

Having written last week's column about clogged up roads, too much housing and our general lack of infrastructure, there is only one topic worth writing about this week and that is the snow!

The Beast from the East has arrived and lived up to its threat and causing chaos. There is always a danger that with so many false alarms that the warnings are disregarded but with almost a week of advanced warning the snows arrived as expected.

Now I ought to start with a confession. I love the snow. But as a kid growing up by the coast we rarely got a really good dump. I think I can remember only a handful of times that the school was closed and we got time off to go sledging, make a snowman and challenge the neighbours to a snowball fight.

Meanwhile pictures from around the County always showed happy children and parents having fun while we trudged to school in slush. So you can imagine how my childhood envy came flooding back when I arrived in Parliament to bright sunshine only to receive pictures from home of the snow piling up around Aylesford village.

My facebook is full of joy, rosy cheeks, and snowmen. But hey the country doesn't run itself (although I am sure a few snowdays off wouldn't hurt). Now obviously I write all that in a light hearted way because actually many people do have to go to work, and can't take snowdays. Our gritters, emergency service workers, retail services and many others get on with it because they have to, for without them we really would be in trouble.

So my thanks to those who brave the weather to look out for others while we wait for the snow Beast to pass and run headlong into spring.