

# Arlene McCarthy MEP

Sept 09 European Report



## Thank You

*As Brian and I begin work in our new roles in the European Parliament I wanted to say a big thank you to all those dedicated activists who campaigned with us during the European Elections.*

*Out on the doorstep I was heartened to see so many of our members out canvassing with me, giving up their evenings to staff our Phone Bank and getting out our Labour vote in the crucial final weeks of the campaign.*

*Despite the difficult political climate Labour won 2 out of the 8 seats, polling 20.9% in the North West compared to 15.7% nationally. Our Labour vote held up in many parts of the region, no doubt thanks to the hard work of the dedicated team of activists who got involved in the campaign. We came 2nd to the Tories in contrast to other regions where Labour was in third place behind UKIP.*

*BNP leader Nick Griffin was elected on a lower vote than 2004, on the back of a low turnout across the North West. More than ever we need to expose the lies of the BNP and demonstrate how Labour is the only party fighting for equality, fairness and social justice for all our communities in the North West.*

*We need to build on our campaign activity in advance of the general and local elections. It is your energy and commitment as members that spur us on to deliver for the North West and we look forward to working with you.*

*Arlene*

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## Not in My Name

Key Hope Not Hate campaigners attended the inaugural sitting of the European Parliament in Strasbourg to present a petition signed by over 80,000 thousand British people.

The petition sends a strong message to the European Parliament that Nick Griffin and Andrew Brons do not represent the British people. Arlene, who is supporting the Not in My Name Campaign said: "The BNP are a fascist Party and we will not engage in their politics of hate and division and neither will the majority of people in the North West.

"We are a diverse multi-cultural region which retains a strong sense of community. The people of this region have seen through the thinly disguised veil of hatred that is the BNP."

"Promoting tolerance, respect for others and diversity is vital for ensuring a strong economic future for our region, attracting inward investment and creating jobs and opportunities for all communities. We want the best for the North West from Europe."



Arlene, Brian and Linda McAvan MEP receive the petition from Hope Not Hate campaigner, Nick Lowles.

To subscribe to Arlene's e-bulletin email: [arlene.mccarthy@easynet.co.uk](mailto:arlene.mccarthy@easynet.co.uk)

# Illicit tobacco clamp down



Arlene is backing a new initiative across the North West that will co-ordinate a regional crackdown on the trade in illicit tobacco and taking the fight against smuggled and illicit tobacco to the European Union.

Arlene, who is a supporter of Smokefree North West's youth campaign said: "While the number of under 18s buying tobacco from shops is dropping nearly one in five underage smokers in the North West are buying from illicit tobacco sources. It is clear that smuggled and illicit tobacco is providing an easy and cheap source of cigarettes to underage smokers who otherwise would not have access to or be able to afford to buy cigarettes."

Photo: Arlene and Brian with Smokefree North West Youth Campaigners during a recent visit to Brussels.

"I welcome these moves to co-ordinate our approach across agencies and clamp down on illicit tobacco sources." Arlene added: "I recently met with young people from across the North West when they brought their Smokefree campaign to the European Parliament. It is vital for us to support and help these young people who are working for a smoke free future."

"We are supporting the anti-tobacco campaign with action in Europe, with the ban on tobacco advertising, health warnings on cigarette packets including the shock photo warnings and tough action on tobacco smuggling into the UK combined with strict rules on promoting and selling cigarettes in the Governments health bill."

## Key Positions for Arlene & Brian

Arlene and Brian have received the backing of the European Parliament for two key posts. Arlene has been elected Vice Chair of the powerful Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee and Brian is the Chair of a key spending committee transport and Tourism.

Arlene said "This is Labour keeping our pledge to the people of the North West to use our influence in Europe and our membership of the EU to deliver results for our region. The Economic Committee takes the big decisions on Europe's economic recovery plan. We must get the real economy moving again and make sure consumers are protected and informed on financial services. I will be using my position to support and promote the North West as a key region to do business and invest in."

## Million Mothers March



Arlene marched with Mothers Against Violence (MAV), Million Mothers March on Sunday 23rd August 2009.

Arlene, who is a long-term supporter of MAV and their campaign to eradicate violence and to relieve the victims of the effects of violence within the local community, said: "Mothers Against Violence are taking the lead in this global march to reclaim childhood, they work tirelessly to raise awareness and address the issues associated with gun crime and gang culture."

"MAV provides a strong voice for families who have been torn apart by gun crime and violence and in their 10th Anniversary year they continue to go from strength to strength in their efforts to raise the value of children and bring awareness to local communities."

"It is important for everyone to sign the MAV pledge, to become a good example for children and young people by encouraging and helping them to fulfil their potential."

Working hard for **YOU** in Europe