

MARK FLETCHER MP NEWSLETTER



Mid-March Newsletter



Dear {{ contact.FIRSTNAME }},

I hope you are well. Since my last update at the beginning of the month on Ukraine, a lot has happened both nationally and locally. The Government has further strengthened its military, economic, and humanitarian response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, including tougher sanctions, more foreign aid, and improved schemes for refugees.

Locally, I had the opportunity to visit two wonderful schools in the constituency for world book day, hosted a business roundtable event on supporting improvements to J28 of the M1, held two surgeries to assist constituents with various issues, attended the Love Bolsover event held by Junction Arts and Old Bolsover Town Council, visited a new cafe, Coffee and Books, in South Normanton, and had a lovely meal at the wonderful Sanctuary Garden in Bolsover!

In Westminster, I attended a number of events, including the Marie Curie's Great Daffodil Appeal, the launch of the Government's Violence Against Women and Girls 'Enough' Campaign, and I was also introduced to the Department for International Trade (DIT) Export Support Service for UK businesses.

I also attended the Midland Fossil 2 Fusion event, where I met representatives from the UK Atomic Energy Authority. One of the five shortlisted sites for a new multi-billion-pound energy investment is in the East Midlands, at West Burton A power station in neighbouring Bassetlaw, and would see the area host the UK's 1st commercially operating fusion power plant- the Spherical Tokamak Energy Production (STEP) potentially creating 1000's of jobs, bringing economic investment into our region, and a great boost to our skills and education offer.

Finally, on the way home from London, I had the opportunity to visit a Hydrogen Refuelling Station in Birmingham and drive a hydrogen powered car. Decarbonising UK road freight is a key priority for the UK government in its transition to net zero, and - given Bolsover's proximity to the M1 and as a major logistics hub - I want to work with local and national partners to ensure we are well placed to be at the forefront of the industry. One of my main aims as MP for Bolsover is to restructure the local economy towards a high-paid, high-skilled economy in new and emerging industries such as the low-carbon and renewable energy sectors.

I hope you enjoy this edition of my e-newsletter and I look forward to providing another update at the end of the month.

Kind regards,



Hydrogen Refuelling Station



Coffee & Books Cafe, South Normanton



Love Bolsover



Marie Curie's Great Daffodil Appeal



Update on Ukraine

Since my last e-newsletter update on 3 March, the Government has taken a number of steps to further strengthen our economic and humanitarian in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Parliament also passed the Economic Crime Bill, which will give new powers to go further and faster against oligarchs in the UK.

On Thursday 10 March, the UK announced further sanctions on seven individuals, including Roman Abramovich and leading industrialist Oleg Deripaska, as well as Putin's right-hand man Igor Sechin and four more of Putin's inner circle. These oligarchs - who have a collective net worth of around £15 billion - will have their assets in the UK frozen, they are banned from travelling here and no UK citizen or company may do business with them.

The Foreign Secretary, Liz Truss MP, also announced 370 more Russian and Belarussian sanctions on Tuesday 15 March, which means the UK has now designated over 1,000 individuals and entities since invasion under the Russia sanctions regime.

The UK is currently working - at pace - with the United States and our NATO allies to provide military aid to Ukraine. The Prime Minister began delivering defensive aid, in the forms of anti-tank missiles, in January and it is worth stating that in the early days of this invasion we have seen how effective our weaponry has been to the Ukrainian Armed Forces, who have managed to destroy a great number of Russian military assets, including T-80 tanks and other armoured vehicles.

Additionally, the Defence Secretary, Ben Wallace MP, announced that 3,615 anti-tank missiles have been delivered so far and Starstreak High-Velocity

Missile systems – the world’s most advanced anti-aircraft missile system – will be sent to further support Ukraine.

Furthermore, the Business Secretary, Kwasi Kwarteng MP, announced that the UK will phase out the import of Russian oil and oil products by the end of 2022. This transition will give the market, businesses and supply chains more than enough time to replace Russian imports, which make up 8% of UK demand.

With regards to refugees, the Government have made changes to the Ukraine Family Scheme to make the application process quicker and simpler – meaning Ukrainians with passports no longer need to attend a Visa Application Centre to submit biometrics before travelling to the UK. The Home Office is also surging staff to key UK Visa Application Centres around Ukraine and is making thousands more Family Scheme appointments available in Central and Eastern Europe, including Warsaw, Rzeszow, Chişinău, Bucharest, Budapest, and Prague, to deal with the unprecedented demand. This will allow those centres to provide over 13,000 appointments per week.

Finally, the UK has launched the 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme, which offers a route to those who want to come to the UK who have someone here willing to provide them with a home. It will enable individuals, charities, community groups and businesses to volunteer accommodation and provide a route to safety for Ukrainians, and their immediate family members, forced to leave their homeland. If you would like to register your interest then click on the link below.

Please rest assured the UK will not turn our backs on the Ukrainian people during their hour of need. We are providing all the economic and military support we can to help those Ukrainians risking everything to protect their country and to refugees wishing to flee war and conflict.

[Homes for Ukraine](#)



Junction 28 Business Roundtable

Earlier this month, I hosted a roundtable event to enable businesses to put forward their case for improvements to Junction 28 to Midlands Connect, who directly advise the Department for Transport on regional priorities.

We have already put forward the strong case from local residents, and the roundtable was a great opportunity to bring local businesses and politicians together in support of the project.

We were joined by Lee Anderson, MP for Ashfield, along with Cllr Kewal Athwal, Cabinet member for Highways at Derbyshire County Council, and representatives from D2N2 and National Highways.

The improvements to Junction 28 are absolutely essential for the economic development of the region and forms a key part of our levelling up agenda. I am extremely grateful to everyone who attended the event and who has passed testimony on to me since.



World Book Day

On World Book Day, I had a fantastic visit to the Clowne Infant and Nursery School and would like to say a huge thanks to Cruella De Vil (Mrs Kirby) and Mr Hallam for the tour. I met a number of Spider-Men, a brilliant shark and some dinosaurs along with lots of characters from the children's favourite books.

I also had the opportunity to visit the Green Infant School in South Normanton. The school have been working hard creating special reading areas and a lovely library space. The children were fantastically well behaved and their passion for reading was wonderful to see. Thank you to Mrs Newton showing me around the school.

I enjoyed meeting staff and children at both schools, who were all very welcoming, and I am very proud that we have such amazing schools throughout our constituency.

[Read More](#)



Enough - Campaign to Tackle Violence Against Women & Girls

I was very honoured to attend the launch of the Government's Violence Against Women and Girls 'Enough' Campaign with Minister for Safeguarding, Rachel Maclean MP.

In January I had chance to debate the Gracie's Law petition for stalking advocates, where I outlined my views;

"There is often a lack of role models, and a lack of people who can say, "No, that is not right." There is a challenge around that. It is not impossible to overcome, but we must undoubtedly focus on and acknowledge it, and we must present pathways to ensure that it does not escalate to a point where women and girls are threatened."

You can learn more about the campaign here: <https://enough.campaign.gov.uk/> or by watching the Enough campaign video below.

Watch: Learn more



Book of Solidarity with Ukraine

I have been contacted by many constituents who have been deeply moved by the tragic events in Ukraine following Putin's appalling and unprovoked attack. To give local residents an opportunity to express their thoughts, I have launched an e-book of solidarity on my website, where people can write a message in support of the people of Ukraine.

The book will be presented to the Ukrainian Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Vadym Prystaiko, on behalf of the people of Bolsover.

I know many people feel helpless and I hope this small act can demonstrate

the support of our constituency for the people of Ukraine.

The positive and compassionate response I have seen from people in communities across the constituency is another reason why I take immense pride in being the Member of Parliament for Bolsover.

Residents living in the Bolsover constituency can show support and solidarity for the people of Ukraine by leaving a comment on my website using the link below or by writing to my constituency office at 1 Market Place, Bolsover, S44 6PN.

[Write a message of support for the people of Ukraine](#)

We can build back better in the Bolsover constituency. And you can help make it happen.

As we recover from the pandemic, we've got the chance to tackle the long-standing challenges facing our area and make life better for residents across the Bolsover constituency.

We've already made a start. With your support, we're making our streets safer with more police. Supporting the NHS with the extra funding it needs. And backing businesses with more investment.

But we can go further locally. That's why I'm asking for your help.

I'm creating a plan to build back better across the Bolsover constituency. And I want it to be shaped by local people like you.

So why not tell me your priorities for the Bolsover constituency and help shape my local plan?

By telling me your priorities, you can make sure I'm focused on the issues that matter most to residents.

Like regenerating our High Streets and supporting local businesses.

Securing funding for infrastructure projects such as Treble Bob Roundabout, J28 & J29, and an M1/Shirebrook Link Road.

And investment in local transport such as better bus services, Pinxton Station, and the Robin Hood Line extension.

Whatever your priorities are for the Bolsover constituency, I want to hear them.

It only takes a few minutes to fill in this survey. And you can send it back for free using the envelope provided.

So help us build back better across the Bolsover constituency. Fill in this survey and tell me your local priorities.

Best wishes,

Mark Fletcher

MARK FLETCHER
MP FOR BOLSOVER

Build Back Better Survey

If you want to let me know your thoughts on the economy, crime and anti-social behaviour, health and social care, and what you would like to see prioritised locally then please take part in my survey by clicking on the button below.

[Let me know your priorities](#)

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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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