

One rather fascinating phenomenon following the EU referendum last year has been a renewed interest in local, national and global politics.

I have started this year spending two consecutive Saturdays out on the doorsteps and it has been really nice to see and hear such a high level of engagement on geopolitical issues that previous may have passed people by.

However people voted the truth is that the referendum started a debate about the future of our country and that in turn created many a conversation in the office, the pub or around the dinner table about matters that all tiers of government are responsible for. In my six short years as an MP, the hunger for information has been noticeable these last few months. I am getting more calls, personalised emails and even the doors are staying open longer with people keen to know what is happening. And I am not just talking about Brexit. At the weekend, Larkfield residents took time out of their busy Saturday mornings to ask me questions about planning, schools, Trump and Brexit.

The previous week in Snodland was the same but with parking included. On school visits rather than teenage eyes staring while silently screaming "boring adult in the room" I get questions on how will Brexit affect the environment, youth employment and university places. I can't walk around the supermarket without someone asking what do I think of Trump as President. So unsurprisingly there was a deep interest in the Prime Minister's speech this week on Brexit. She set out with certainty the 12 principle objectives behind the forthcoming negotiations. The response from the city (a bellwether on these things) was very positive.

What I like most though is the feedback from constituents. Whatever their view is, it is being given and I welcome that because engagement in politics is actually the starting point for shaping our future.