

## Mark receives award from the MK Somali Association

THE Milton Keynes Somali Association have honoured one of the city's MPs for his fight to ban the drug Khat.

Mark was surprised to receive recognition for his campaign when he attended the inaugural meeting of the Milton Keynes Somali Community Association, which is the first group of its kind in the city.

For over the three years, Mark has been pushing for khat to be banned and has spoken in the House several times about the detrimental effects of the substance on the Somali community in the city. Locally, the drug has caused many problems including social and family breakdown and damaged the health of its users.

Speaking afterwards, Mark said: "I didn't expect to receive an award for just doing my job. I continue to be committed to fighting for a ban on khat on behalf of my constituents and the Somali Community."

Abukar Awaleh, Head of Somali Diaspora UK, added: "I am very impressed with the fantastic work Mark Lancaster is doing for minority communities and we are ever so grateful to him for being the voice to a voiceless community and problem."