

MARK FLETCHER MP NEWSLETTER



January Newsletter



Dear Resident,

Welcome to my first newsletter of the year. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family the very best for 2023.

It has been an extremely busy start to the year for me in Westminster and back home in the Constituency. I have spoken five times in Parliament on key issues such as the training and retention of doctors in the NHS, post-16 education in Bolsover, Junction 28 of the M1, support for victims of rape, and support for first-time buyers.

The Government also released figures showing that 16,753 police officers had been recruited nationally - meaning we are well on our way to the 20,000 target in the 2019 Manifesto. In Derbyshire that means 346 extra officers and I will continue to work with the local police to ensure more of them are on the beat in communities across the constituency.

Locally, I met with Inspector Shaw and Sgt Bowler to talk about issues of crime and anti-social behaviour across South Normanton and Pinxton. I hosted my first constituents surgery of the year at Clowne Community Centre, where we discussed a number of local and national issues - if you would like an appointment at a future surgery please use the contact details at the end of the newsletter.

I wrote to Cllr Athwal, Cabinet Member for Highways at Derbyshire County Council, to request that a number of roads across the constituency be included in the capital works programme. I also liaised with Gleeson Homes to help residents with an issue with road maintenance on the new Model Walk Estate in Creswell.

My office attended a multi-stakeholder meeting to discuss road safety in Calow, specifically Bole Hill, and my petition has continued to gather more and more signatures. I will be meeting with the County Councillor for Highways next week to outline my request for more traffic calming measures - alongside other transport and infrastructure issues across the constituency - I will keep you updated.

Finally, I had a great weekend to end January in our fabulous constituency - Saturday morning I was out delivering leaflets across Barlborough supporting our District Councillors, Maxine and David Dixon. Then off to an absolutely fantastic performance of 'Sinbad the Sailor' by Bolsover Drama Group - hilarious and engaging - such talented people involved! I joined in the annual wassail at Wessington to encourage a good harvest this year - and then to

Hilcote to mark the year anniversary of local men's mental health support group - Bottled Up Blokes - who are going from strength to strength.

I'm looking forward to a busy month in February where I will continue to work hard to deliver on your priorities and to support the Prime Minister in his plan to halve inflation, grow the economy, get debt falling, cut NHS waiting lists, and passing laws to stop illegal immigration on small boats.

I hope you find this edition interesting and informative!

Best wishes,

Mark



Fighting for safer roads in Calow with Cllr Jack Woolley



With the Minister for Roads (left) following my debate on J28



Meeting to discuss ASB in South Normanton and Pinxton



1 year anniversary of Bottled Up Blokes



Bolsover School bids for Post-16 Education

The Redhill Academy Trust (RHAT), which runs The Bolsover School, has submitted an application to the Department of Education to open an age 16-19 mainstream free school in Bolsover. The application has been submitted in line with the aims of the Government's White Paper which identified Derbyshire as an Education Investment Area. The bid proposes to set up a new post-16 centre in Bolsover with an academic focus.

The Bolsover constituency currently has no further or higher educational facilities - meaning local students have to leave the area for their post-16 education. This results in disengagement, lack of aspirations, and low percentages of young people progressing onto university after KS4.

That's why I've been working with local stakeholders, such as the Regional Schools Commissioner, Derbyshire County Council, and The Bolsover School, to establish post-16 provision in Bolsover.

The round is expected to be highly competitive with only 15 free schools approved from over sixty applicants - with successful bids being announced in the Spring.

After years of hard work from all partners involved, it was an absolute pleasure to support the application by Redhill for post-16 provision in Bolsover. I got involved in politics to make a difference, to help create opportunities to those who are forgotten, to give a voice to those who are unheard, and to provide life chances to everyone no matter where you grew up or what has happened to you in your past. If we are serious about levelling up and providing equal opportunity regardless of geography, then post-16 education in the heart of the Bolsover Constituency is a vital piece of the jigsaw.



Junction 28

Junction 28 in its current state is not fit for purpose. Residents in South Normanton and Pinxton continue to experience congestion on a daily basis and only 9% of people in my recent survey said they thought the junction is 'safe' or 'very safe'.

Earlier this month, I held a Westminster Hall debate, supported by my honourable friends the MP for Ashfield, Lee Anderson MP, and the MP for Amber Valley, Nigel Mills to put forward the case for funding to Richard Holden MP, Minister for Roads and Transport. The need is clear, whether that's road safety, economic development, reducing congestion and emissions, or lowering costs from delays to local businesses.

I know the Secretary of State understands the importance of this vital infrastructure project to our region and I look forward to working with the Government to deliver for local residents.

[Watch the debate on Junction 28](#)

Support for victims of rape

I took the opportunity to ask the Justice Secretary about support for victims of

rape, and confirm that those who have been convicted are unable to change their name to avoid the consequences of appearing on the sex offenders register.

I look forward to working on the Victims Bill and Parole Reforms in coming months ensuring that victims and their families are at the heart of decision making.

I am encouraged that the Rape Review Action plan is making a big difference in conviction rates in rape cases (<https://www.gov.uk/.../rape-response-overhaul-delivers...>), and hope this continues when Operation Soteria is rolled out across the country from June.

In December a new 24/7 Rape Crisis support line was opened for anyone who has been affected by rape or sexual assault - you can read more here <https://247sexualabusesupport.org.uk>

[Watch my question to the Minister](#)



Darfoulds Bridge Update

I was extremely grateful to the Minister for Roads, Richard Holden MP, for agreeing to meet with me to discuss improvements at Darfoulds Bridge. Residents in Whitwell have suffered for too long from HGV traffic cutting through the village and I am determined to secure funding to resolve this longstanding issue. I will continue to keep residents updated on my progress.



Support for first-time buyers

I know how important the Help to Buy Scheme has been for many first-time buyers across our constituency and I was saddened to hear the scheme will

no longer operate from March 2023.

For far too many people home ownership is a pipe dream. That's why I asked the Minister for Housing to consider extending the Help to Buy Scheme or introduce a similar scheme to support first-time buyers.

I will continue to work hard to ensure residents across our constituency can achieve the dream of being able to own their own home.

[Watch my question to the Minister](#)



Holocaust Memorial Day

Last week, I signed the Holocaust Educational Trust's Book of Commitment. The 27th January marks the anniversary of the liberation of the infamous former Nazi concentration and death camp, Auschwitz-Birkenau, in 1945, when we also remember and pay tribute to all of those persecuted by the Nazis, including Roma and Sinti people, disabled people, gay men, political opponents to the Nazis and others. We also remember all of those affected by genocide since, in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

Holocaust Memorial Day is an important opportunity for people from Bolsover to reflect on the darkest times of European history. I pledge to remember the six million Jewish men, women and children who were murdered in Holocaust.

[Visit my Website for More Content and News](#)



Need My Help - Book A Surgery Appointment

I held my first constituency surgery of the year at Clowne Community Centre. We discussed a number of local and national issues and I thank those that came along.

Need my help with something? Click the button below and request a surgery appointment with me. Alternatively, feel free to email me, making sure to provide your FULL address and contact details.

If you would prefer to speak to someone, feel free to give my office a call on 01246 932048

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