

MARK FLETCHER MP NEWSLETTER



October Newsletter



Dear Resident,

A lot has happened since my last update in late September. Sadly, our area was hit hard by flooding from Storm Babet with roads and some homes across the constituency being badly affected, especially in Pinxton, Clowne and Pleasley. I visited some residents impacted last Friday to listen to their concerns and to offer my assistance. I also raised the issue of funding and support for flood victims in the House of Commons. And I have promised to work with the local authorities to help hold those responsible to account and work to provide long-term solutions to flooding challenges faced by our local communities.

The last month has also seen some great success for our constituency. Whether that's HS2 safeguarding being lifted, dentistry returning to Bolsover, improved bus funding like new services in Hilcote, and my campaign to ban sex-offenders from being able to change their name will be introduced as law!

I have also been working with the local police to tackle anti-social behaviour, in particular on the new Keepmoat estate in Bolsover. The A38 has been resurfaced which I know will be very welcome news for residents in the south of the constituency. Economic growth since the Covid-19 Pandemic was revised from 0.1% to 0.3% - meaning we are growing faster than Germany and France.

The Government also announced that the Rosebank oil & gas field in Scotland has been given the green light. Supporting thousands of jobs, this development will play a key part in ensuring our domestic energy security while we take a proportionate approach to our Net Zero commitments.

Progress is also being made to tackle illegal immigration with a significant decrease in UK-bound illegal immigrants, in contrast to rising numbers in other European nations. The Immigration Minister also announced that 50 migrant hotels are set for closure by January, with further closures to follow.

The Chancellor also confirmed that the National Living Wage will rise next year to over £11 per hour, from the current £10.42 per hour.

And we are making progress towards reaching the Government's target of 50,000 nurses - with 46,000 extra nurses having been recruited since 2019.

I hope you find this edition interesting!

Best wishes,

Mark



Dentistry Returns to Bolsover

The Derby and Derbyshire Integrated Care Board has announced that dental provision will return to Bolsover from early 2024.

An interim caretaker service will operate from the site of the former Bupa practice while a long-term contract is finalised. This means Bolsover will once again have a permanent dental practice.

This is fantastic news. Once again residents in Bolsover and the surrounding villages will have access to local NHS dentistry. I receive emails and phone calls every day about the problems residents face getting a dentist appointment so this news is incredibly welcome. I will continue doing all I can to further improve access to dentistry across my constituency.

I would like to know about your experiences with dental provision across the Bolsover constituency. You can contact me via email at mark.fletcher.mp@parliament.uk.



Storm Babet Flooding

Many of my constituents have been heavily affected by the flooding caused by Storm Babet. Derbyshire County Council have already been looking at ways to help residents and businesses, and have been in contact with DHLUC to request assistance.

I asked Rebecca Pow MP, Minister with responsibility for Floods, to make sure that they are given the proper funding needed to help residents get things back to normal, and emphasised the need for the funding to be put in place quickly.

I am pleased that DHLUC and DEFRA have announced the following measures ;

Flooded households in affected areas can apply for up to £500 to give cash quickly to help with immediate costs.

Households and businesses significantly affected by recent flooding will be eligible for 100% council tax and business rates relief for at least three months.

Small-to-medium sized businesses in affected areas will be eligible for up to £2,500 from the Business Recovery Grant to help them return quickly to business as usual.

Eligible flood-hit property owners will be able to apply for up to £5,000 to help make their homes and businesses more resilient to future flooding via the Property Flood Resilience Repair Grant Scheme.

This support will be available through local authorities who will announce further details on eligibility and how to apply as soon as they can. I will try to keep all those affected updated.

** I also got to spend some time in Pinxton and meet some of the residents who have been impacted by the flooding. The floods have left people in a really difficult position and there are some serious questions for Severn Trent Water and the Environment Agency to answer.



HS2 Safeguarding Campaign - Successful!

The Government has announced that HS2 safeguarding and blight will be lifted on the entire HS2b route through Bolsover and across the East Midlands by next summer. This means;

- Peace of mind for residents living along the proposed route
- No more restrictions for major infrastructure projects like Junction 29
- Business and investment opportunities

This is a massive win for our area and something I have been campaigning on since the decision to stop HS2 through Bolsover in 2021.

Stopping HS2 in our area was one of my election pledges in 2019 so I am delighted to deliver on one of your main priorities!

A massive thank you to everyone who has signed my petition and supported the campaign, especially HS2BlackwellGroup.



Sex Offender Name Change Ban Campaign - Successful!

In May last year a constituent got in touch with me for some assistance. The background was incredibly difficult and personal, however, their story led me to seek more information about sex-offender's evading justice by legally changing their name. I met with The Safeguarding Alliance and Della Wright, a survivor of child sexual abuse and ambassador for The Safeguarding Alliance, whose abuser changed his name multiple times, and have been campaigning, alongside them and Sarah Champion MP, and many others, for the law to be changed. Our Home Secretary has announced that the law WILL be changed. I am very grateful to my constituent for bringing the issues to my attention and extremely proud that I have helped, in some small way, towards making #DellasLaw a reality.



HS2 Cancelled - £1.5 Billion for East Midlands

The Prime Minister has decided to take the bold decision to cancel HS2. HS2 had become a significant problem with politicians taking the easiest route. Costs have more than doubled, it has been repeatedly delayed, the pandemic has completely changed travel patterns, the economic case is far weaker, and it continues to crowd out transport spending that would benefit the rest of the country.

The £36 BILLION saved from cancelling this project will now be invested into hundred's of local bus, road, and rail projects across the country.

The East Midlands will receive £1.5 Billion extra for transport and infrastructure projects - allocated from the savings.

This means projects like the Maid Marian Line, Robin Hood Line, Bus services, and the major upgrades to Junctions 28 and 29, which will have a massive impact for local residents, can all be prioritised over a faster journey to or from London that didn't even stop in our constituency.

Its the single biggest pot of transport funding ever for any region!

I will now be working with colleagues, in particular Conservative Mayoral candidate Ben Bradley, to ensure Bolsover receives its fair share and it is spent where it has the biggest impact for residents across the constituency.



Better Bus Services

Better bus services is something I have been campaigning on since being elected in 2019. I launched my Bus Survey in Hilcote and one of the main requests was a link to the designer outlet, so I am absolutely delighted that this new route has been approved, starting at the beginning of October. The new 143a service will continue from Alfreton, via Blackwell and Hilcote, to the East Midlands Designer Outlet.

I have been working behind the scenes with Derbyshire County Council on this for a number of months and is possible due to the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) monies. The BSIP is a £47m government funded programme delivering an ambitious vision to improve bus services across Derbyshire (we are also working on some other important bus improvements that I hope to be able to announce soon).

There's a long way to go to improve bus services across our area but this is a very welcome announcement.

It was also great to see that Stagecoach are improving some of their bus services including rerouting the 1a to serve Markham Vale Industrial Estate, running via Enterprise Way and Markham Lane, extending the 90 to provide new links to Markham Vale from Clowne and Creswell (every hour from 29th Oct)) and introducing the 583 school days service between Long Duckmanton and Bolsover School via Shuttlewood and Bolsover.

Many of these changes have been made possible by funding from Derbyshire County Council's bus service improvement plan (BSIP) - a £47m government funded programme.

Alongside the Government's decision to freeze single bus-fare's at £2 until winter 2024, Derbyshire County and Derby City Council have collaborated with bus companies to offer £1.50 single bus fares for young people in school, college, on a training course or in an apprenticeship, across Derbyshire from 1 November 2023 until October 2024.



Mental Health Support

I joined Callum Dineen and Dean Russell MP in meeting with the Minister for Higher Education, Rob Halfon MP, to discuss Callum's campaign to improve information sharing at universities.

While at university, Callum's friend suffered a mental health crisis and sought help from the university mental health services. Unfortunately the situation worsened and Callum's friend would later take his life, something friends and family feel may not have happened if his concerns were properly communicated by the mental health team.

Stories like this one have been seen at universities up and down the country and bereaved parents have consistently called for greater information sharing. In October 2022 Universities UK published a guidance on information sharing, which Callum has been campaigning for the government to endorse and advise universities to adopt. I am pleased to announce that this campaign has been successful.

On campus mental health support teams should never feel unable to share their concerns about the safety and wellbeing of an individual because of a failure to set up a clear data sharing policy. I am proud to join Dean Russell and 18 other MPs in signing Callum's letter to Rob Halfon urging the Government to take the necessary steps to implement this.

Nuisance Vehicle Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)



Bolsover District is covered by a Nuisance Vehicle Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) which prohibits any person from participating in or being a spectator of a car cruising event including but not limited to the following activities:



- Performing stunts using a motor vehicle (including but not limited to performing doughnuts, drifting, skidding, handbrake turns and wheel spinning)
- Causing a danger or risk of injury to road users (including pedestrians) by speeding or racing in a motor vehicle
- Causing an obstruction on a public highway, whether moving or stationary, including driving in convoy in a motor vehicle



- Causing or allowing loud amplified music, or other loud noise to be emitted from a motor vehicle or from a portable device (so as to cause a nuisance)
- Promoting, publicising or organising any car cruise or car cruising event to occur within the Restricted Area by the internet, social media, email, hoardings, publications or adverts



- Sounding motor vehicle horns other than in accordance with the Highway Code in such a manner as to cause a nuisance to persons in the locality of the Restricted Area
- Revving of motor vehicle engines so as to cause a nuisance to persons in the locality of the Restricted Area.

Failure to comply with the PSPO will result in a Fixed Penalty Notice with a £100 fine or a conviction and fine up to £1,000



Nuisance Vehicle Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)

A Nuisance Vehicle Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) is now in force across the Bolsover District Council area.

Anti-social behaviour is a matter often raised with me by constituents - a number of these cases involve the use of vehicles - cars, bikes and quads... excessive engine revving, using horns to cause nuisance, driving

irresponsibly, loud exhausts and so on. The PSPO contains a number of stipulations prohibiting any person from participating in or being a spectator in things like a car cruising event, performing stunts or playing loud music causing a nuisance.

Following an escalation in complaints, the council and Derbyshire police held a public consultation back in July, to consider imposing a PSPO (public space protection order) across the whole Bolsover District to enable them to take swifter action against those responsible. Thank you to everyone who participated in the consultation - 93% of people saying they had experienced anti-social use of vehicles, and 94% supported the implementation of the PSPO.

Implementing these tools and powers under the anti social behaviour act will work along side current Police powers covered under the Road Traffic Act.

I understand that North East Derbyshire District Council have recently concluded their own consultation into implementing a similar PSPO which will cover areas such as Heath and Holmewood.

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

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Mark Fletcher MP
1 Market Place
Bolsover
S44 6PN
mark.fletcher.mp@parliament.uk



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