



## December Newsletter



### *Dear Resident*

This time of year allows us to look back on the last twelve months. What we achieved and what we have to look forward to in 2024.

We had the amazing news that The Bolsover School's Sixth Form application was successful - meaning post-16 education is returning to Bolsover!

This has been my most important campaign as an MP to date. Simply because it has the potential to change so many lives for the better. It's levelling-up in action, more opportunities, and improved life chances for young people living in Bolsover, Clowne, Shirebrook, and the surrounding villages. I could not be any prouder of this achievement.

In November, I had the pleasure of being able to welcome the Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak MP, to The Bolsover School to celebrate the sixth form announcement.

Our campaign to remove HS2 safeguarding was also successful with the Prime Minister announcing safeguarding will be lifted by July 2024 - meaning peace of mind for thousands of residents living along the proposed route.

We also received £15 million for the regeneration of Bolsover Town Centre from the Chancellor during the Autumn Statement. The funding will support small businesses and regenerate our town centre to make it a more vibrant, convenient, and exciting place at the heart of our local community, as well as attracting tourists into the town.

We are making great progress across the Bolsover constituency and our attention must now turn to delivering these projects.

I will also continue my campaigns for improvements to Junctions 28 and 29 of the M1, a new school for Tibshelf, upgrades at Darfoulds Bridge, and new rail links + many more local campaigns!

I hope you enjoy the holidays and I wish you all the very best for

2024!

Best wishes,

Mark



## Christmas Card Competition

I am thrilled to announce the winner of my 2023 Christmas Card Photography Competition!

Congratulations to Anna Wright of Bolsover for her picture of our beautiful Castle which now features on my official Christmas card, shortly being delivered to almost 1000 friends, colleagues and constituents - as well as to the Prime Minister, [Rishi Sunak](#) MP, and Speaker of the House, Sir Lindsay Hoyle.

I would also like to thank runners-up - Jani Plant of Pleasley for her picture of Pleasley Pit in the snow, Paul Russell of Shuttlewood for his beautiful winter scene taken at Carr Vale Nature Reserve, and Anita Bray of Bolsover for her lovely town centre scene - as well as all of those who took the time to enter, I really enjoyed seeing your photographs from across our beautiful constituency.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!



### 4 years since my election

It's been four years since I was elected as MP for Bolsover which has been the greatest honour of my life. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, Russia's

invasion of Ukraine and energy crisis, we have made some great progress locally...

- Securing Post-16 education with a new sixth form for Bolsover
- £15 million for the regeneration of Bolsover Town Centre
- 351 extra police officers for Derbyshire
- £24 million for a new urgent and emergency care department at Chesterfield Royal Hospital
- Stopping HS2 and lifting safeguarding
- Restoring NHS dental provision to Bolsover
- £17 million for a new urgent care village at Bassetlaw Hospital
- £8.5 million redevelopment of Bramley Vale Primary
- £30 million for local community diagnostics centers in Walton, Mansfield, and Kings Mill.

Despite these achievements, I know there's more work to be done. Next year, I'll continue to focus on local campaigns, including upgrades to Junctions 28 and 29 of the M1, improvements at Treble Bob Roundabout and Darfoulds Bridge, extending the Robin Hood Line, reopening the Maid Marion Line, and funding a new primary school for Tibshelf.

I'm proud of what we've accomplished and keen to continue with your support. Thank you for entrusting me with this responsibility.



## Bolsover Christmas Markets and Lantern Parade

It was lovely to spend time at the fantastic Christmas Market in Bolsover - it was exceedingly cold and I had to get myself a hat from great little company called Layers. I enjoyed chatting with many stallholders, Barlborough Bears, Bolsover Scouts, Just Cheese, Bolsover Rotary, Casa Gomez, The Elm Tree and so many more.

Followed by the main event by Junction Arts' 30th Bolsover Lantern Parade. Thank you to all the organisers, everyone who made lanterns and took part in the parade,

and all of our community who came out in sub zero temperatures ... you absolutely knocked it out of the park - I'm so proud to represent this area!

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### **Visit to Beckett Thermal Solutions**

I had a very interesting visit to Beckett Thermal Solutions, who are a world leader in combustion technologies, in South Normanton. I had a presentation on the history of the company, the products they produce, and its current operations across the globe. We also had a discussion on the role of gas alternatives like hydrogen in our domestic energy network.

Massive thank you to Tony, Darren, and Dave for the tour. I got to see both gas and hydrogen burners in action, as well as the new laser technology.

It was great to see the work behind the white boxes which power our homes. Another fantastic business based here in the Bolsover Constituency!

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## Meeting with the Cabinet Member for Education

Last Friday I met with Cllr Alex Dale, Cabinet Member for Education at Derbyshire County Council, to discuss our local education system and schools across the constituency, as well casework raised by my office, especially related to SEND.

We also discussed the proposals for a new school in Tibshelf. [Cllr James Barron, County Councillor for the Tibshelf Division](#), and I, will be submitting our petition in the new year. I hope all households in Tibshelf will have already received my letter encouraging you to support the project. If you haven't had chance to sign please visit: <https://www.mark-fletcher.org.uk/form/new-school-for-tibshelf-petition> or click the link below.

Sign my petition



# Heritage High School

I had the pleasure of meeting with the incredible Headteacher, Deb Elsdon, at Heritage High School, and I am thrilled that for the first time, Heritage High School has received a GOOD Ofsted report! This incredible achievement comes almost a year to the day since Ms Elsdon took the helm, and what a remarkable turnaround it has been!

Huge Congratulations to the teachers, staff, students, and parents who have contributed to this remarkable journey, transforming the school from 'Requires Improvement' to 'Good'!

The Ofsted report notes "This is a school where all staff want the very best for their pupils. They have high aspirations and promote the school's values of 'ambition, teamwork, honesty, and kindness'".

Here's to continued success, innovation, and a bright future for Heritage High School!



## Junction 28 of the M1

I recently met with Roads Minister, Guy Opperman MP, to discuss my campaign for improvements at Junctions 28 and 29 of the M1.

Earlier this month I worked with Midlands Connect to produce a report on Junction 28, which features a series of in-depth interviews with local businesses and stakeholders.

The report outlines how despite Junction 28 being essential to the regional economy, in particular logistics and employment hubs in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, a lack of investment and poor infrastructure is holding back businesses and economic growth

We are looking to get J28 approved as part of Road Improvement Scheme 3 in the new year. There is a lot of work to do to get J28 on the list, but I will not stop banging the drum for these essential upgrades.

[Read More](#)



## Chesterfield Royal Hospital

It was great to visit Chesterfield Royal Hospital to meet with the Chief Executive. We discussed a number of issues regarding capacity, waiting times, treatments, and staffing. I also raised a number of casework issues, including mental health services.

It was also nice to see the £24 million investment in the new urgent and emergency care department in person for the first-time, as well as progress on the new Hartington mental health unit.



## NHS Derbyshire Integrated Care Board Meeting

Last week, I met with Dr Chris Clayton and Richard Wright from NHS Derbyshire Integrated Care Board.

We had a wide-ranging chat on dentistry, waiting lists, ambulance times at our local hospitals, mental health services especially for young children, and overall winter pressures on the NHS. I also followed up on a number of other local issues on behalf of constituents.

We apologise for the inconvenience caused to our customers from the recent power cuts and generator noise.

Our local team have been out to the substation yesterday to try and fix a fault. Unfortunately the fault is beyond repair and we will be looking to replace the substation as a longer term solution which will ensure a more reliable supply to our customers.

In the meantime, we will be connecting the affected customers to an alternative substation and this will require some works which will take place starting today and expected to last 1-2 days. The local team have contacted all customers that have previously contacted us about these issues.

A generator was connected as a temporary solution and will continue to be in place until we have completed the works this week.

There were some issues with the generator on 11<sup>th</sup> December which caused interruptions to electricity supplies but has now been rectified. We apologise for the interruptions to our customers.

Equipment was installed yesterday to dampen the noise of the generator.

## Power Problems in Wessington

I know there have been ongoing power problems in Wessington in recent days. I raised the matter with the National Grid - you can read their latest response above.

Please do feel free to get in touch if you continue to experience any problems once the transfer takes place.

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### Need My Help - Book A Surgery Appointment

Earlier this month I held my last constituency surgery of the year in Tibshelf. My office picked up a number of casework issues on speeding, pensions, and local education. If you would like an appointment at my next surgery please email me at [mark.fletcher.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:mark.fletcher.mp@parliament.uk) or make a booking via my website below.

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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