



NORTHAMPTON NORTH CAMPAIGNER

with **Michael Ellis**, MP for Northampton North

MICHAEL ELLIS MP WINS PERMANENT POTHOLE FUND ELLIS CAMPAIGN BAGS £250M



After three years of what George Osborne called “incessant lobbying”, Northampton North MP Michael Ellis’ pothole campaign saw another victory as the Spending Review was announced for this financial year.

The House of Commons was in full cheer when the Chancellor outlined plans to spend more than £5 billion on road maintenance, which includes £250 million towards a “permanent pothole fund” over the next five years. In his speech the Chancellor referred specifically to Michael’s campaign for pothole repairs, explaining that it is thanks to Michael that the new fund was being established!

This is not the first time Michael’s pothole campaign has made national news; in the 2014 annual budget statement George Osborne announced £200 million for road repairs and gave credit once again to Michael, saying:

“Michael Ellis has been a very persistent campaigner for resources to repair potholes in his constituency and across the country. This persistence has paid off and I’m making £200 million available which local authorities can bid for - and I trust Northampton will be making an application.”

Northamptonshire County Council did indeed make an application with Michael’s help, and secured £3.3 million for road repairs, and Michael was very pleased to see the improvements this made in the area. However, after talking with local residents he knew that there was still more work to be done, and duly continued his campaign for more funding.

Once again Michael’s hard work is paying off, and Michael is hopeful that Northampton will secure more funding from the new permanent pothole fund to keep improving the condition of our roads.

Michael said “Frequently when I speak to local residents, they tell me that potholes are a big local frustration in Northampton. I’m delighted that the Chancellor has created the new Permanent Pothole Fund - it will have a hugely positive impact here and across the country.”

INSIDE Page 2

An update on Michael’s Expenses...



INSIDE Page 3

A special visitor comes to town!



INSIDE Page 3

Fancy a tour of Westminster?



MICHAEL ELLIS MP'S APPRENTICESHIP SHOW COMING SOON!

APPRENTICESHIPS

– GOOD FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, GOOD FOR BUSINESSES, AND GOOD FOR NORTHAMPTON!

A successful local economy needs successful businesses, and successful businesses need employees with the right skills. That's why Michael is supporting the Government's apprenticeship drive to get young people into apprenticeships. Many businesses are crying out for new apprentices – in Northampton there are now more apprenticeships on offer than students wanting to apply for them!

Michael has been working with the Northampton Enterprise Partnership on increasing job opportunities across the town, and has been shocked to find the number of mid-to-high-level apprenticeship offers for 16-21 year olds that are not getting the quality of applications they need. Speaking on the apprentice shortage Michael said:

"Far more needs to be done to raise awareness of the brilliant apprenticeships we have on offer in Northampton but we also need to tackle the thinking that somehow apprenticeships are not as good as A-levels or a degree - too many students see them as a back-up plan rather than a first choice."

This year, with employment levels improving, Michael has moved on from organising his annual Jobs Fair, and is turning his attention to the apprentice shortage. He is organising an Apprenticeship Show in April 2016 which will bring together 14-17 year olds from across Northampton and show them, through a range of talks and exhibitions, the positives of choosing to do an apprenticeship.

MICHAEL ELLIS
APPRENTICESHIP SHOW
COMING APRIL 2016



Michael wants to encourage applications for local apprenticeships



Following the success of his Jobs Fairs Michael is tackling Northampton's vacant apprenticeships

MICHAEL DOESN'T WASTE YOUR TAXES

AN UPDATE ON MICHAEL'S EXPENSES

Michael believes in keeping the costs of Parliament as low as possible so that more money can be spent on frontline services. He sees it as his responsibility to be as cost effective as possible and has always acted with taxpayers' money in mind.

The latest annual statistics released by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority give an update on how Michael has saved your money since he was first elected in 2010:

TRAVEL COSTS

Most people in Northampton town have to pay for their own transport to work and, even though his job involves a large amount of travelling, Michael believes he should be no different.



TOTAL CLAIMED: £0



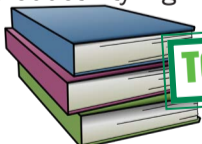
FOOD AND DRINK

Michael believes that, like any other job, his salary should cover the costs of his food and drink.

TOTAL CLAIMED: £0

OFFICE COSTS

As with his staffing costs, Michael keeps his office costs low and his productivity high.



TOTAL SAVED: £83,000



STAFFING COSTS

Michael doesn't believe in maxing out this budget when he can run a very effective office without spending it all.

TOTAL SAVED: £157,000

To see a detailed breakdown of Michael's expenses visit www.michaelellis.co.uk

MICHAEL IS SEEKING YOUR VIEWS...

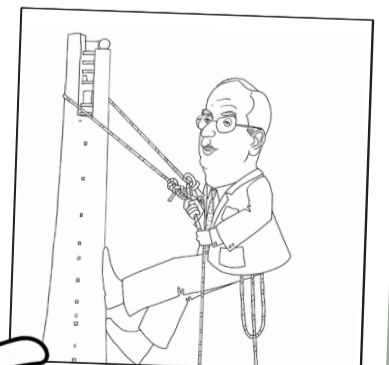
Although Michael is already knocking on lots of doors to gather up Northampton opinion, he isn't able to catch everyone when they are at home.

So here are a few questions that may influence Parliamentary business over the next year. Please take the time to have a look and send Michael your views.

- 1. Defence:** The Conservative Government are pledging to meet the NATO target of spending 2% of our national income on defence until the end of the decade. Do you think this is:
 - Too much
 - The right amount
 - Too Little
- 2. International Aid:** The Conservative Government send 0.7% of our GDP on international aid and development, meeting a UN target. Do you think we are doing:
 - Too much
 - The right amount
 - Too Little
- 3. Europe:** David Cameron has promised the first referendum on Europe since 1975. Do you think the UK should:
 - Leave
 - Remain
 - Unsure
- 4. Crime:** Levels of crime in Northamptonshire have reduced over the past 4 years. With the Police and Crime Commissioner Elections coming up in May, do you personally feel any safer than 4 years ago?
 - Yes
 - No different
 - Worse

Make sure your opinion gets counted....
Email or post your answers back to Michael using the contact details on the back page.

Cartoon right "Michael Seeks out Northampton's Opinion" drawn by local artist Tim Wilson



BARACK OBAMA'S AMBASSADOR COMES TO TOWN!

How do we promote our town's progress and development? One of the best ways is to attract investment from around the country and around the world. As MP for Northampton North, I see it as my job to showcase Northampton to others so that we can bring in investment, development and progress.

That's why I have invited many politicians and government ministers to Northampton over the years: the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson have all come to our town at my invitation and as my guests.

Recently I brought another very special guest to Northampton: His Excellency the United States Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Matthew Barzun.

Ambassador Barzun has looked after US citizens in the UK for the past three years, as one of the most senior diplomats in the world – and works on trade and relations between our countries.

While in Northampton, Ambassador Barzun – a close friend of President Barack Obama – spoke to over 100 Sixth Form students at

Kingsthorpe College about US-UK relations. He told me afterwards that he was very impressed with the school – describing the “brilliant minds” of the students.

Next, I brought the Ambassador to our impressive Guildhall in the centre of town, where I introduced him to a number of local business leaders. Northampton's links with the USA are long-standing and important – the Ambassador was told that one of the ancestors of George Washington, the first US President, was Mayor of Northampton in 1532 and 1545.

Promoting Northampton in this way – showing that our town is a good place for American businesses to invest – helps to bring growth and investment to the town.

I believe that one of the most useful things I can do as an MP is bring jobs and investment to the constituency, and I will continue working hard to provide a strong voice for Northampton in the country, and in the world!

Right: Michael arrives with the US Ambassador at Kingsthorpe Academy



Above: After his presentation Michael and the Ambassador were presented with framed kaleidoscopic photos of Kingsthorpe Academy



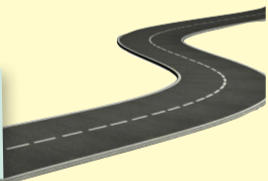
Right: Michael Ellis MP and US Ambassador Barzun outside the Guildhall after their tour with Cllr Mary Markham, Leader of Northampton Borough Council, the Mayor Cllr Penny Flavell and the Mayor's Consort

PROGRESS ON MICHAEL'S PRIORITIES.

Following the General Election in May 2015 Michael got straight back to work on his key campaign pledges. He has already made significant progress in a number of areas...

Fighting for Better Road Surfaces

Following Michael's constant lobbying for more money for our roads, in the 2015 Autumn Statement George Osborne created a Permanent Pothole Fund!



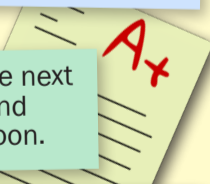
More Jobs for Local People

Building on the success of his annual Jobs Fairs, Michael is planning Northampton's first Apprenticeship Conference for April 2016.



Improving our Local Schools

Michael is supporting Government plans to deliver 500 new free schools over the next 5 years. In Northampton: Wootton Park, Catch 22 Northamptonshire Academy and Northampton International Academy are a few that will be opening their doors soon.



Affordable Homes - in the Right Places

Michael contributes to consultations and planning applications to try to ensure development only happens in the right places! He is particularly watching the North of the town, where the road network is already at breaking point!



Making our Streets Safer

Michael meets regularly with Police leaders, the Police Federation and local organisations such as social enterprises and The Prince's Trust who work to prevent vulnerable individuals turning to crime.



More Money in Your Pocket

Michael is part of the Conservative Government who have implemented changes that mean from April you can earn £11,000 before paying any income tax at all, boosting the average taxpayer's wages by £80 per year.



WESTMINSTER TOURS

The Houses of Parliament are an extraordinary place to work and Michael wants to share the history and splendour of this neo-Gothic World Heritage Site with as many constituents as possible.

The official tour guides provide many captivating stories about the Palace of Westminster covering: Westminster Hall, both the House of Commons and the House of Lords, The Queen's Robing Room, Royal Gallery and many other fascinating parts.

Michael can book tours for local groups or clubs of up to 25 people. The tours themselves are free but transportation costs must be met by the visitors. Michael is also arranging coach trips so individuals and families can have the same experience.

To find out more about booking a Westminster tour visit www.michaelellis.co.uk/Tours



Michael Ellis MP: Working hard for Northampton North all year round, not just at election time.

PUPPY LOVE

Michael has a soft spot for his furry constituents. If you are involved with an animal welfare project in Northampton then Michael would love to hear about it.



A MESSAGE FROM MICHAEL

It has been a busy start to this new Parliament, and I have wasted no time in getting back into the swing of things. After the Election I was appointed as Parliamentary Private Secretary (PPS) to the Home Secretary, the Rt. Hon. Theresa May MP, and since then I have been very busy working with the Home Office on matters of national security, crime and immigration - to name just a few.

As some readers may know, last year I was ranked as Number 1 out of all 650 MPs in terms of responding to your correspondence. This is a record I am very proud of and I aim to continue this high standard. I also continue to go out canvassing with my team at weekends and will keep doing so until everyone has had the chance to voice their opinions to me.

So when I visit your area, please do feel free to say 'hello', and let me know if there are any issues that you would like to discuss with me. I look forward to meeting you!



NORTHAMPTON SPORTS TRIVIA CROSSWORD

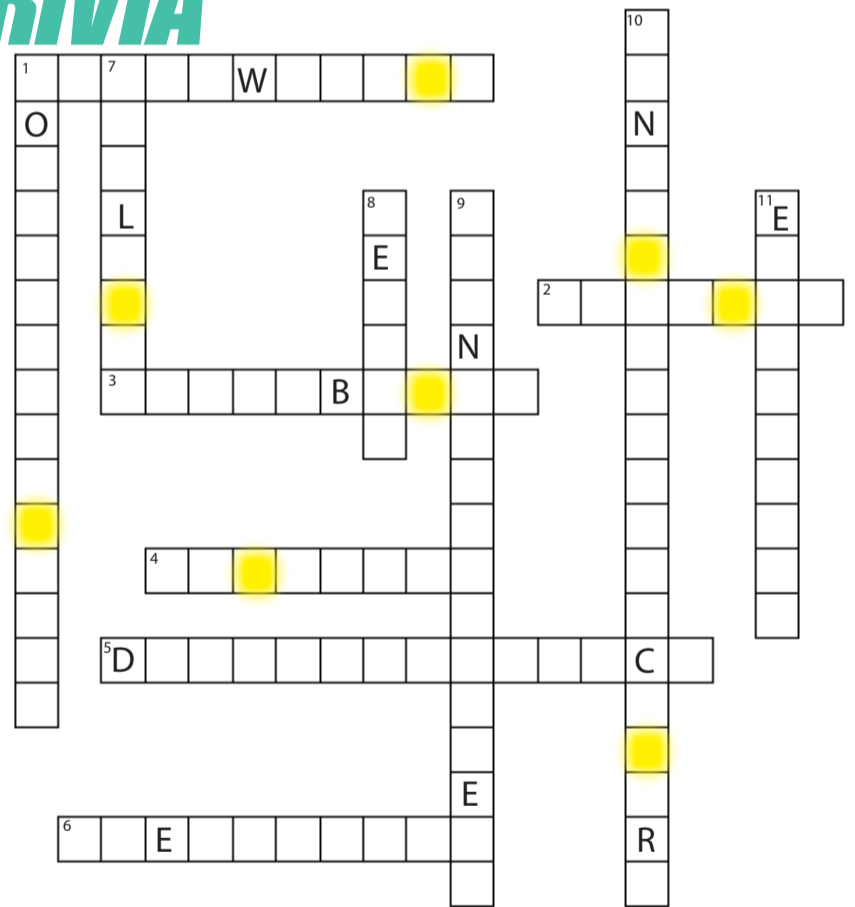
Complete the crossword and unscramble the highlighted letters to reveal the name of a Northampton Sports Star.

ACROSS

1. Current Manager of the Cobblers (5, 6)
2. Northampton Leisure Trust's gym network, formerly three of them (7)
3. Northamptonshire's 20/20 Cricket Team (10)
4. The name of Northampton Town F.C. (8)
5. An annual water sporting event hosted by the Rotary Club (6, 4, 4)
6. Current Saints Captain (3, 7)

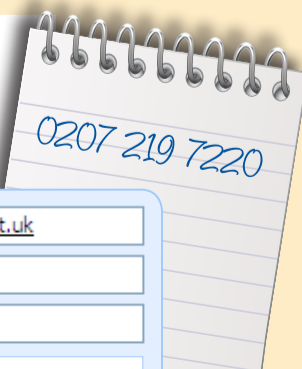
DOWN

1. Golf Club towards the south of the Town (11, 4)
7. Northampton's biggest Skate Park, re-opened in 2012 (8)
8. Sports Arena in Moulton Park that is home to gymnastics, rock climbing, roller skating and much more (6)
9. Home of the Northampton Saints (9, 7)
10. Home to rafting, canoeing and tubing in Northampton (4, 10, 6)
11. Former Saints and England Rugby Captain and war hero from Northampton whose name now references an annual Memorial Match and prominent street in Northampton (5, 5)



HOW TO CONTACT MICHAEL

Michael Ellis MP,
House of Commons,
London,
SW1A 0AA



Send To... Cc... Subject:

OR TO FIND OUT MORE VISIT...



Facebook.com/
MichaelEllisNorthampton



@Michael_Ellis1



www.michaelellis.co.uk

For more Local News:
Email 'Subscribe' to
michael.ellis.mp@parliament.uk
to sign up to Michael's
fortnightly E-Newsletters