

MARK FLETCHER MP NEWSLETTER



January Newsletter



Dear {{ contact.FIRSTNAME }},

Welcome to my first e-newsletter of 2022 and I hope you enjoyed the Christmas/New Year holidays. January has been an extremely busy month in Parliament and the constituency, I have spoken in the House of Commons six times on a number of issues, including illegal immigration, career guidance in schools, smart motorways, vaccination sites, and the governance of Derby County FC.

The Government lifted Plan B measures, such as Covid passports and face coverings, meaning England is now completely free of Covid-19 restrictions - in contrast to most countries in Europe.

The Government's response to the Omicron wave of the pandemic and the Prime Minister's decision not to implement another lockdown has allowed residents to go about their daily lives without further restrictions and for the UK to be the fastest growing economy in the G7!

Furthermore, the UK is expected to be the first country to exit the pandemic as we begin to learn to treat Covid-19 more like flu without the need for restrictive measures. Ultimately, the Government knows we must learn to live with the virus.

With regards to Ukraine, the UK continues to support our Ukrainian allies whilst promoting dialogue with Russia to prevent any further escalation of the crisis, which has been caused by an unprecedented build-up of Russian and Belarussian forces along the Ukraine border and continued military threats against the sovereignty of a European country.

I should also state clearly that in recent years we have seen the Russian Federation under the authoritarian leadership of Vladimir Putin continue to pursue a policy of aggression with the invasion of Georgia and Eastern Ukraine, and the occupation of the Crimea. The threat to our allies in Eastern Europe, such as Ukraine and the Baltic states, is ever present. This is not to mention cyber-attacks on political systems throughout the Western world, as well as chemical/biological terror attacks in the UK, such as the Novichok poisonings in Salisbury. This is a very real and very imminent threat to our way of life and I very much welcome the robust response from the Prime Minister and our NATO allies.

Locally, I visited the former Coalite site to receive an update on the project and to see the completed road infrastructure works. I know the regeneration of this site has taken longer than we all would have liked, primarily due to complicated remediation works, but we should start to see significant

progress with new businesses expected to move in by the end of the year - creating hundreds of new jobs in the constituency.

I was also delighted to accept invitations from The Bolsover School and St Joseph's Primary School to come and speak with the children about being an MP and how they should aspire to be the best they can be in life. I am absolutely determined to ensure that no child in the Bolsover constituency is prevented from achieving their dream simply because of where they were born and I will continue to work with local schools to give our children the best possible start in life.

Last Friday, I had the opportunity to visit two fantastic schools in the constituency; Palterton Primary and Bolsover Infant and Nursery - I know the children are in very capable hands with Mrs Horsley and Miss Cowan as Headteachers. After lunch, I joined Victoria Prentis MP, Minister for Farming, in Whitwell for a roundtable with the National Farmers Union and local farmers to discuss a number of important issues.

I then travelled to Clowne to visit Bolsover District Council Leader, Steve Fritchley, at the Arc, where we discussed a number of exciting local projects we are trying to push forward and how we can provide post-16 opportunities within the District.

After meeting with Cllr Fritchley, I had one of my quarterly Zoom calls with Old Bolsover Town Council where we discussed the regeneration of Bolsover Town Centre and local government reform.

And on Saturday I attended a local Wassailing event in Wessington, which was a great opportunity to speak with Cllr Barry Lewis, Leader of Derbyshire County Council (pictured above), and other local residents.

Finally, many of you will be aware of the tragic incident that took place in Langwith Junction earlier this month, which resulted in the death of Freda Walker. Her husband, Ken Walker, a Shirebrook Town Councillor and previous District Councillor, was critically injured and remains in hospital. This is a truly horrific crime and my thoughts remain with the couple's family during this very difficult time. I would also just like to thank the police for continuing to keep me updated on the case and for acting quickly to reassure the local community.

I hope you find this edition interesting and I look forward to providing you with another update in mid-February.

Best wishes,

Mark.



Government Minister speaks with local farmers

I was pleased to join Victoria Prentis MP, Minister for Farming, at Cinders Farm in Whitwell, for a roundtable discussion with representatives from the National Farmers Union and local farmers. We covered a multitude of topics including the importance of, and how environmental management can fit with, food production, trade deals and labour issues.

I am grateful to Ian Lamb for hosting the event at his home, Andrew Critchlow, NFU - County Advisor, for organising, and to everyone for attending.



Creating local jobs at the former Coalite site

The Coalite Regeneration Project is an exciting project to clean-up the former Coalite Works and create hundreds of new jobs in Bolsover and North East Derbyshire. I was delighted to visit the site to get an update on progress and meet with the contractors, site management team and representatives from the District Council.

The plans to develop the former Coalite site are vital to the future of our constituency and will play a really important part of our economic strategy. The site has come on leaps and bounds since I last visited, and is already attracting substantial investment. I am looking forward to working with Bolsover District Council and other partners on a major new potential project for the site.



Q&A at St Joseph's Primary School

It was great to visit St Joseph's Primary School to meet with staff and hold a Q&A session with the children. I thoroughly enjoyed the questions, which covered an extensive range of topics, and I'm delighted that we have some aspiring MPs at the school. The children were incredibly well-behaved and eager to learn, an absolute credit to the school and local community. Thank you to Mrs Seaman for inviting me and showing me around, I am very much looking forward to my next visit.



Supporting businesses

I was pleased to visit the Haribo team at the newly opened store in the McArthurGlen Designer Outlet in Pinxton. It's been great to speak to local people starting their career journey with Haribo and to see such a well-known brand investing in our region.

I also had the opportunity to meet with David Jackson (below), Centre Manager for the East Midlands Designer Outlet. He was keen to show me their plans for expansion and modernisation. The retail centre has had some difficulties through the pandemic, however, the future is looking very positive for these businesses. McArthurGlen is a great asset to our constituency, attracting tourists, providing local employment, and enhancing the visitor economy.



The Bolsover School

Earlier this month, I had the honour of spending the morning at The Bolsover school. I spoke with year nine students about my journey to becoming an MP and challenges along the way, and enjoyed meeting with the school's LGBTQ+ group at lunchtime.

Thank you to the assistant head, Mr Topley, who was kind enough to facilitate my visit.

I also attended a Link Governor's meeting to discuss attendance post-Covid-19 and developing the school's links with the local community and town. I am very proud to be a Governor at the school, the children are an asset to Bolsover.



Paltrerton Primary School

It was great to return to Paltrerton Primary School last Friday, after I joined them on Armistice Day. Thank you for Mrs Horsley for the tour, and to all the staff and children for making me feel so welcome.

The school has a really wonderful group of children, with so much enthusiasm, and it was an honour to spend some more time with them today.



Bolsover Infant School

I was very kindly shown around Bolsover Infant & Nursery School by Headteacher, Miss Cowen. The school places an emphasis on the arts and learning through play. They are focused on climate change and sustainability issues to help with improving the environment.

Thank you to Miss Cowen, and all the staff and children for welcoming me to their school.

Need My Help

Please do not hesitate to contact me via email at mark.fletcher.mp@parliament.uk, by post at 1 Market Place, Bolsover, S44 6PN, or telephone 01246 932048 to discuss your issue with my caseworker, or to arrange a telephone/video appointment.

Need my help with something? Click the button below to see my full list of contact details.

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