

Subject: News Bulletin from Aidan Burley MP #9

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Since the last edition, Aidan has:

- Questioned Environment Secretary Caroline Spelman MP during her statement on **forests**, repeating his **call for Cannock Chase to be given 'Heritage' status**.
- Taken assembly at **Western Springs Community Primary School** in Rugeley, where he congratulated the school on receiving the 2010/2011 Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) award for Excellence in Innovation.
- Opened the newly refurbished **Mercian Labels Group** site in Cannock.
- Visited **Cannock Market**, where he spent time with traders, discussing the work they do including their regular fundraising for local charities.
- Voted against giving the **vote to prisoners** in the vote in the House of Commons. 234 MPs voted like Aidan against votes for prisoners, 22 were in favour.
- Been appointed as the new Conservative Party trustee for the **UK Youth Parliament**.
- Questioned the Home Secretary over the **Sex Offenders Register**.
- Called on **Premiership football clubs** to foot the whole **policing bill** for their matches – which was covered in the Express & Star newspaper.
- **Warned local residents of scams** going on in the area with posters in the windows of the MP Help Zone in Cannock.

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- Welcomed new **work experience** student Janet Hipkiss to the MP Help Zone. If you know someone who would like to do a work experience placement in the MP Help Zone, contact Aidan at aidan.burley.mp@parliament.uk or call 01543 502 447.

Website of the Week:

www.westmidlandslupus.co.uk

**The website of West Midlands Lupus Group.
WMLG exists to help all sufferers of Systemic Lupus
Erythematosus (Lupus) in any way necessary, to raise funds
to help finance vital medical research into lupus and to
provide patient services.**

MP fights on for Cannock Chase 'Heritage' status

Chase MP, Aidan Burley, has pledged to keep up his fight to protect Cannock Chase by having it ranked alongside Sherwood Forest and the Forest of Dean as a 'Heritage' forest.

His promise to local people followed the Government's decision to suspend a consultation on the future of the Public Forestry Estate.

Aidan has been leading a campaign of 5 Staffordshire MPs from across all parties who were seeking to have Cannock Chase awarded 'Heritage' status - placing it amongst the first tier of England's forests and ensuring maximum protection for access.

Commenting Aidan said: *"Without Heritage status there is a danger that we could be in the same position as we were under the Labour government with no specific protections for access."*

Aidan's campaign to secure 'Heritage' status was praised in the House of Commons by the Environment Secretary, Rt. Hon. Caroline Spelman MP. She stated that Aidan had done "an admirable job in speaking up for Cannock Chase" and confirmed that as a result the new Independent Review Panel would actively consider Cannock Chase for 'Heritage' status over the coming months.

Aidan added: *"I was delighted to get such an encouraging reply from the Secretary of State; this suggests to me that we are firmly on the right track but we need to keep pressing."*

"I came in for some criticism for suggesting that the Government had not already made up its mind and that people should contribute to the consultation in order to get their views across. I am pleased to say that this is what has happened - the government has listened to our comments and has changed its mind. My campaign now seeks to secure Cannock Chase for future generations – ensuring public access will never be compromised."

In the exchange in the House of Commons Aidan asked the Secretary of State: *"Under the policy of the last Labour government Cannock Chase could have been sold off without any protection for access whatsoever. This would have been completely reversed by the granting of Heritage status under her previous proposals. The people of Cannock Chase will rightly feel that today's decision leaves*

the forest as exposed as it previously was under Labour. What reassurances can the Secretary of State give that the granting of Heritage status will remain an option for the independent panel, and that there are no plans, or never were any plans, to sell off Cannock Chase?"

In her response Caroline Spelman MP said: *"Well I can give my hon. Friend my absolute assurance that we, as ministers, have said many times that we wish to protect access and public benefits. But he has done an admirable job speaking up for Cannock Chase and I certainly encourage the independent panel to look at this issue of heritage forest and he has made a very strong case for Cannock Chase to be considered as part of the heritage forest and I'm sure that all of the people that he represents will thank him the more for that."*

You can watch Aidan's question to Caroline Spelman below (begins at 0:48.17):



Chase MP congratulates local primary school for collecting prestigious award



Aidan Burley MP taking assembly at Western Springs Community Primary School in Rugeley.

Aidan visited Western Springs Community Primary School in Rugeley and took its assembly last week after learning that the school had won the 2010/2011 Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) award for Excellence in Innovation.

The LOtC Awards for Excellence and Innovation, which are sponsored by TUI Education Division, are awarded to schools that have a strong commitment to providing an innovative curriculum that offers its pupils real-world, practical experiences. Aidan's trip to the school follows a few months after Prime Minister David Cameron visited the school during the general election campaign.

Commenting Aidan said: *"This award demonstrates the school's fresh and creative approach to giving its pupils hands-on experience."*

"So I was delighted to meet with Deputy Head Teacher Simon Robson and present all staff and pupils with a letter offering my congratulations. It was a real treat to be asked to take the school assembly, if a little nerve-wracking – televised debates in the Commons Chamber are no preparation for holding an assembly with more than 140 primary school children!"

"I would just like to say well done again to the diligent staff at Western Springs for their hard work in gaining this award; and it was an absolute pleasure to meet them and their pupils last week."

Deputy Head Simon Robson added: *"Winning the award was a huge achievement for the school. It was a great honour to have Aidan recognise all the hard work of both staff and pupils. Whilst Aidan was with us he took morning assembly, which all of the children loved."*

MP welcomes new Welfare Reform Bill

Aidan Burley has welcomed the Government's shake up of the welfare system, the most radical in 60 years. The Welfare Bill and Work Programme deliver on a number of Conservative election promises to mark the beginning of a new era of 21st century welfare.

At the election, the Conservatives promised to work to reduce the high marginal tax rates faced by people on low incomes who want to return to work or increase their earnings. The Welfare Bill the Government introduced this week delivers on that promise. The Universal Credit will simplify the system, ensuring it will always pay to work.

The Conservatives also made a promise to impose sanctions to remove benefits from those who will not take work when it is offered and they have delivered on that promise as well. If you're unemployed and refuse to take either a reasonable job or to do some work in your community in return for your unemployment benefit, you will lose your benefits for three months.

The Government will also ensure fairness for taxpayers by introducing an annual cap ensuring no family can get more in benefits than the average family earns by going out to work.

Commenting, Aidan said: *"The current benefits system costs every working family in Cannock Chase £3,000 a year. The reforms announced in this Welfare Bill show that this Government is on the side of people who want to get ahead. It is morally wrong that people should be better off, on benefits, than in work and paying taxes. These new measures will get people into work whilst"*

supporting the most vulnerable in society."

Aidan opens newly refurbished Mercian Labels Group site



Aidan Burley MP opening the newly refurbished Mercian Labels Group site in Cannock.

Aidan Burley MP has formally opened local label manufacturer Mercian Labels Group's newly refurbished factory after a £1m, three-year investment programme.

The investment included R&D, the development of company brands, and the purchase of a Xeikon digital press and two Edale presses. A further four jobs have also been created at the £2.5m-turnover Cannock-based site, which now has 23 staff, in the past 12 months.

Adrian Steele, Mercian Labels managing director, said: *"Last year, Mercian Labels reached a landmark following 40 years of printing self-adhesive labels.*

"The past 10 years have been spent in our purpose-built factory and offices in Cannock, and we felt it fitting that our latest investment programme concluded with a makeover that creates an even better working environment for our growing number of local employees."

Mercian Labels was formed in 1969 and prints self-adhesive labels in medium and short runs for UK businesses.

MP goes to market



Aidan with Margaret Lavender, a local Cannock trader and member of the National Market Traders Federation during a recent visit to Cannock Market.

Chase MP Aidan Burley recently took a stroll around Cannock Market and used the opportunity to highlight their important role in the community.

Aidan spent time with traders, discussing the work they do including their regular fundraising for local charities. During the visit, Aidan also met with Margaret Lavender, a local Cannock trader and member of the National Market Traders Federation.

The 44 market stalls in Cannock town centre are celebrating their 40th birthday next year; however some retail markets have struggled in recent years. A combination of out-of-town supermarkets, the recession and internet shopping all take their toll on market sales.

In order to help retain local markets, the Government has announced a trio of measures in conjunction with the industry, to support existing markets and help potential enterprising traders get started. This includes a practical advice guide for markets, highlighting their benefits, areas of good practice and pointing traders to more detailed information on specific concerns.

Aidan said: "Despite some markets struggling, the 1,100 retail and 600 Farmers markets operating in the UK today turnover in excess of £3.5 billion a year, supporting almost 100,000 jobs. It was great to visit Cannock market and chat with traders and customers about this important local enterprise."

He added: "A well run market can be a hub of social activity, a centre of community enterprise, tourist asset and a meeting point for local people. I believe markets have a key role in helping to build stronger communities."

Margaret Lavender added: "We are delighted that Aidan has shown his support to the market traders of Cannock. Aidan took great interest in the work that the traders do including the fundraising for local charities. People of Cannock Chase keep the market going and are excellent customers showing great support. We look forward to working with Aidan in the future for the support of Cannock Market."

Aidan Burley MP seeks unsigned musical talent

Aidan Burley has called for unsigned bands and venues across Cannock Chase to take part in 'Rock the House', a live music event to celebrate the British music industry.

Described by Mike Weatherley MP as a "music competition with a political twist" Rock the House intends to support unsigned bands and artists whilst raising political awareness of the importance of music and other creative businesses in the UK.

Supported by a myriad of big names within music, including key sponsors UK Music and Future Publishing, the competition has already attracted significant interest from a number of chart toppers.

Both bands and music venues are invited to enter themselves, via their MP, who will make nominations to a judging panel of music industry heavyweights on behalf of their own constituencies.

Entries can be submitted until the closing date of 31st March 2011. Further details and the official application form are available online at: www.rockthehouse.me.uk and winners will be announced by the end of May.

Commenting Aidan said: *"Music is hugely important to this country and it is imperative therefore to ensure that the UK's composers, artists and musicians can continue to dominate the world stage. I believe it is vital that we recognise the role of intellectual property in enabling artists to generate an income, the significant contribution that music sales make to the British economy, and our continued development of new talent."*

Recession brings new employment to Cannock



From left to right: Councillor Danny Davies and Bob Phillips (Cannock Chase District Council), Aidan Burley MP, Ian Middleton and Brian Francis (ThyssenKrupp Tallent), Glenn Watson (Cannock Chase District Council) and John Dunn (ThyssenKrupp Tallent).

German owned automotive group Thyssenkrupp Tallent have completed a major investment project to relocate production facilities to Cannock following re-structuring within the Group. The additional work at the site has led to 150 new jobs at a much needed time for the Cannock community. The Company manufactures presswork and welded assemblies for the automotive industry including most major car brands such as BMW, Honda, Nissan and Toyota and is a leading supplier in the automotive sector both home and abroad.

Due to restructuring plans within the group, the site management was under considerable pressure to move quickly with relocation

works and thanks to the cooperation and assistance of the District Council and Chamber of Commerce business services, the relocation of production facilities was kept to plan. To mark the completion, Group Chairman and Managing Director Brian Francis invited Aidan Burley MP and representatives of the Cannock Chase District Council to tour the new production facilities and to discuss how further investment and growth could be achieved.

The meeting provided a good opportunity for Aidan Burley MP to engage with representatives of the company, the local Council and Chamber of Commerce. Asked to comment *“I was delighted to visit ThyssenKrupp Tallent last week to get an update on the great work they are doing. They are already one of the largest employers in the area employing over 900 full time staff –many of whom live locally. I am delighted that they are continuing to expand their workforce here in Cannock Chase and would encourage anyone interested in being considered for an apprenticeship or indeed employment in general, to make contact with the HR department at the Cannock site”.*



Group Chairman and Managing Director Brian Francis welcomed the opportunity to meet. *“My colleagues and I were very pleased to welcome Aidan Burley and representatives from the Cannock Chase District Council to our Cannock facility. It is quite refreshing that our local MP is genuinely interested in the growth and development of one of the largest companies in his constituency and indeed spent much of his time listening to our concerns and the factors potentially inhibiting further growth, and I look forward to his feedback in the near future.*

“I would also like to take this opportunity of thanking the Cannock Chase District Council for their support and quick response to our expansion needs during the introduction of new business to the site. It is this kind of support and partnership which encourages companies to establish business in the Cannock Chase region”.

ThyssenKrupp Tallent are still in need of experienced presswork and robotic welding support staff. If you have experience of manufacturing in the automotive sector and would like to know more, contact the HR department on 01543 466664.

UK Youth Parliament confirms Chase MP as new Parliamentary Trustee

Aidan Burley has been confirmed as the new Conservative Party trustee for the UK Youth Parliament.

Aidan joins the Board of Democracy for Young People, UKYP's governing body alongside Labour MP for Gedling, Vernon Coaker and Lib Dem MP Jo Swinson.

Last year Aidan voted to support giving members of the UK Youth

Parliament the green light to stage debates in the House of Commons annually for the next 5 years. Aidan also attended the UKYP election results last year in Stafford. (Aidan with local UKYP Reps left)

As well as acting as Trustees with the accompanying responsibilities, Parliamentary Trustees by convention help facilitate UKYP's relationship with Parliament itself - including welcoming MYPs to Parliament each year when they take over the House of Commons chamber for the day.

Aidan replaces Charles Hendry MP who was the longest serving Parliamentary Trustee having succeeded the late Andrew Rowe, UKYP's founding father and Patron. Charles stood down in May having been appointed Minister of State for Energy.

Commenting Aidan said: *"I am honoured to become a trustee of the UKYP. The YP plays a key role engaging and empowering young people to have a say in the key challenges facing our country. I am looking forward to working with the other trustees to re-engage young people with politics and Parliament. Recent events in the Middle East have shown us that parliamentary democracy is one of our great gifts to the world to which people everywhere aspire."*

Aidan in Parliament: Sex Offenders Register debate

16th February 2011



[Click on the image above to watch Aidan's question to the Home Secretary \(begins at 12:55\).](#)

Aidan Burley (Cannock Chase, Conservative): I welcome the Home Secretary's statement, the key phrase in which was that public protection must come first. We may compare that with judges who have instead ruled that paedophiles' and rapists' rights to privacy must come first. What would she say to those out-of-touch judges in the Supreme Court who are now openly, proudly and provocatively saying that a paedophile's right to privacy is more important than children's protection from those who have committed evil sexual acts?

Theresa May (Home Secretary; Maidenhead, Conservative): It is important that we balance the public's right to protection against the rights of the individual, but as I said at the end of my statement, it is time that we asserted that it is Parliament that makes our laws.

Aidan in the papers: MP in call over football policing bills

Express & Star
Friday 11th February 2011

Premiership football clubs should foot the whole policing bill for matches as police forces face cuts to their budgets, a Staffordshire MP has said.

Express & Star

Although the costs to police matches is subsidised by the Premier League clubs, including Wolves, West Bromwich Albion, Aston Villa and Birmingham City, Aidan Burley believes the time has come to hand over full responsibility for match-day ground safety to clubs.

He said this should include the cost of deploying officers outside and inside the grounds, as well as big match-day city centre patrols.

It follows last month's record-breaking bout of spending by clubs which totalled £225m and comes during a period of belt-tightening across the rest of Britain — with West Midlands

Police forced to make savings of £125 million and Staffordshire Police £39 million as Government funding for the police service is cut by 20 per cent in real terms by 2014/15.

Labour claims the cuts will see at least 10,000 police officers axed in England and Wales — including more than 1,000 in the West Midlands and 70 front-line officers lost in Staffordshire in the first year alone.

Speaking in a Commons debate on police cuts this week, Cannock Chase MP Mr Burley blamed police budget cuts on Labour's economic legacy.

The Tory MP said: "These aren't cuts of choice, they are cuts to correct overspending by Labour in the boom years which has left one of the biggest deficits in the world. It's not the size of the workforce that counts, but the way they are deployed.

"If we want to help the police with their finances, perhaps now is the time for Premiership football clubs to start thinking about making a greater contribution to the costs of policing their football matches instead of all those police being deployed purely at taxpayers' expense."

Mr Burley also suggested police forces save cash by sharing premises with other public bodies — a move being considered by Staffordshire Police. Its Chief Constable Mike Cunningham has vowed no that traditional police stations will close until alternative bases are found which could see officers moving into schools and libraries.

Mr Burley clashed with shadow home secretary Yvette Cooper over the cutbacks. She condemned the “crazy” scale and pace of the cuts and accused ministers of putting police chiefs in an impossible position.

She said Staffordshire Police, like other forces, was having to work immensely hard to fight crime while faced with massive cuts — and twice asked Mr Burley whether he would highlight the police cuts in his area campaign leaflet at the next election.

Mr Burley said the force had committed to retaining every police officer in its neighbourhood police teams, and were cutting 250 back office staff.

Aidan in the papers: Week in Westminster

Chase Post
Thursday 17th February 2011

Last Thursday afternoon, a little piece of parliamentary history was made. The big beast cross-party combination of David Davis and Jack Straw combined to bring about a six-hour debate on whether prisoners should be allowed to vote.



The pairing were clear in their determination to overturn a European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) ruling, stating that disenfranchising prisoners breaches the European Convention on Human Rights - and threatens big compensation payouts to prisoners denied the vote.

Readers may be surprised to learn that this European 'Court' is made up of judges from tiny European states that are able to rule on matters that affect the UK. Liechtenstein, San Marino, Monaco and Andorra have the same amount of say as Britain, France and Germany – despite their combined populations being smaller than that of the London borough of Islington.

Even more astonishingly, the Courts' 47 'representatives' need never even have served as judges in their homeland. Our former Lord Chief Justice, Lord Woolf, has said many of the judges cannot speak English or French – the languages of the court – and do not understand how they reached their own judgments.

So the real question before the House was whether Britain should be governed by its elected Parliament or, as is increasingly the case, by a panel of foreign judges.

Should we as submit yet again to the ECHR, on a matter that concerns nobody but Britain? Or should we send out a defiant signal to the court that the authority of Parliament, derived from the people, must take precedence over the whims of unelected jurists?

The motion passed by 234 votes to 22, and I was proud to be one of the 234. It felt like the start of a fightback for common sense. The big Commons majority means Britain's hand will now be stronger when he goes back to Strasbourg and demands that, in clashes between Parliament and the ECHR, democracy must come first.

5 ways to contact Aidan Burley MP:

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By post: Aidan Burley MP
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In person: [Click here for details of how to book an appointment at Aidan Burley MP's regular help and advice surgeries.](#)

www.aidanburleymp.org

More news from Aidan Burley MP, coming soon...

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