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## Yorkshire should play its part in missile defence, says Hopkins

Kris Hopkins has described Keighley MP Ann Cryer and Yorkshire CND as “living in yesterday’s world” as they joined forces to oppose the inclusion of Menwith Hill monitoring base near Harrogate in the US National Missile Defence scheme.

Defence Secretary Des Browne last week announced that the RAF site would be specially equipped to allow receipt of satellite warnings of potential hostile missile launches with data being passed to both US and UK authorities.

However, Mrs Cryer, whilst conceding that a missile monitoring system was necessary, added that she had, “never liked the idea of having a foreign base such as Menwith Hill here.”

She also pledged to assist Yorkshire CND in their attempts to have the RAF base shut down.

Commenting on the developments, Cllr Hopkins, the Conservative Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Keighley and Ilkley, said:

“This is further evidence that Ann Cryer, like Yorkshire CND, is living in yesterday’s world.

“The global threats to our national security have never been greater and yet the only leadership she can offer is to put her head in the sand.

“In common with many other people in this country, I have serious difficulties with a number of the current US administration’s policies, particularly in relation to Iraq.

“But we must be realistic enough to acknowledge that the special relationship brings benefits to both the US and the UK. Our direct involvement in the US Missile Defence scheme clearly strengthens our national security and should be warmly welcomed.

“As such, I do not believe there is any place for Ann Cryer’s brand of nimbyism. Yorkshire should be proud to play its part in this project and to be seen to be leading from the front on behalf of our country.”

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