

July 216

Dear

I am writing to update you further on the actions that I have taken with regard to addressing the issues that were raised with me at the coffee morning held at St Alban's Academy in May.

- **Paragon Hotel**

This was one of the key issues raised at the event. I can now confirm that over the past month I have been hard at work trying to get to the bottom of the issues and have held meetings with officials at the highest level from the Home Office, the Police and the Council to seek a resolution. I have been informed that the numbers at the Hotel have now significantly reduced and that the Hotel have taken measures in order to increase security. In addition, whilst I understand that the Hotel has applied for a licence to operate as a House of Multiple Occupancy, I have sought commitments from both G4S and the Home Office that the Hotel will continue to be regularly monitored by both to ensure that contractual requirements are fulfilled.

- **Shisha Lounge Regulation**

In general Shisha lounges have to comply with legislation like any other business. However there is currently no legal requirement for a shisha business to inform the Local Authority that they are trading other than to gain planning permission. The Council have had a number of successful prosecutions using the Smoke Free legislation but this is not considered as a permanent solution in regulating these premises. As such and in order to move matters on, I have written to the Minister for Health to ask for a better licencing regime of shisha lounges. I will be in touch when I have any more information.

Arabian Nites: As particular concerns the Arabian Nites, there have been a number of meetings with representatives from the Council and the Police to try and resolve the issue and the venue is continuing to be monitored. However I would urge all members of the community to continue to register their complaints with the Police and the Council so that these can be logged and acted upon.

- **Drug taking in Highgate**

Police have been actively working with the Council and Midland Heart to address the wider issues. Key locations have, we understand, been secured in order to prevent drug users and dealers from gathering in these areas and a number of known drug dealers have been targeted with drug warrants by the Police.

- **Carriageway Issues**

I raised with the Council the issue regarding potholes at the end of Vaughton Road and on the pavement on Charles Henry Street. Currently whilst Amey consider that there is some minor deterioration, this does not currently meet their safety criteria for repair.

Brinklow Tower

- As concerns anti-social behaviour at Brinklow Tower, I have been informed that the situation has improved but residents are urged to contact the Anti-Social Behaviour team at the Council if there are any further incidents. Details are available on the Council's website at:
<http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/asb>.

Thank you for all your continued support and I will be in touch as soon as I have any further news.

Yours sincerely

Shabana Mahmood
Member of Parliament for Birmingham Ladywood