



January Newsletter



Dear {{ contact.FIRSTNAME }},

Welcome back to my first newsletter of 2024. We have a busy, but very exciting year ahead! A lot has happened in January and that's why this edition of my e-newsletter is my longest yet!

One of my biggest meetings this month was with National Highways who updated me on plans for improvements at Junctions 28 and 29 of the M1. Both are in a good place and represent good value for money, which massively helps our case in Westminster.

I'll keep pushing for both junctions to be included in future rounds of funding!

We've also made some positive progress with Darfoulds Bridge, which has now been added to Derbyshire's provisional project list for the East Midlands Combined Authority. I know Whitwell has suffered for far too long due to HGV traffic and I will not stop fighting until funding has been secured and these upgrades have been delivered.

Nationally we are seeing good progress with the increase in social care funding, improvements to childcare, and the cut to National Insurance.

Locally I attended the ground breaking ceremony at Bramley Vale Primary School, I hosted a surgery in Shirebrook, and attended a community meeting on Doe Lea to discuss anti-social vehicles and car meets.

There's more news on potholes, grassroots sports projects, Clowne Garden Village, Bramley Vale, Social Housing reform, and much much more below - so keep reading!

I hope you enjoy this edition and I'll be updating you all again later this month!

Best wishes,

Mark



Bramley Vale Primary School Redevelopment

It was great to attend the ceremonial ground-breaking at the site of the new school, with Cabinet Member for Education at Derbyshire County Council, Cllr Alex Dale, and County Cllr James Barron, and see the excellent progress that is being made.

The £8.5 million funding allows our local kids to benefit from a modern school fit for the 21st century - giving them best possible start in life. Improving education is one of my main priorities for our constituency so I will continue to champion and fight for our local schools.



Tackling Potholes

As a local resident I share the frustration regarding potholes. The County Council know that the state of some of the roads are unacceptable and are working hard to clear the backlog.

The cold and wet weather hasn't helped matters, and the highways maintenance teams are working to deal with the worst of it, but it's a huge task. I continue to report potholes and follow up on enquiries with Cllr Charlotte Cupit, the Cabinet Member responsible for Highways, and suggest roads which should be prioritised for resurfacing. I recognise it is frustrating, but it's important we continue to report all potholes to the County Council, so that they're aware of the problems and can fix it.

I know this is a key issue for many residents across the Bolsover constituency as it's something which impacts our daily lives (I drive the roads too). I have been working hard to secure investment into our local road network. £4.23 million was awarded from the Chancellor at the March 2023 Budget and the County Council has recently received an additional £3 million of funding from the Government - with more money to be provided from savings made from cancelling HS2.

In the meantime, 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). If you have already reported a pothole, but no action has been taken then please email me with your FS reference number and I will write to Cllr Cupit for an update.

[Report a Pothole](#)

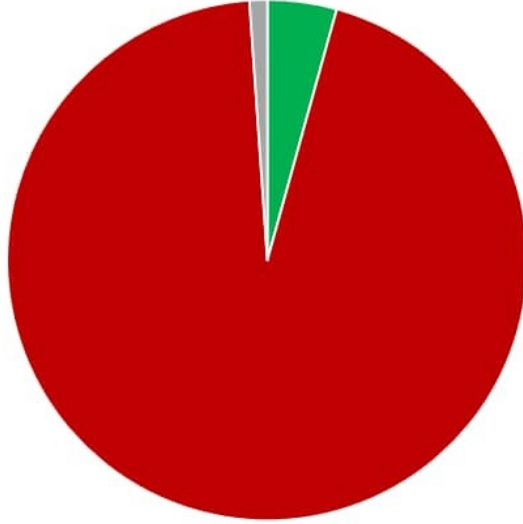


Bolsover Police

It is great news that the Police will now have a permanent police presence in Bolsover Town Centre, with new offices at the Council's Contact Centre. Tackling crime is one of my main priorities as your MP, and since being elected a number of residents have raised concerns with anti-social behaviour across Bolsover, specifically on the new Keepmoat Estate and near Morrisons.

I have long argued for a permanent presence in Bolsover (including campaigning on it at the last Local Elections) and something I have raised directly with senior officers and the Police and Crime Commissioner. This marks a significant step towards ensuring a safer and more secure community for all residents.

Do you support or oppose the Clowne Garden Village proposals?



■ Support 4% (12) ■ Oppose 95% (261) ■ Don't Know 1% (3)

Clowne Garden Village Update

Last week, I wrote to Bolsover District Council to outline the results of my recent survey on Clowne Garden Village.

I have asked the Council to strongly consider the feedback from this survey and not approve these proposals.

Whether its hundreds of planning objections, over 1,300 signatures on a local petition by the Clowne Garden Village Action Group, my own experience knocking on doors in Clowne and Barlborough, or the overwhelming results of my survey. The message is clear - opposition.

For the Council to ignore the views of local residents would be a complete dereliction of duty to Clowne and Barlborough.

Whilst MPs have no control over planning, I will continue to represent the views of local residents. I hope that common sense prevails.

You can read the letter, survey results, and residents comments online below.

[Read My Survey Results & Comments](#)



Childcare Expansion

We're supporting families across the country with their childcare costs. As of 2nd January eligible parents of two-year-olds can now apply for 15 hours childcare per week starting from April 2024.

From September 2024, 15 hours of free childcare will be extended to all children from the age of nine months.

From September 2025, working parents of children under the age of five will be entitled to 30 hours free childcare per week.

You may already be entitled to free childcare. You can find out more on <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk>

[Read More](#)



HM Government

OUR PRIORITIES 2
GROW THE ECONOMY

National Insurance Tax Cut

National Insurance for employees has been cut from 12% to 10%



Cut to National Insurance

On payday millions of workers saw their National Insurance contributions cut from 12% to 10%, saving the average employee £450 a year on an annual salary of £35,400.

Want to find out how much you could be saving? Click the link below.

[How Much Did You Save?](#)

NEW PHARMACY FIRST SERVICES

NHS

AVAILABLE WITHOUT
PRESCRIPTION

- sinusitis
- sore throat
- earache
- infected insect bite
- impetigo
- shingles
- uncomplicated urinary tract infections in women



Pharmacy First

Pharmacists across the country will be able to treat more health conditions without patients needing to see a GP, helping to unlock ten million doctors' appointments as we stick to the plan to cut waiting lists so people can get the care they need.

We have made progress to cut waiting lists but there is more that can be done to make better use of professionals such as pharmacists to cut them further. That is why today we are launching Pharmacy First as part of our primary care recovery plan, meaning pharmacists can treat seven common health conditions such as sinusitis and earache without patients needing to see a GP.

This will help free up ten million doctors' appointments, meaning those who genuinely need to see a GP can do so more quickly, helping to continue to drive down wait times.





Great British Nuclear

The Government recently announced the biggest expansion of nuclear power for 70 years – creating more skilled jobs and helping to reduce energy bills.

This investment will help strengthen Britain's energy security by reducing our dependency on foreign energy suppliers like Russia.

Whether its solar, wind, nuclear, or gas and oil in the North Sea – it's vital we diversify our energy mix.

Locally we have seen the Small Modular Reactors (SMR) project at Rolls-Royce Derby already deliver more skilled, and high-paid, jobs to our region (they have around 150 employees from our constituency).

I'll continue to work with regional partners and key businesses like Rolls Royce to help deliver more investment and opportunities to the Bolsover constituency and wider East Midlands.

[Read More](#)



Accessibility Progress at Alfreton Station

I'm really pleased to hear that work has finally begun on improving accessibility for passengers at Alfreton train station. This is an issue I have been raising on behalf of residents since I was elected. Travelling to Nottingham, Grantham and London from Alfreton has been a problem since the old access path was closed some years ago, particularly for those with mobility issues and travelling with pushchairs or heavy luggage.

The works are expected to take a year to conclude as Network Rail try to minimise any disruption on this key part of the Midland Mainline. The project will mean Alfreton customers will benefit from two new lifts, as well as a refurbished footbridge and stairs,

allowing for easier journeys across the East Midlands.

[Read More](#)

Social Housing Reforms to Crack Down on Rulebreakers

I am really pleased that the government have announced an overhaul of how social housing is allocated, to make the system fairer and not available to those who abuse it, and introducing measures which could ban those who blight communities and repeatedly make their neighbours' lives hell through anti-social behaviour or evict them through a 'three strikes and you're out' policy.

Sadly, anti-social behaviour can have an overwhelming impact on its victims and, in some cases, on the wider community. A number of distressing, and long-running, cases involving neighbours have come across my desk since I was elected, and although the local authorities and police are taking steps to try and reduce the impact of this kind of behaviour, action is extremely slow, leaving people feeling unsafe and harassed in their own homes.

This is a matter I care deeply about, having worked with Ministers on strengthening the powers local authorities and the police have and developing further innovative solutions to assist those affected. Last year I met with the Minister for Safeguarding to discuss some of the frustrations and issues raised in my constituents cases who agreed that we need to look to strengthen the powers of local authorities and the police, so they have the tools to resolve incidents regarding nuisance residents within our towns and villages.

The government is seeking views from the public, councils, social housing tenants and providers and wants to bring forward the reforms as soon as possible. You can have your say by clicking the link below.

[Have Your Say](#)

MARK FLETCHER MP
Member of Parliament for Bolsover



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Anne Ingle, Headteacher
Longwood Infant Academy
Pinxton Village Academies
Wharf Road
Pinxton, NG16 6PA

Our Ref: MF25072
Please quote the reference on all correspondence

16 January 2024

Dear Anne,

I am delighted to write and offer my congratulations to you, and everyone at Pinxton Village Academies and the Flying High Trust, on your OUTSTANDING Ofsted report.

It really is one of the most positive and impressive reports I have read. It is truly heartening to learn that the pupils express such positive sentiments about their school, describing it as 'fantastic', that they 'know lots of things' and praising the friendly and helpful nature of their peers. This feedback speaks volumes about the nurturing environment that has been fostered at the school, and I know that this is mirrored across all three sites. The report reinforces the fact that children in and around Pinxton are receiving an outstanding start in life, and it is evident that the school is playing a pivotal role in their development.

I had the pleasure of visiting Kirkstead Junior school last year, and it was a wonderful experience. I am looking forward to meeting you and the team, and spending time at your John King and Longwood primary school sites – hopefully next month. I have asked my office to get in touch to arrange a visit.

As the improvement of education remains one of my key priorities for our constituency, I will continue to ardently champion and advocate for the success of our local schools and if there is any assistance I may be able to offer, please do not hesitate to ask.

Yours sincerely,

MARK FLETCHER MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR BOLSOVER

Very Well done! 😊

Email: mark.fletcher.mp@parliament.uk Website: www.mark-fletcher.org.uk

Outstanding Longwood Infant Academy

I'm thrilled to share a resounding success for Longwood Infant Academy, part of [Pinxton Village Academies](#) and the Flying High Trust. Their first Ofsted report since converting to an academy is OUTSTANDING!

Congratulations to Anne Ingle, Headteacher, and her phenomenal team for such an achievement. The report is one of the best I've ever read. The pupils describe their school as 'fantastic', full of knowledge, and with a culture of kindness and helpfulness. A huge thank you to the students, teachers, and staff—your hard work has paid off - It's heartening to know that the children in and around Pinxton are getting the best possible start in life.

Last year I had a wonderful morning at Pinxton Village Academies fabulous Kirkstead Junior school and I am very much looking forward to spending some time at their John King and Longwood primary school sites next month. Improving education is a top priority of mine, and I'll continue to champion and fight for our local schools.



Holocaust Memorial Day

On Holocaust Memorial Day, we reflect upon the tragic loss of six million Jewish lives during the Holocaust. Additionally, we solemnly acknowledge the millions of individuals from various groups—such as Roma and Sinti people, black people, gay people, and the mentally and physically disabled—who suffered under Nazi persecution. Furthermore, we pay homage to the victims of subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur.

I had the honour of adding my signature to the Book of Commitment by the Holocaust Educational Trust. Representing the residents of Bolsover, I expressed my dedication to honouring the memory of those who perished in the Holocaust. Moreover, I pledged to recognise and appreciate the tireless efforts of Holocaust survivors who continue to impart crucial lessons to today's youth and speak out against all forms of antisemitism, which in recent months has risen exponentially and which needs to be tackled head on.





Funded by
UK Government

BOLSOVER

IS RECEIVING

£78,961

FOR GRASSROOTS SPORTS PROJECTS

MARK FLETCHER

MP FOR BOLSOVER

POWERED BY

**LEVELLING
UP**

Grassroots Sports Investment

In the past year, over £75,000 has been received from the Government to invest in sports facilities across Bolsover.

The awards in 23/24 include funds for Goal Posts for Bolsover Town Juniors FC, Carr Vale FC, Glapwell Football Club and a new grass pitch at Pilsley Sports Fields.

More clubs and facilities have benefitted from previous rounds, such as £425k awarded to fund the 3G Pitch at The Arc, Clowne, and Stonebroom FC, Shirebrook Academy, Barlborough Country Park Charity and Hillstown Miners Welfare Trust were awarded funds for equipment and upgrading pitches.

Many others across our area have received funds indirectly via the Football Foundation.

The Government is sticking to its plan to improve the mental and physical health of the nation and provide high quality sports facilities across the country, ensuring a brighter future for this generation and the next.



Need My Help - Book A Surgery Appointment

I held my first constituency surgery of the year in Shirebrook. Thank you to everyone who came along to chat with me. Do feel free to get in contact with my Office if you'd like an appointment one of my next surgeries.

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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