

# MARK FLETCHER MP NEWSLETTER



## Spring Newsletter



*Dear Resident,*

Welcome to the Spring edition of my newsletter. It has been a busy couple of weeks in Westminster and back home in Bolsover. I have spoken in the House of Commons six times on various issues like fuel prices at Clowne Tesco, gambling, support for Ukraine, NHS dentistry, and in support of changing the law so that sex offenders cannot change their names. We have also seen progress on some key campaigns like Junction 28 and road safety in Clowne/Stanfrees (lowering of the National speed limit to 40mph on Low Road from around the nursery access to the existing 30mph speed limit terminal position on Cliff Hill). The Government also announced a new Community Diagnostic Centre for Chesterfield.

Over the past few weeks, I've been out and about speaking to hundreds of residents across the constituency and listening to what you would like to see prioritised both nationally and locally. I had the pleasure of welcoming the community group, Bottled Up Blokes, to 10 Downing Street and students from Bolsover School to Parliament. I've also had the opportunity to visit some local businesses, hold constituency surgeries, host an event for Ukrainian refugees, and in early April I welcomed the Foreign Secretary, James Cleverly MP, to Shirebrook to visit BLAST (Building Lives Around Shirebrook Town) community group and Willow Tree Farm. Not to mention a wonderful weekend of events celebrating the Kings coronation!

I hope you find this edition of the newsletter interesting and I look forward to updating you all again at the end of next month! If I can be of any assistance please do get in contact using the details below.

Best wishes,

Mark



**Foreign Secretary visits  
BLAST in Shirebrook**



**Foreign Secretary visits  
Willow Tree Farm**



### **Bottled Up Blokes at No10 Downing Street**

Mental health is such a big issue, and something I'm incredibly passionate about. In particular, getting men to talk about how they feel and their emotions is so often such a big challenge, but doing so can be the difference between life and death.

That's why I'm so proud of Ben and Tim and the work they've done to set up Bottled Up Blokes. Their work, their honesty and their perseverance is inspirational, and they are helping people from well beyond South Normanton.

It was an absolute privilege to take them to 10 Downing Street, and to introduce them to the Minister for Charities, Stuart Andrew MP.



### **Junction 28 Roundtable**

I had the pleasure of hosting a roundtable meeting in Parliament to discuss the merits of upgrading Junction 28 of the M1. This meeting included local council officers, officials from the Department for Transport, National Highways, Midlands Connect, local businesses and my colleague Lee Anderson MP (Ashfield).

We discussed potential plans for investment at this junction to stop the backlogs that so often build up on the motorway and slip roads.

This will cut journey times for commuters, save businesses millions each year and help reduce dangerous emissions from idling vehicles. It was also great to hear how improvements to this junction will save residents money and boost investment in the local area.

Read more about the meeting and why improving this junction is so important by clicking the link below.

[Read More](#)

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## Smart Motorways

Plans for new smart motorways have been cancelled, recognising the lack of public confidence felt by drivers. Last year, I spoke in the debate on the Transport Committee's report on smart motorways, which highlighted a number of safety concerns. The M1 forms the spine of our constituency, the vast majority is all-lane running smart motorway. I was unconvinced of the benefit to our local communities then so I am pleased that the Government has listened to the public's concerns and cancelled the future implementation of smart motorways.

The existing smart motorways will benefit from £900m safety improvements. This includes progressing plans on installing 150 extra emergency areas across the network in line with the commitments made in response to the Transport Select Committee, as well as further improving the performance of stopped vehicle detection technology on every all lane running smart motorway.

[Watch my speech on Smart Motorways](#)



## Support for victims of sexual offences

Earlier this month, I met with Della Wright and Emily Konstantis from the Safeguarding Alliance to discuss the progress on their campaign to introduce Della's Law preventing registered sex offenders from changing their name and evading justice.

I have been working with the Safeguarding Alliance on this campaign for many months, having introduced a 10-Minute Rule Bill on this issue in March.

We have a real opportunity to fix the system that let Della down, put an end to the hundreds of offenders who go missing each year and put victims of sexual offences first in this important legislation. #DellasLaw

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### **Meeting the Home Secretary**

Earlier this month, I had the opportunity to meet with the Home Secretary, where I argued for the inclusion of my campaign to ban sex offenders from being able to change their names in the forthcoming Victims Bill, something I've been working on a lot over the past few months.

I also thanked the Home Secretary for her work in helping us to meet our target of 20,000 new police officers, but made clear we need more visible policing on our streets and in particular in areas where we're seeing antisocial behavior. This is something she is very passionate about as well and is looking at some of the forces where initiatives to increase police visibility have worked to see if they can be rolled out across the country.

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### **NHS Dentistry in Bolsover**

In the House of Commons I further raised the closure of the Bupa dental practice in Bolsover. I raised my concerns about the lack of infrastructure being put in place alongside the thousands of new homes being built around the town, and further invited the Minister to meet with the Integrated Care Board to urgently look at options for provision in the short term as well as increasing provision in the future.

[Watch my speech on NHS Dentistry](#)



### **Support for Ukrainian Refugees**

I was pleased to welcome over 50 hosts and their guests from the Homes for Ukraine scheme to South Normanton. I was joined by Derbyshire MP's Amanda Solloway MP and Lee Rowley MP as well as the Foreign Secretary, the Rt Hon James Cleverly MP, alongside officers from Derbyshire County

Council and Bolsover District Council who have supported families resettling across the area over the past year.

It was extremely humbling to spend time speaking with those who have had their lives turned upside down by Putin's absolutely unnecessary aggression against Ukraine, and those who have put their own lives to one side to offer a safe place to Ukrainian people to try and rebuild their lives. Thank you to all the support groups and the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain - Derby Branch for everything they do to assist.  
#SlavaUkraini

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## Fuel Prices

A number of constituents have written to me in recent weeks raising concern about fuel prices at the Tesco run petrol station in Clowne. I asked the Leader of the House, Penny Mordaunt MP, if we might hold a debate about the cost of fuel and to look at whether fuel providers are fully passing on the benefits of falling fuel prices. She confirmed that the Competition and Markets Authority are investigating the matter and committed to carefully consider any recommendations they make.

[Watch my question to the Leader of the House of Commons](#)

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## Need My Help - Book A Surgery Appointment

I held my last surgery at my constituency office in Bolsover where I discussed a broad range of topics with residents, such as child maintenance, utility bills, cashless society, anti-social behaviour, street lighting, and our foreign policy approach to China.

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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