staff for their hard work and commitment. Exciting young people's imagination, making them challenge existing thinking requires skill and dedication. Looking after our children is a top priority. We simply don't thank school staff enough.

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