

# MARK FLETCHER MP NEWSLETTER



## March 2023 Newsletter



*Dear Resident,*

I hope you and your family are well. This edition is set to be one my longest updates (apologies in advance) due to an action-packed month I had in March!

Alongside the 2023 Budget, we have had major policy announcements by the Government on key issues such as crime and anti-social behaviour, illegal immigration and stopping the small boats, tougher sentences for domestic abuse, as well as an additional £5 billion of funding to support our Armed Forces to protect our nation and meet the challenges of an increasingly volatile & complex world.

The Prime Minister announced a specialist police task force who will do whatever it takes to root out evil grooming gangs and put an end to political correctness getting in the way of keeping young girls safe.

The Government also joined the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). A vast free trade area of 11 countries across the Indo-Pacific, which includes Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam.

The bloc is home to more than 500 million people and will be worth 15% of

global GDP once the UK joins (predicted to account for 25% in the decades ahead).

This deal will give exporters access to economies with a combined GDP of £11 trillion - with more than 99 percent of UK goods exports to CPTPP countries now being eligible for zero tariffs, including key UK exports such as cheese, cars, chocolate, machinery, gin and whisky.

Our area has also benefitted from an additional £4.23 million of funding for potholes and improved regional bus services like the 55 service. The 55 currently goes from Alfreton to Chesterfield via Tibshelf) and has been extended to Chesterfield hospital and the train station every day, as well as Somercotes Industrial Estate in mornings/evenings to help workers access public transport.

The University of Derby was announced as the first university in the Midlands to join the National College for Nuclear, stemming from a collaboration between the University, the NCfN, Rolls-Royce Submarines Ltd, Nuclear AMRC and Derby City Council to launch the Nuclear Skills Academy - aimed at tackling skills shortages and building capacity within the UK's submarine programme. This will bring even more skilled jobs and prospects into the East Midlands.

Derby was also named as the HQ for Great British Rail. This is something I have campaigned on with neighbouring MPs, so I am absolutely delighted Derby has been selected as the home of Great British Rail. A great win for our region - meaning more jobs and investment.

I have also been working incredibly hard to progress some key campaigns, whether that's securing funding for improvements to J28 & J29 of the M1, holding a debate on post-16 education in Bolsover, or meeting with the Minister for HS2 to outline my campaign to lift safeguarding that remains in place along the - now cancelled - phase 2b route.

Finally, I am very grateful to the Deputy Prime Minister, in his capacity as Justice Secretary, for sitting down with me to discuss the issue of sex offenders' name changes. Since I began campaigning on this, I've been shocked by our system's failures and will do everything in my power to protect vulnerable people from harm. I am hopeful that the Government now understands the problem and will work with me to ensure that this egregious loophole is closed for good.

Locally, I have been out and about across the constituency, speaking with residents, visiting businesses, and attending community events I even got to see Shirebrook Town FC play their last home game of the season (they were robbed by a last-minute goal from Dronfield)!

I had two fantastic visits to Bolsover and Whitwell Scouts, where I learnt all about the vital skills they learn, took part in a Q&A, and also presented some awards! It was a real honour to receive my own badges from the group!

I also really enjoyed speaking with Shirebrook and Bolsover 14-19-year-old students about aspiration during two talks earlier this month. I met some really great young people working hard to overcome challenges and I just wanted to say a massive thank you to Derbyshire Adult Community Education for inviting me to the sessions.

Sadly, we received the news that Bupa will be closing its dental practice in Bolsover. I have been concerned for some time about the availability of dentists locally, and have raised it in the House of Commons and with the previous Secretary of State for Health. Bupa's decision is a real blow and one that I think has been handled incredibly badly on their part. I have asked for an urgent meeting with their Chief Executive and with Dr Chris Clayton, head of the Derbyshire Integrated Care Board, and will update residents further following the conclusion of the meeting.

In the meantime, I hope we can all start to enjoy the longer and sunnier days. I really love being out and about across the constituency chatting to residents, so hopefully I will get to see as many of you as I can in the coming weeks, and as always, if you have any issues please do get in touch - I am here to help!

Best wishes,

Mark

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**Planting a tree with Cllr Rose Bowler at RentPlus**



**Judge at The Arkwright Primary School Bake-Off**



**On GB News to discuss my 10-Minute Rule Bill**



**On Politics East Midlands to discuss key local issues**



**Hosting mental health charity Young Minds in Parliament**



**Celebrating World Book Day on 2 March**





**Meeting the owners of Willow Tree Farm**



**Visiting South Normanton & Pinxton Youth Club**

### Supporting the Illegal Migration Bill

Illegal migration is a big issue for my constituents. It is deeply concerning to see Britain's fairness abused in this way. This is a complex issue that needs to be tackled head on and I am glad that the Prime Minister sees this as a priority. In the questions to the Home Secretary following the statement announcing the policy, I stated:

*"I warmly welcome the Home Secretary's statement and intent today; We've had a policy of housing illegal migrants and asylum seeker in hotels up and down the country, it has caused massive community tensions and strains on public services. So can she confirm when this will end, and also, how much it will be saving the British taxpayer?"*

[Watch the Home Secretary's response to my question on illegal immigration](#)

**BUDGET23**

**YOUR PRIORITIES ARE OUR PRIORITIES**

- EXTENDING FURTHER SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES**  
Energy Price Guarantee will be extended at £2,500 until July this year, saving the average household £160 per month on their energy bills.
- CUTTING TAXES FOR UK BUSINESSES**  
Full-expensing for three years for businesses investing in the UK, driving investment to boost jobs and growth across our country.
- INTRODUCING 30 FREE HOURS CHILDCARE**  
Driving down costs for working parents with 30 hours of free childcare per week for children 9 months to 4 years.
- FREEZING FUEL DUTY AGAIN FOR DRIVERS**  
We are freezing fuel duty for the thirteenth consecutive year, saving the average driver £100 a year.
- REFORMING NHS PENSIONS**  
More doctors in the NHS to cut waiting lists by abolishing the life time allowance and increasing the annual allowance to £60,000.

**OUR 5 PRIORITIES | HALVE INFLATION | GROW THE ECONOMY  
REDUCE DEBT | CUT WAITING LISTS | STOP THE BOATS**

### Budget 2023

I very much welcomed the Chancellor's Budget. Despite the difficult global challenges the UK economy is proving the doubters wrong.

Recession avoided  
Economy growing

↑ Jobs up  
↓ Debt down  
Inflation falling

The Chancellor also announced some major policies that will benefit residents across the constituency;

Energy Bills Capped  
£24 billion business tax cut  
Fuel Duty frozen  
30 hours a week of free childcare to working parents of children aged 9 months to 4 years

I know the Government will continue to deliver on the Prime Ministers priorities to halve inflation, grow the economy and reduce debt so we can create better-paid jobs and opportunities across the United Kingdom, especially in areas like the Bolsover constituency, guaranteeing a better future for the next generation.

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### **Westminster Hall Debate on Post-16 Education in Bolsover**

Earlier this month, I put forward my case for post-16 education in Bolsover to Education Minister, Robert Halfon MP. Levelling up is vital to my constituents, which means investment in housing, infrastructure and high-skilled jobs, and ensuring that we have a skilled population, underpinned by an ambition to capitalise on the opportunities available to them. I welcome the Government's ongoing plans to do that, but if we want to ensure that Bolsover has the long-term prospects necessary to create a real shift towards a brighter future, the key will be improving educational opportunities for the current and next generations of students. Three main factors are driving the need for a new post-16 education provider in Bolsover: the lack of existing provisions within a reasonable distance; the over-subscription of existing schools; and the lack of choice for students wanting to pursue an academic form of education. It is right that young people in Bolsover should have the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

[Watch](#)

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# PLAN FOR **ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

Introducing **TOUGHER  
PUNISHMENT** for perpetrators

**CRACKING DOWN** on illegal drugs

**INCREASING POLICE AND  
UNIFORMED OFFICER PRESENCE**  
in anti-social behaviour hotspots

**HIGHER FINES** for litter, graffiti and  
fly-tipping

**LAUNCHING A NEW TOOL** for the  
public to report anti-social behaviour

## **Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour**

Anti-social behaviour takes many forms and has a huge impact on our towns and villages, making people feel unsafe within their communities. It also ruins the landscape and causes £££'s of damage each year. It is an issue I have campaigned for tougher measures on since before I was elected. That is why I am very pleased to see that Derbyshire has been selected as a pilot area for the Government's new Immediate Justice and Hotspot Policing measures, part of the £160 million Anti-Social Behaviour Plan.

This means:

- Increased police visibility in our communities
- Offenders will be made to repair the damage they cause.
- The police and Local Authority will be given more tools to tackle antisocial behaviour including expanding drug testing on arrest.
- Banning nitrous oxide
- Increasing on-the-spot fines for offences such as graffiti and fly-tipping.

The Anti-Social Behaviour Plan also includes new measures to make evicting anti-social tenants easier, as well as broadening which disruptive and harmful activities can lead to eviction. Previous perpetrators of anti-social behaviour will also be deprioritised for new council housing, creating a zero-tolerance approach to these activities.

The Government also announced a crackdown on nuisance begging, the creation of a new online reporting tool for anti-social behaviour and further investment in youth clubs to get children off the streets.

We must ensure that our communities remain safe and pleasant places to live and the Anti-Social Behaviour Plan, 20 000 new police officers and strengthened powers to tackle offenders will be key to doing this. This has been a key priority of mine ever since I was elected and I will continue to raise this important issue in meetings with Ministers.

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### **Education Roundtable with the Minister for Schools**

I was delighted to welcome the leaders of all Bolsover constituency secondary schools; Bolsover School, Frederick Gents, Heritage High, Shirebrook Academy, Tibshelf Community School, and Stubbin Wood Academy, down to Westminster for an Education roundtable meeting with Nick Gibb MP, Minister of State for Schools.

Although I have visited all of the schools, and spoken to the leaders on many occasions since being elected, this is the first time we have all been together and I hope everyone found it really useful. We discussed a wide range of issues with the Minister as part of ongoing work on improving education in our local area.



### **Kirkstead Juniors, Pinxton**

I was honoured to speak with pupils at Kirkstead Junior Academy in Pinxton during their assembly last month. We talked about how laws are made and the role of MPs in Parliament. Thank you to Miss Bentley for showing me around and to Mrs Ingle for the invitation. You're doing a fantastic job! I look forward to visiting John King and Longwood, both also part of Pinxton Village Academies, in coming months.



### **Shirebrook Academy**

It was a pleasure to spend some time with Mrs Burgin, Associate Principal of Shirebrook Academy, primarily to follow up on our roundtable discussions with Schools Minister, Nick Gibb MP, in Westminster a couple of weeks back, and to hear how they are working hard on increasing standards of behaviour & attendance, and on creating better engagement with the local community.



## Freedom Project visits 10 Downing Street

I had the pleasure of inviting Mark North, Founder and CEO of the Freedom Community Project to 10 Downing Street for an event recognising our Community Champions, hosted by the Prime Minister, to celebrate members of the community who make our constituencies a better place to live and work.

The Freedom Community Project follows a clear mission, based on their Christian principles, to care for the most vulnerable regardless of race, religion or sexual preference. Mark is an absolute credit to the Bolsover Constituency and he is the personification of a Community Champion.

The Freedom Community Project runs drop-in centres in Bolsover, Clowne, Shirebrook, South Normanton, Renishaw, Carr Vale and Hillstown offering support with housing, benefits and debt advice. Last year, the Freedom Community Project and their 200 volunteers supported hundreds of people across our communities with their free cafes, support, food bank and various information and educational projects and events.

I know that Mark thoroughly enjoyed his time at Number 10, including chatting to the Prime Minister about the work that the Freedom Community Project does for our communities. I look forward to working together with Mark and his team on future projects. You can read more about Freedom <https://freedom.charity/#about-us> or find them on Facebook.



## Fighting back against HS2

I had the opportunity to raise the plight of residents of Newton who are facing excessive rent increases imposed by HS2 Ltd, and reiterated the need for safeguarding and the ongoing blight on our communities to be lifted. The Rail Minister agreed that the increases in rent seem incredibly high and assured me he is looking at the cases I presented to him at our meeting. I look forward to meeting with him again in coming weeks.

Watch

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### **Improvements to Junctions 28 and 29 of the M1**

At the beginning of the month, I had opportunity to ask the Minister, Richard Holden MP, about my campaign to bring major improvements to J28 of the M1, the Pinxton Interchange, and to J29 at Heath. I look forward to welcoming him in coming weeks.

[Watch my Question to the Minister](#)

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



### **Need My Help - Book A Surgery Appointment**

I held my last surgery in Whitwell, where I chatted with residents on a variety of topics including benefits, HS2, NHS, planning and lots more.

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

[Request a surgery with me](#)

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