

Human trafficking opera wins backing by MP

POET and librettist Ben Kaye has won praise from MP Bob Walter and visited 10 Downing Street to raise awareness of the misery of human trafficking.

Mr Kaye, of Hazelbury Bryan, also visited the House of Lords for an award for his latest work, *Anya 17*, which is being premiered next March.

The opera, created with renowned composer Adam Gorb, tells the story of an Eastern European girl forced to work in the UK sex trade.

Anya 17 has drawn involvement from charities, filmmakers, the Royal Northern College of Music and the United Nations.

Mr Kaye met North Dorset MP Mr Walter at the appropriately named setting of Poets Corner Café in Sturminster Newton where they discussed the issue.

Mr Walter said: "I am delighted to give my backing to Mr Kaye in his efforts to grow what is a truly ground-breaking big society idea.

"The conception and creation of *Anya 17* as a work that will vividly highlight the genuine horrors of human trafficking - and in particular sex trafficking in the UK - is a fantastic example of what one committed individual can achieve."

He vowed to help the work find an international audience following its UK premier.

Two films are being made about the work. Mr Kaye was meeting Prime Minister David Cameron in Downing Street on Wednesday to talk about the opera.

His previous work includes the highly acclaimed *Eternal Voices*, a charity concert with music by Adam Gorb for the Royal Marines, premiered at Exeter Cathedral last year.



Bob Walter, left, with Ben Kaye and a T-shirt depicting the Anya 17 logo