Dear Constituent,

I wanted to update you on some local developments that might be of interest to you as a Harold Wood resident.

**Tesco Planning Application**

You may be aware of a plan to build 87 houses in the Tesco car park (planning application P1190.21). In August I was contacted by representatives of a Harold Wood Facebook group who set out the community’s concerns at the proposal. Those concerns ranged from traffic impact to the ability of the local infrastructure to cope with extra residents. While as your local MP I have no jurisdiction over planning matters, which are dealt with by your ward councillors, I sent residents’ detailed representations to Havering Council’s planning directors so that they could be considered in the planning process. I have posted those representations on my website – [www.julialopez.co.uk](http://www.julialopez.co.uk) – should they be of interest. To them I added my own concern about any such development impacting on the replacement of the Gallows Corner flyover. We have now received news that Havering Council has refused planning consent. I would like to thank all those residents who engaged with my office directly or via the Facebook group.

**Gallows Corner Flyover**

In 2018, I secured up to £50 million of government funding to upgrade the ‘temporary’ flyover at Gallows Corner, which dates from the 1970s. It requires the Mayor of London to put forward a business case to the Department for Transport to unlock the cash, and I met TfL over the summer to get an update on progress. TfL are expecting to submit their updated business case next spring so I am glad that things are still moving in the right direction. We have to make sure this key piece of local road infrastructure does not fail.

**Pages Wood**

I know that a lot of Harold Wood residents like to walk in Pages Wood and have been frustrated by the closure of the link bridge to Harold Wood Park. I visited the bridge over the summer to see the damage that has led to its closure, and have subsequently met the Forestry Commission to see how they can work with Havering Council to improve walking routes through these important open spaces. My team and I continue to offer our assistance in trying to resolve this issue.

**The Hub**

To those residents who have not yet visited, I would recommend checking out the Hub by the Gubbins Lane mini roundtable. A community space in the heart of Harold Wood, the Hub offers a place to eat and drink, with children’s space and rooms for hire. I am told that the indoor children’s play space will be expanded in time for the winter, so it is a really good place for parents to get out of the house and meet friends. Some of the team running the Hub hope also to run a Christmas event by the station.

Please feel free to drop me and my team a line if you think we can be of assistance to you.

Best wishes,