

Brexit agreement on EU residents in Gloucester?

Citizens of countries within the EU have contacted Richard about their future rights here. Richard said, "many Europeans here are making a strong contribution whether to public service or business. The Prime Minister's statement makes it clear the government recognises this, wants a simple solution fast and has made proposals to the EU.

"The main difference in our positions is about whether Europeans would still have recourse to the European Court of Justice. In my view it would be absurd to have people living here with different legal rights – British citizens living in the EU should be subject to European laws not ours."

Richard has also spoken



Access to the best talent is as important. Richard at French owned Safran, ex-Dowtys

in Parliament about the importance of taking students out of immigration figures - "this doesn't help our Universities attract foreign

students, an important source of revenue and subsidy for UK students, and for balancing our trade."

For more information please see Richard's website (richardgraham.org) or contact him via richard.graham.mp@parliament.uk



GLOUCESTER HISTORY FESTIVAL

2-17 September and includes Gloucester Day celebrations, the country's second biggest Heritage Open Weekend and masses of great talks by Speakers from Dan Snow to Ken Clark. See more and book now through www.gloucesterhistoryfestival.co.uk

GRASS CUTTING SOLUTIONS

Residents have raised concerns with Richard about City Council grass cutting. The Council tried reducing cutting in certain places to save money, it wasn't a success and the contractor didn't deliver as required. So the Council has apologised, stopped the experiment and expect improvements shortly while still saving £125,000 a year.

PROGRESS ON TIDAL LAGOONS

Making a decision on the proposed first ever Tidal Lagoon to generate energy from the tides off the Welsh coast is now a priority. That was Richard (Chairman of the APPG for Marine Energy and Tidal Lagoons)'s message to Business Secretary Greg Clark.

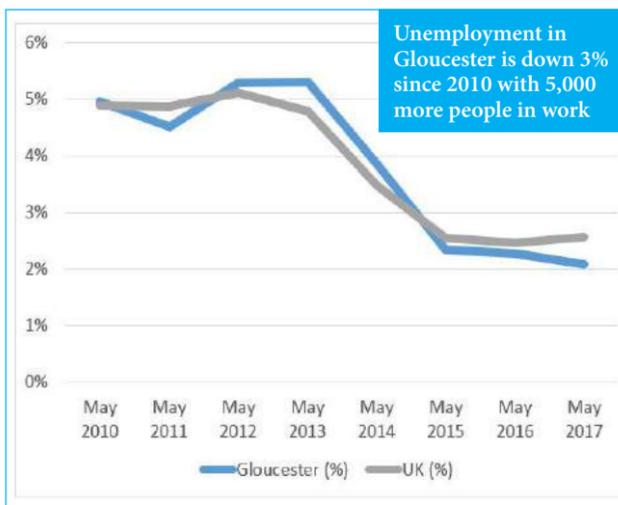
"Gloucester based Tidal Lagoon Power is now at a critical stage: with funding on hold and staff on a four day week. We can't lose this opportunity for global innovation through delays on decision making."

Record number of jobs and lowest unemployment since 1975

Employment is at a record high with 2.9 million people employed since 2010, with only 2% of people in Gloucester unemployed ahead of the national average (down from 5% in 2010). There are a growing number of employment opportunities in the city due to regeneration and construction, the revival of manufacturing and nuclear activity, retail expansion

(led by Gloucester Quays) and new sectors like cyber.

People are keeping more of their wages due to increases in the tax free allowance that have taken four million people out of income tax altogether. The UK gender pay gap is at its lowest level ever and the economy growing for the 16th consecutive quarter in the 3 months to December.



County Primary School Head of Year



Richard celebrating with County Primary Head of the Year Kelly Armstrong

Confirming that Gloucester has some great teaching leaders, Field Court Junior Head Kelly Armstrong won Gloucestershire Primary Head of the Year at the 2017 Pearson Awards.

When Richard first visited Field Court almost ten years ago it was already an Outstanding rated school and still is today: "my mother was a Primary School Deputy Head, and she taught me to recognise the leadership that makes an outstanding school – Field Court has it all. I am delighted that Kelly now has this recognition."

There are now 1.8 million more pupils nationally in outstanding schools since 2010. Richard highlights that outstanding schools are in all parts of the city - "providing aspiration to children of all backgrounds."

Gloucester's MP now aims to make sure that the government fulfils the commitment that NO school will get less money than last year, and some get more under the new funding formula: and then encouraging our grammar schools to take more local and poorer pupils.

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Leading Gloucester Forward

Gloucester

Matters



LOCAL NEWS FROM RICHARD GRAHAM CONSERVATIVE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR GLOUCESTER

LEADING GLOUCESTER FORWARD: SCHOOLS FUNDING INCREASED

Richard thanks Gloucester for his re-election and says it's all about delivering real improvements for the city.

Re-elected MP Richard Graham gained over 50% of the votes cast in the General Election, for the first time in 70 years, and said it was "a huge honour to be re-elected by Gloucester, and I'm focused on getting improvements for my constituents, nationally and locally."

Richard welcomed the announcement of an additional £1.3 billion for schools. "I highlighted concerns in Gloucester and this means at least £4,800 will be funded for each secondary school pupil in Gloucester."

Richard has been reappointed as the Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to S.E. Asia to help increase exports, and re-elected as Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Groups for China and Marine Energy and Tidal Lagoons. "I've had meetings with Secretary of State Greg Clark to press the case for an early positive decision" said Richard.

Importantly for Gloucester, he also has a list of projects to improve life in the City. These include sorting the railway underpass to Great Western Road, creating a new Health UTC, ensuring the University Business School opens

in September 2018 and our NHS and schools get the right funding.

"Our city has improved in many ways" Richard said, "but there's always more to do to make Gloucester a better place - my aim since I was first elected in 2010."



SUPERFAST BROADBAND FOR ALL BY 2020

The County Council has pledged to make sure that every single home in Gloucestershire has access to super-fast broadband by 2020 at the latest with almost £30 million invested already.



Tolsey Gardens now has access to superfast broadband after Richard lobbied BT

Tolsey Gardens residents were connected in June after Richard ensured they were included in BT upgrade plans. County Councillor Dave Norman and city councillors Steve

Morgan and Nigel Hanman said, "Some residents had such painfully slow internet speeds that they couldn't pay

online bills or send emails. For some, working from home was particularly frustrating."

The new Universal Service Obligation is also being introduced to give businesses and households the legal right to request a broadband connection with speeds of at least 10 Megabits.

Richard has welcomed this alongside the second phase of Fastershire, the government funded scheme in the county. "Many properties in Gloucestershire are included in this roll out and should see improvements soon." To check if your house will benefit check fastershire.com

Reassurance from county Police and Fire and Rescue

Fire and Rescue and Police reassure local residents quickly about national concerns



Visiting Residents with the Glos Fire and Rescue team

Richard spoke to Glos Fire Chief Stewart Edgar on the same day as the Grenfell Tower Fire inferno about investigating the tallest buildings in the city and county. Richard said, "I was impressed by the speed of their reaction the very next day at Clapham Court, GRH and the Docks. Residents were reassured."

Richard also spoke to the Gloucestershire Constabulary as soon as the attack on Finsbury Park Mosque happened, and the police visited all five mosques in Gloucester within a day. "Terrorism comes in many different guises and it is good to see our Police ready to help all communities," said Richard.

Richard then celebrated Eid with local Muslims

just as mosque leaders had come to the Cathedral after the Manchester bomb in solidarity: "ultimately we are one community sharing similar hopes for our children and city."

Meanwhile Councillors Pam Tracey, Dawn Melvin and Paul Toleman agreed that the Grenfell Tower fire was "a reminder to all city centre residents to check their fire alarms have batteries and know their emergency exit routes."

Councillors and MP alike agree that there is no need to change existing structures if they're working well. Tuffley County Councillor Andrew Miller said, "Our research should confirm that Glos Fire is best as it is, and not under Police and Crime Commissioner control."



Richard recently met contractors and neighbouring MPs at Elmbridge Court to be updated on progress

Elmbridge Court changes on time and within budget

The improvements to Elmbridge Court Roundabout, the busiest roundabout in Gloucestershire, are on track to be completed this September. Richard said, "I've been involved in this project for several years and it will make a real difference to journey times. It's a good example of national and local funding coming together and I'm pleased the project is within budget."

Longlevens Councillor Kathy Williams thanked road users for their patience, and local campaigner Shane Hopkins welcomed the expected improvement

in traffic flows.

Resurfacing works have also been confirmed for Tuffley Lane in September as part of the Council's £150 million investment into resurfacing and repairing the County's roads, while plans to solve the 'missing loop' on the A417 (air balloon) are also on track for delivery in 2020.

Barnwood's Cllr Lise Noakes and Richard are also working with GCC to identify funding to improve Walls Roundabout and reduce traffic queues.

Honesty with University students

Gloucester's MP called for a non-partisan debate about the interest rates on student loans, but has condemned Labour's abandoned electoral promises.

Richard said, "Student debt and fees cannot just be written off, especially by those who didn't benefit from university education. Labour said they would abolish fees but Labour run Wales has just increased them, recognising reality."

The MP said the situation was worse

over student debts, now estimated at over £100 billion. In the election Jeremy Corbyn said he "will deal with it", encouraging the impression Labour would write the debt off. The Shadow Education Secretary has confirmed Labour has "not made any promises" to do so. "This means," said Richard, "no student or parent can trust Labour on University finances. We must keep improving access, outcomes and how universities are financed."



Richard asked if the Education Department would reconsider interest rates



Visiting Matson Pond with local Anglers and Cllr Jennie Watkins



GLOUCESTER GOES RETRO

Tuffley Councillor Colin Organ has invited everyone to come and enjoy some nostalgia at the Gloucester Goes Retro Festival on Saturday 26th August: "a great free fun day out in the city centre" To find out more, apply to enter your vintage vehicle or join in the fun visit gloucester.gov.uk/retro-festival

REGENERATION IN BARTON & TREDWORTH

Barton and Tredworth Councillor Sajid Patel has welcomed the start of demolition of the former Norvilles site off Hatherley Road. "They'll be replaced by new affordable homes", said Cllr Patel, "this is welcome news for the local community and it's great to see the work has finally started."

Bringing Matson Lake Back to Life

The Matson Lake Community Project has been launched by Bert Mahoney and the Matson Anglers to bring back to life a historic feature damaged by years of fly tipping and vandalism.

Bert said, "The lake has been used many times in the past by local anglers but is in a bad state and we want to see more children and families getting involved. In order for that to happen we need to revive the lake so it's cleaner, better and

the fish can thrive."

Richard visited the project and said, "This is a good cause and a symbol of regeneration in Matson. It's about helping local residents prevent the lake from becoming a giant rubbish dump and making it a great local asset."

Deputy Council Leader Jennie Watkins welcomed community support, including the fire service: "We're

grateful that Glos Fire helped oxygenate the pond again and look forward to future plans to improve the lodge and regenerate this area. Matson Anglers is a great community project, led by passionate people in the heart of Matson."

All those interested in helping or getting involved can do so via the Matson Anglers Facebook group.

More Childcare to Support Families



Richard with Secret Garden Manager Lee, Carers Jo and Rachele and Pupils

The early learning programme for 2 year olds aims to benefit disadvantaged children less likely to access formal early education.

Richard went back to the Secret Garden Nursery in Eastgate Street to open their playground expansion. "Changes since they opened in 2014 mean lots more for children to do outdoors and indoors and they've nearly doubled capacity - which is good for parents working or living in the city centre."

Manager Lee Friend said, "We're now open for applications for the extra 30 hours that the government will fund for those eligible and we look forward to seeing more children enjoy the Secret Garden."

Government spending on childcare rises to over £6 billion by 2019-20, including an extension of the existing entitlement of 15 hours of free childcare a week to 30 hours for working parents of 3 and 4 year olds. Plans to introduce tax-free childcare can also be seen on the gov.uk website.

Update on Public Sector Pay



Richard with frontline Gloucestershire Constabulary staff

The government has said it will look closely at Independent Review Board recommendations on public sector pay. Richard said, "Just lifting the cap for everyone would be irresponsible. There are senior managers that are well paid. We need to make sure that front line staff are getting paid enough, without letting public spending get out of control."

The Office of Budget Responsibility said the 2015 pay cap has protected 200,000 public sector jobs. Other bodies have highlighted the value of public sector pensions and the increase in take home pay of £1,000 from doubling tax free allowances.

Richard said, "I know the pressures, especially in the NHS. If the Boards recommend selective increases we can afford then I will support them."

In a reference to recent Hospital Trust investigations, Richard added "spending what we can afford is important, and part of that is reducing waste and avoiding financial black holes."



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The photographs included do not imply that people shown with Richard either endorse or oppose him as a Member of Parliament.