Tessa's September Update

Hello everyone,

My debate on aluminium recycling took place on the first day back to Parliament after the summer. Somerset and North Somerset Councils earn income from aluminium collected at the kerbside, but many other Councils across the country earn little or nothing from their aluminium, which the Government has now classified as a 'critical mineral'. I'm chasing answers to my questions to Defra Ministers and Councils, hoping to improve recycling, trade and the UK's mineral resilience.

On recycling, I had the pleasure of giving the keynote speech at the Tyre Recovery Association's annual meeting – an opportunity to push Defra Ministers and civil servants to make the decisions necessary to clean up this country's act when it comes to waste tyres. Tyres can be recycled to create athletic tracks, road surfacing, playgrounds, underlay and industrial flooring amongst other uses, and the UK can recycle the materials in this country, dispensing with the need to send waste abroad, where Ministers cannot guarantee what happens to the waste products.

I was honoured to be main speaker at the 2026 Flood Resilience conference. As Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Flooding and Flooded Communities, I continue to raise the High Court's precedent setting 'Yatton decision' to build 190 homes on a site deemed at risk of flooding. I'm looking forward to taking my concerns directly to the Housing and Planning Minister and reporting back.

I met with campaigners aiming to achieve changes to ‘Plan 2’ loans under a Student Loans Review, attended the Radiotherapy Report launch, the ‘Back British Farming reception, the ‘Lock Out’ drink driving presentation and the ‘Stop the Grind’ campaign meeting, which seeks to halt the appalling practice of annual mass slaughter of dolphins and whales in the Faroe Islands. It is shocking to discover that little has changed since I first worked on this campaign as a volunteer with the Environmental Investigation Agency over three decades ago.

I look forward to speaking with many of you during my autumn surgeries.

Thank you.

Tessa

Photo credit: Dave Nelson

To read more about my campaign visit this article in The Mirror