



HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

Dear Colleague

I am writing to you in my role as Commons Chair of the Speakers' Advisory Group for the 2015 Anniversaries within the Houses of Parliament. We have many events, cultural activities and educational projects planned for this year as part of our UK-wide 'Parliament in the Making' programme, which coincides with the anniversaries of Magna Carta and the Montfort parliament. We believe that these constitutional anniversaries coinciding with an election year provides a unique opportunity to inspire and educate the public and encourage further participation in the democratic process at all levels. We are confident that our programme for the year will offer many entry routes and useful resources for Local Government – whether that be library toolkits, join-in opportunities or participatory projects.

In particular I would like to draw your attention to a project entitled 'LiberTeas' that we are planning on Sunday 14 June. To coincide with the 800th anniversary of sealing of Magna Carta (15 June 1215) the Houses of Parliament, in partnership with the National Trust and the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, are asking the nation to take a moment to celebrate, debate and reflect on those rights which we can very often take for granted but which people throughout history have campaigned to make happen or fought to preserve.

Communities across the UK are being encouraged to organise or attend a local event, to create a simultaneous celebration of their freedoms and rights. There will be a national peal of bells at 3pm after which we will ask the public to take a simultaneous cup of tea. Whether it's an afternoon tea for a few friends at home, a history talk or walk, a street party, a parade, a trail around the local museum – a LiberTeas event can be anything that you want it to be. Participation is in no way restricted to marking the Medieval Magna Carta moment – perhaps you have a local history that you'd rather celebrate or perhaps an issue which is very important locally? You can find event ideas and further information at www.liberteas.co.uk.

I hope that you could encourage your local communities and Parish Councils to take part on the day. You and your officers may also want to organise something yourselves? Perhaps tea in the Mayor's Parlour? A special public debate? Making a park available for the entire community to come to picnic? The first 400 people to register an event will be offered two tickets to attend the national Magna Carta commemorations on 15 June at Runnymede Meadows.

We do hope that you will be able to find a way to ensure your communities learn about and can take part in this opportunity. We can send electronic and print marketing materials to you if that would help, and someone from Parliament should be available to speak to any large groups of organisations or community representatives that you could organise.

Yours sincerely,

Sir Peter Luff MP

Commons Chair for the Speakers' Advisory Group for the 2015 Anniversaries

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2015 Anniversaries, House of Parliament

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