

I wanted to write about two things this week, firstly the olympics and secondly local bus services.

I won't apologise for this being my third week in a row writing about sport. It is hard not to given the phenomenal success of Team GB in Rio. The team absolutely smashed their target of beating Beijing's medal haul by also beating London 2012's tally too and coming second in the table. Planning for an Olympics is a long term project. The athletes prepare for more than half their lifetime while in the background the best coaches, physics and support staff are recruited. Preparation is already underway for Tokyo 2020 but ultimately none of it would be possible without the National Lottery funding, which goes to both elite and grassroots sport. You will notice that athletes in their interview thanked lottery players, because without them they would not be there. Tickets bought by you and me have proven to be worth their weight in Gold, Silver and Bronze, so thank you.

The second less joyous comment this week is on the shocking decision by Arriva to remove the evening bus service of the 155 that connects the four villages, Wouldham, Burham, Eccles & Aylesford with Chatham & Maidstone. There was absolutely no consultation in advance of this short sighted decision by the company and as a consequence from the middle of September the villages will be cut off from public transport after 19.30pm. The number of complaints about Arriva usually peak and trough but recently they have been more steady across their whole service network in my constituency. It is disappointing that by virtue of their monopoly status they can take this decision without even a bit of courtesy of proper notice with passengers. I am seeking an urgent meeting with Arriva to discuss this and will report back on my Facebook page www.Facebook.com/TraceyCrouchMp