

Emily Thornberry MP

ISLINGTON SOUTH AND FINSBURY

May 2023 Report



Local elections victory

On 4 May, local elections took place across parts of England. In the weeks running up to the elections I was busy talking to voters across the country about Labour's plans for the cost-of-living, the NHS, and tackling crime - the issues people really care about.

That included knocking on hundreds of doors in places including Redcar, Brighton, Swindon, Folkestone, Gravesham, Ramsgate, Milton Keynes, and Derby. Meanwhile, the Tory campaign was almost non-existent as they avoided facing voters' fury about thirteen years of chaos and incompetence.

It was amazing to see such a fantastic result, with Labour gaining 537 seats and seizing control of 22 councils, while the Tories suffered a devastating loss of 1063 seats. It's a brilliant reflection of the hard work put in by so many Labour campaigners, including many from our CLP who travelled the country and contributed so much to this win.

These results show a clear path to a Labour majority at a general election, with Labour winning again in the parts of the country we need to. That includes victories in bellwether seats like Swindon, Medway, and Plymouth, seismic victories in traditional Tory strongholds like Bracknell Forest and Aldershot, and a hugely symbolic win in Dover.

With Labour now the largest party in local government for the first time since 2002, we are well on the way to a general election victory. As I said to the BBC the next day "we have a mountain to climb" and this is just a basecamp but the view is pretty good!



Campaigning in Ramsgate



Braving the weather campaigning in Brighton



Getting out the vote on polling day in Derby



Celebrating the Coronation in Islington



The first of many cardboard cutouts at St Luke's



Some of the incredible cakes at Offord Road



With the organisers at Offord Road's street party



With the women of King Square Garden



The Coronation bank holiday weekend was glorious – it was fantastic watching such a special moment in history take place, and of course getting to experience Islington's community get together and sampling plenty of cake. We even got some sunny weather for Coronation street parties on the Sunday!

I travelled the width and breadth of the constituency, fitting in eight coronation street parties. It was a wonderful showcase of the strength of community in Islington as people got together, showing off their baking and musical skills, and setting up beautiful street scenes of bunting, cardboard cut-outs of the King, and even exhibitions on local history.

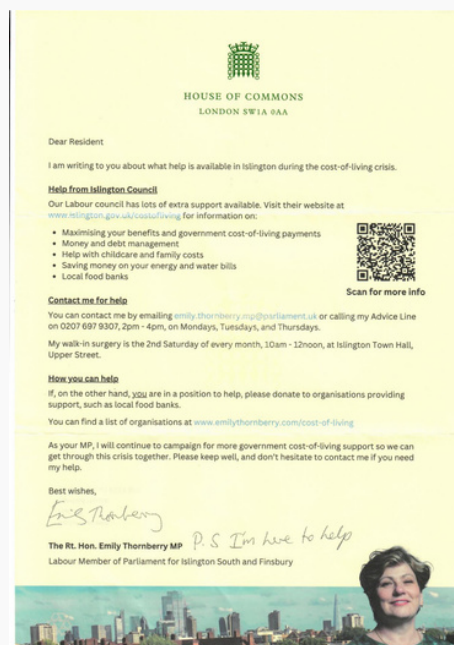
Over the course of the day, I judged a dog show in Almorah Road, got to see a fantastic new community garden on Penn Road, and met a local artist who does beautiful drawings of local landmarks. What a fabulous moment for our thriving community to get together and celebrate.

Letter to constituents on the cost-of-living

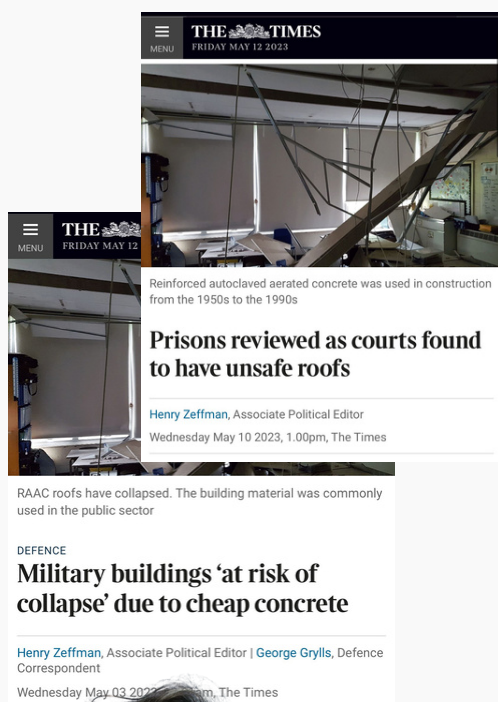
As a Labour MP, my first priority will always be campaigning for a fairer society that protects the most vulnerable. With inflation running at 10% and food price inflation almost double that, I know that there are many in our community who are really struggling, yet some remain unaware of the support that is available to them.

That's why this month I have written to almost 15,000 constituents, with plans to write to 5,000 more, setting out what help is available from Islington Council, my constituency office, and from fantastic local charities and voluntary organisations.

I've also set up a dedicated page on my website that signposts more information about cost-of-living support, and information about how to donate to local community causes. You can access it by [clicking here](#) for more information.



Dangerous materials used in public buildings



This month I used written parliamentary questions to ask the government about the presence of reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) in public buildings including military facilities, police and fire stations, courts, and prisons. There is serious cause for alarm about RAAC, which is prone to crumbling, following the collapse of a primary school roof in Stevenage in 2018, thankfully at a time when the school was empty.

Unfortunately, the answers given to me by the government are far from satisfactory. It is extremely concerning that we are still seeing the same complacency and buck-passing that we have previously seen from ministers in relation to RAAC in schools and hospitals. Ministers must urgently begin assessments of our public buildings, because we should not have to wait until tragedy strikes again for them to wake up to the need for action.

You can read more about this issue in The Times [here](#) and [here](#).



Meeting with Islington police chief

Earlier in the month I visited Chief Superintendent Andy Carter at Islington Police Station to discuss some of the ongoing issues many constituents are facing in the community.



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

In the wake of Baroness Casey's Review of the Metropolitan Police that found shocking examples of racism, homophobia and misogyny, and other examples of toxic culture, our meeting was a good opportunity for me to highlight these issues and seek assurances that the review is being taken seriously at a local level. I was also able to highlight some of the many issues that constituents raise with me regularly such as antisocial behaviour and the rise of drug dens.

Visit to Highbury and Islington Station



This month I had the pleasure of visiting the hardworking team at Highbury and Islington Station. The visit was prompted by reports from constituents of crime at the station, so it was reassuring to hear from staff about the action they're taking to deal with this issue.

London is the engine of Britain's economy, and Transport for London is the engine of the engine; it was fascinating to discuss the security measures taken to ensure that this vital station in the constituency, seeing over 300,000 passengers a day, runs as it should.

At the end of my visit I tested my skills at monitoring load levels of the tube carriages, an incredibly important job for managing congestion and more so on matchdays, it is also a dream for train nerds! Do you know about the wonderful Islington Bookswap Scheme also operates in the station? Passengers can swap their book for a new one without charge.



← Meeting station staff and learning about the technology that keeps London moving.



Diary

Constituency

April

17 April - Met the Metropolitan Police Islington Borough Commander to discuss drug dens
17 April - Visit to Highbury and Islington Station to discuss action on antisocial behaviour
21 April - St Luke's constituency surgery
21 April - Fundraiser in Middlesbrough for Andy McDonald MP
21 - 23 April - Local elections campaigning in Redcar
26 April - CLP Annual General Meeting
27 April - Local elections campaigning in Brighton
30 April - Local elections campaigning in Thanet

May

1 May - Local elections campaigning in Folkestone
4 May - Get out the vote campaigning in Derby
5 May - St Luke's constituency surgery
7 May - Attended eight coronation street parties
10 May - 900th Anniversary of St Bart's Hospital events
13 May - Town Hall surgery
15 May - Islington Labour Environmental Forum meeting

Parliament and Shadow Attorney General

April

19 April - Parliamentary drop-in event on Sarcoma cancer in young people
24 April - Meeting with Royal United Services Institute to discuss fraud
26 April - Meeting about sanctions against Russia

May

2 May - King and Queen in parliament
9 May - Briefing from the Foreign Office about Russia sanctions
10 May - Meeting about sanctions against Russia

Media

April

20 April - BBC News, Sky News, and ITV News

May

3 May - BBC Politics Live
3 and 10 May - Articles in The Times after my PQs about the use of RAAC in public buildings
5 May - BBC Politics Live local election results special
5 May - Afternoon media round including BBC 5 Live, LBC, BBC Radio 4, and Sky News
7 May - Politics Live London
10 May - ITV Peston



[Online viral video hit](#): Campaigning like I'm in a Wes Anderson film

