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1. Good afternoon from a very chilly Westminster!

The House of Commons is now back in full swing after the Christmas recess. I have been kept very busy with three constituency days already this month and taking part in Debates in Parliament – as well as answering all of your letters and emails!

2. Parish Council Tour

– starting this year by kicking off my tour of local Parish Councils, I want to visit as many as parishes as possible to understand each community in the constituency in person. Each parish has important local concerns which I am keen to help with as much as I can. I have already visited Freeland and Taynton, with many more in the diary for the coming months. With 80 parishes in West Oxfordshire, I look forward to the challenge of meeting with you all! [More](#)



3. West Oxfordshire Healthcare



– this has become a very important issue during my time as MP. The proposed closure of Deer Park is ongoing, and I have had further meetings with Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group about this important issue. I have further met to with OCCG to discuss the future of Chipping Norton hospital, with the Hospital Action Group.

Nothing is more important than the health of you and your loved ones. Services must be up to scratch to cater for everyone in West

Oxfordshire – now and in future as this area develops. I have even raised both issues with Ministers and I will continue to fight hard to ensure that healthcare in this constituency is the best it can possibly be.

The first phase of the Sustainability and Transformation Plan consultation, which will determine the future of healthcare in Oxfordshire, is now live. I urge you to have your say on this crucial issue [here](#).

4. Westminster

– The UK's withdrawal from the EU is was the subject of many debates in Parliament this week. I particularly raised the impact of leaving on the rural economy. Leaving the EU will give us a chance to rethink lots of legislation and see how we can better support and champion those issues which particularly affect rural communities. [More](#)



I recently also raised the issue of the range of treatments available for those with mental health concerns with the Secretary of State. After visiting Bridewell Organic Gardens in Wilcote, I wanted to draw attention to the importance of not just relying on medication. Bridewell supports those with mental health concerns through gardening: building skills and creating a much-needed support network. I am proud to champion the fantastic work of the charity here is West Oxfordshire. This also ties in well with the Prime Minister recent announcement that there will be more funding and support for young people to help improve their mental illness. [More](#), [More](#) and [More](#)

5. Want more?

This update contains just a snapshot of my work locally and in Westminster; I am of course very aware you will have big issues in your area (or on your

mind) which I haven't covered and hope you know you can get in touch at any time. Much more also exists [on my website](#) and [YouTube](#).

6. Get in touch!

You can also [follow me on Twitter](#) for instant updates on my work or find me on Facebook and join that community.

For any casework queries please email me at robert.courts.mp@parliament.uk.

You can take a look at my latest column written exclusively for the [Witney Gazette](#).

Hope you all are having a good start to the New Year.



Robert Courts

MP for Witney

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