



February Newsletter



Dear Resident,

A short, but busy, month - with lots to update you on! At the start of the February the Government announced its plan for NHS dentistry, which I know is very welcome news for residents across the constituency. Full details of the announcement are listed further down in my newsletter.

We had the wonderful news that Chesterfield Royal maternity ward was ranked amongst the best in the country.

The Government announced water bosses are set to be banned from receiving bonuses if their company has failed to meet the requirements for protecting our rivers and watercourses.

And the Hotspot and Immediate Justice Policing Trial in Derbyshire has seen an extra 1,900 patrols and is making great progress tackling anti-social behaviour in our communities.

The County Council announced new road safety improvements for the A61. This is one of the main issues raised by residents living in Shirland, Stretton, Mickley, Higham, and surrounding areas. Work continues to see how we can also help relieve congestion on this stretch of our road network.

In the second week of February I was back home in the constituency for recess (time when MPs are away from Westminster). It really is my favourite part of the job. Seeing the amazing businesses and community groups. Visiting our wonderful schools and speaking to residents about national issues or local projects. I tried to visit as many places as possible, but if I haven't been to your area I will be very soon - its a big constituency and I wish I had more time!

Just this week we had some great news regarding buses on something which I have been pushing on for a long time now! Derbyshire County Council announced Travel Derbyshire on-demand - a new service where residents in areas with no or limited bus services can book an appointment via telephone or the App and travel anywhere within the service area of North Derbyshire - more details below.

Finally, I know potholes continue to be an issue - although we are making progress - and I know the County Council are working hard to clear the backlog with 2,500 potholes being filled every week. I've provided an update below from the County Council and what I've been doing in Westminster to secure more funding.

Next week, the Chancellor will present the Budget and I will be keeping a keen eye on the announcements to see how it will impact our constituency and your daily lives. I will be publishing a special edition update with all the key information, so keep an eye on your inbox ...

I hope you enjoy the February edition of my e-newsletter and I will see you all again next week!

Best wishes,

Mark



Sex Offender Name Change Campaign - Success!

I am delighted to share that my campaign to prevent sexual offenders from changing their names, enabling them to avoid accountability and providing them the opportunity to commit additional crimes, is now formally included within the Criminal Justice Bill - now at Report Stage.

Currently sex offenders are able to change their name by deed poll, and in a bizarre loophole, the offender is the one responsible for notifying the authorities of the change. This renders both the Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme (otherwise known as 'Sarah's Law') and the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (otherwise known as 'Claire's Law') redundant. Thanks to research carried out by the Safeguarding Alliance, it has become clear that thousands of offenders are being lost from the system, posing a risk to victims and the vulnerable.

The Bill gives the police greater powers to stop registered sex offenders from changing their name if they think they still pose a risk to their communities.

It is almost a year to the day that I introduced my 'Sexual Offences (Prohibition of Name Change) Bill' to the House of Commons to amend the law regarding sex offenders changing their names for safeguarding purposes. A constituent previously reached out to me for assistance in a challenging and deeply personal situation. Their story prompted me to investigate the issue of sex offenders evading justice by simply changing their names. 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.

I am extremely proud that I have helped, in some small way, towards making [#DellasLaw](#) a reality.

[Read More](#)

Operating Area



Better Bus Services - Travel Derbyshire On Demand

One of the main issues raised by residents across our constituency is local bus services, especially in smaller and more rural villages.

This new service – funded by the government's £47 million for Derbyshire's Bus Service Improvement Plan – is unlike a traditional bus service, as it does not have a fixed route. It allows

passengers to travel between any 2 points across Chesterfield, Bolsover, and North East Derbyshire.

It also covers travel to and from Kings Mill Hospital and Alfreton train station.

To use Travel Derbyshire simply call 01773 317173 or use the Travel Derbyshire on Demand app. You specify your preferred pick up or drop off time and Travel Derbyshire will try to meet your request or offer another time.

Travel Derbyshire On Demand runs Monday to Friday between 7am and 7pm and on Saturdays between 8am and 5pm. It is not available on Sundays or public holidays.

This is something that I have been pushing for alongside the County Council, so I am delighted it has finally been announced. This new service will help residents from across our area access work, leisure, shopping, medical appointments, or to see family and friends.

Please do let me know about your experiences using this service via email on mark.fletcher.mp@parliament.uk

[More Information](#)

MARK FLETCHER MP

Member of Parliament for Bolsover



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Cllr Alex Dale
Cabinet Member for Education
Derbyshire County Council
County Hall
Matlock, DE4 3AG

21 February 2024

Dear Alex,

Re: Primary Education in Tibshelf

As you are aware, last year I launched a petition, alongside County Councillor James Barron, to demonstrate the support of the local community for new primary education facilities in Tibshelf. The petition has now closed and has received over 200 signatures, which I have enclosed for your information.

I know you share my desire to give young people in Tibshelf modern, fit-for-purpose, facilities, which will increase their life chances and give them the best possible start in life.

Like you, I believe a shared site which can be co-inhabited by both the infant and junior school is the best way forward. But I appreciate you have to consider all options, each with their own individual merits and concerns.

From our numerous meetings and conversations, I know you are a strong advocate for children in Tibshelf and I'd like to thank you for your hard work on this so far.

This is a key project for residents in Tibshelf and I hope this petition will only strengthen the County Council's commitment to delivering these improvements.

I look forward to meeting with you again in due course and I will continue to offer my full support for these much needed, but essential upgrades.

Yours sincerely,

MARK FLETCHER MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR BOLSOVER

Primary Education in Tibshelf

I have just submitted our petition calling for new primary education facilities in Tibshelf to Derbyshire County Council.

A massive thank you to everyone who signed the petition - your support is greatly appreciated!

Together we have brought our ambition for modern, fit for purpose, facilities for Tibshelf one step closer.

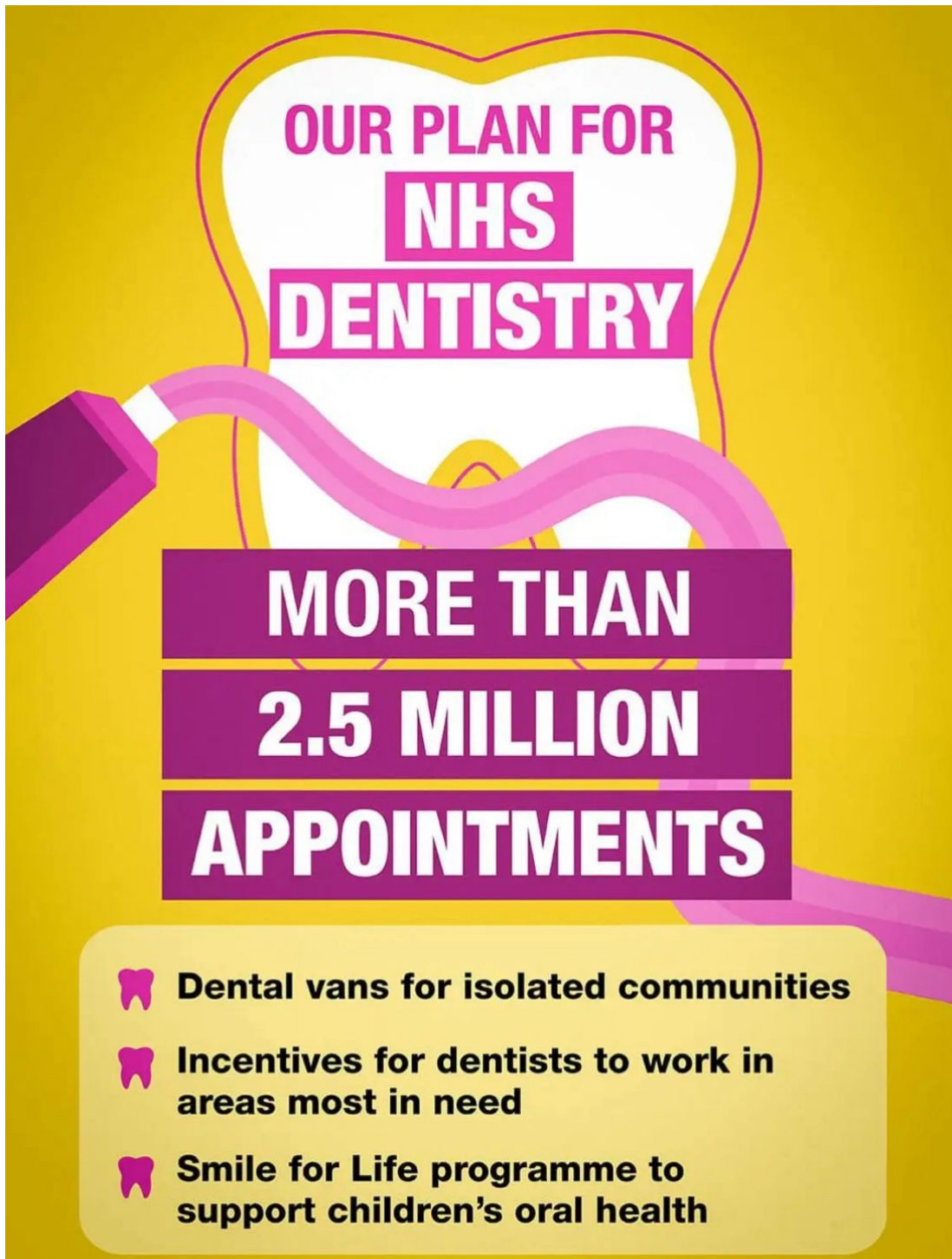
I will continue to keep you updated on our progress.

Junction 28

Junction 28 of the M1 is in desperate need of an upgrade. Investing in the junction would benefit safety, economic growth, and local communities. I will continue working with Midlands Connect, Department for Transport and other stakeholders to deliver this vital infrastructure project for the Bolsover constituency and wider East Midlands.

Please watch our recent video on why this upgrade is so important.

[Watch J28 Video](#)



NHS Dentistry Plan

One of the things raised constantly by residents in emails, on social media, and when I'm out knocking on doors is access to an NHS dentist.

Over the past few years, I have held numerous meetings with the Secretary of State for Health, local NHS, and Minister for Dentistry to raise your concerns directly. And in Bolsover we were the only place in the country that managed to restore dental provision following BUPA's decision to leave.

But I know it's an issue right across the constituency in all of our communities. That's why I very much welcome the Government's new plan to create 2.5 million appointments over the next year - making it easier for you to see an NHS dentist.

In short:

- £20,000 support for dentists to work in areas where recruitment is difficult

- Dental vans in rural communities
- Smile for Life - a new oral health scheme

[Read More](#)



Frederick Gent School

I had an amazing morning at Frederick Gent School in South Normanton, part of the Two Counties Trust.

It was great catching up with Mr. Woollard, the headteacher. We toured the school, checked out a science class with bunsen burners in action, listened in on a phonics session in the library, explored an art class with some seriously impressive pottery projects, and enjoyed an outstanding dance display. The students are not only delightful to chat with but also incredibly talented.

It's vital to stay connected with our schools — education is the key to our future. I am looking forward to sitting down with the school council soon to hear directly from the students and have a chat about democracy at all levels.

I'm so pleased that we're working on bringing a sixth form to our constituency, opening up more educational opportunities for our young people is a wonderful step forward.



Pinxton Schools

I had the absolute pleasure of meeting Anne Ingle, headteacher of Pinxton Village Academies, part of the Flying High Trust. I visited Longwood and John King Infant schools. Longwood recently achieved an Outstanding Ofsted report and is in the top 1% in the country for phonics, and I have no doubt John King will soon receive similar recognition. I was thoroughly impressed with every lesson we went in, there is great consistency across the sites, including Kirkstead Junior Academy that I visited last year. Education is extremely important for our children and our communities and it is clear the hard work and dedication of every one involved in these schools are making a positive impact across the village. I am looking forward to my next visit and continuing to work with Mrs Ingle and her fantastic team.



NG Dental Care, Shirebrook

Following a meeting last week, I visited NG Dental Care in Shirebrook to see their site and further discuss the work they are doing to ensure local residents have access to good dental care. The team have made the practice really welcoming for patients and are keen to expand the services they can offer. It was an absolute pleasure to chat with Nafiseh and Dr Ali and I hope that we will be able to work together to improve access to dental services in the Shirebrook area.





Shirebrook Fire Station

I visited Shirebrook Fire Station this week to get a better understanding of their work, some of the challenges they are facing and their community outreach work. The station relies on on-call firefighters, most of whom do this alongside their regular jobs, and a huge amount of their work is entirely voluntary. They focus on improving fire safety across our communities, assisting police and ambulance crews, floods, animal rescue, dealing with road traffic accidents and handling fires.

The job requires ongoing training and is highly skilled. I am grateful to them for their efforts in keeping our communities safe.

I also met two super fire cadets who demonstrated some of their First Aid training. These young people have been successful at the UK Fire Cadet National Games, showcasing their skills and potential, and I am confident they will go on to achieve great things.

Thanks to Shirebrook Fire Service for everything they do.

[Fire Cadets - Find Out More](#)



Junction 28 Church

I popped into J28 Church's Warm Welcoming Space yesterday to meet those who set up and run the weekly drop-in at South Normanton as well as chat with local residents. Warm Welcome Spaces are local places where people can come to keep warm, connect, and get support in every community across the UK. Voluntary, community and charity organisations across Derbyshire can apply to Derbyshire County Council for a grant to set up warm and welcoming spaces during the winter months (Nov - March).

Julie, Marina, Claudia and the rest of the volunteers are doing a fantastic job providing a cosy space for local residents to meet, chat and enjoy a freshly prepared hot meal. The team also serve students passing home from Frederick Gent School in the afternoons with Hot Chocolate - an initiative which has become incredibly popular and encouraged young people to get involved in volunteering.

They currently open from 1pm - 3pm Thursday during term time at J28 Church on The Common, South Normanton.



Roads and Potholes

As you are aware, we've already secured over £7 million of additional funding for potholes this year - with a further £176 million over ten-years allocated from HS2 savings. I am pushing for this money to be delivered across our constituency as quickly as possible.

I continue to report potholes and follow-up on enquiries with the County Council, as well as recommend roads for the next round of resurfacing works, but if you have any specific pothole concerns then please report them using the 'Report a Road Fault' feature on the Derbyshire County Council website (www.derbyshire.gov.uk). Or by emailing me on mark.fletcher.mp@parliament.uk so that I can make enquiries on your behalf.

You can read the February update from Derbyshire County Council below.

A61 Update from Cllr Charlotte Cupit

"Separate to the ongoing work we're doing on the key problem of congestion on the A61, many residents will remember the consultation last year on current speed limits on the road. This was done at the request of residents and given recent changes on the road, and it broke the road down into the different sections between Alfreton and Chesterfield.

Thanks to everyone who had their say - 361 people formally.

Based on the majority consultation feedback as well as the data and history on the road, it's proposed to make two changes to speed limits on the road at the current time:

1. Reduce the speed limit around the Watchorn Roundabout (Alfreton/joining the A38) from the National Speed Limit to 40mph
2. Reduce the speed limit on Higham corner (the 90 degree bend) to 30mph

No changes are proposed at the current time to speed limits on the A61 through Clay Cross, Tupton or Wingerworth.

I've spoken to lots of residents on this, and I know there will be differing views on this. However, I think it's right to go with the majority consultation views and these were pretty definitive: over 60% wanted the Wingerworth and Tupton area A61 speed limits to stay the same.

But, I know there have been particular concerns in the past near Tupton and Wingerworth, so the County Council will consider new road safety measures in these areas - again, separate to the ongoing congestion work.

You can find the full news release linked below, along with the full results breakdown too.

Any questions or if you'd like to discuss, please don't hesitate to get in touch."



Need My Help - Book A Surgery Appointment

Earlier this month I held a constituency surgery at my constituency office in Bolsover, where my office picked up a number of casework issues. If you would like an appointment at my next surgery please email me at 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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