

PRESS RELEASE

FROM: Fiona Bruce MP for Congleton Constituency

DATE: 4th March 2011



MP, Fiona becomes 'Keep Trade Local' Ambassador

Fiona Bruce MP signed the 'Keep Trade Local' pledge at the Beer Emporium in Sandbach with owner, Steve Davies.

The 'Keep Trade Local' campaign was launched by the Federation of Small Business (FSB) of which Steve Davies is a member.

Fiona said:

'The UK economy is driven by small business. They make up 99.3% of all UK businesses and are the engine for growth and job creation – and this is something very much recognised by the Government. That is why, for example, we are putting so much into help creating 75,000 new apprenticeships each year to help build up the skills small businesses need. We are also looking at how current employment laws impact upon small businesses and how these can be reviewed'.

Fiona is a member of the All Party Parliamentary Small Shops Group, which works to promote and strengthen the role of independent retailers on the High Street and to highlight the contribution they make to local community life.

Fiona also said, this week:

'One of the key challenges of small businesses is the burden of regulation, generally, and I have written to Mark Prisk MP, the Minister for Business and Enterprise, giving him specific examples of regulations which need to be reviewed to help firms here in Cheshire strengthen and grow in a sustainable way.

Another area of concern for small firms is that it is still proving challenging to obtain cost-effective bank funding and with colleagues in Parliament, I am continuing to press for this – for example, for banks to allow local bank managers to exercise greater discretion based on their knowledge of local businesses, for banks to give specific timetables for

decisions to be made following facility applications and clear written feedback on funding application rejections’.

In signing the pledge, Fiona has become a Keep Trade Local Ambassador and agreed to:

- **Forever remember that small businesses are at the heart of communities**
- **Support small businesses in my constituency**
- **Bring the small business voice to Parliament**

ENDS

Notes to Editors

1. The FSB is the UK's leading business organisation with over 213,000 members. It exists to protect and promote the interests of the self-employed, and all those who run their own business. More information is available at www.fsb.org.uk
2. For information, updates and to view the Keep Trade Local manifesto visit the website at www.fsb.org.uk/keeptradelocal. For details on the FSB's Keep Trade Local campaign contact Aviva Bresky at aviva.bresky@fsb.org.uk.
3. Over 50% of the turnover of independent retailers goes in to the local community, compared with just 5% from supermarkets.