

MARK FLETCHER MP NEWSLETTER



December Newsletter



Dear Resident,

Welcome to my final newsletter of the year. December has been an incredibly busy month and I am sure many of you will be looking forward to a break over the holidays.

In Westminster, I spoke in Parliament during the East Midlands Mayoral Authority debate - keep reading to hear my thoughts! I also raised with the Leader of the House Commons about the important role community pharmacies play in the towns and villages across our constituency.

The Government announced additional funding for policing and for cancer research, as well as additional military and humanitarian support for Ukraine. The Constituency also benefitted from over £2 million worth of funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund which was approved for both Bolsover and North East Derbyshire District Councils.

Locally, I got to meet Santa (thank you to Bolsover Rotary Club) and it was also great to be out and about across our constituency supporting small businesses. We need to keep supporting our high streets and local businesses as much as possible in these difficult times. We are very lucky to have such fantastic small businesses on our doorsteps.

Last Friday, I had the pleasure of visiting Whaley Thorns Primary School and Langwith Bassett Junior Academy, before meeting with some residents in

Bolsover for a catch-up before Christmas.

I then met with a local resident from Bentinck who is campaigning for a small memorial to be erected at the entrance to the former Oxcroft Colliery site - I am currently working with the local councils to see what we can do to help.

I also visited a local business owner to discuss how we can help small businesses become more energy efficient. I finished the day with my final surgery of the year at the Glapwell Centre. You can find more details of future surgeries at the bottom of this newsletter.

2022 has been a mixed year, we finally left the Covid pandemic behind us to be hit with Russia's unprovoked and heinous attack on Ukraine with the subsequent energy crisis and rising cost of living, which I know has impacted families right across the country.

But while I know difficult times may lay ahead, I remain optimistic for 2023, inflation seems to have peaked this month (despite remaining stubbornly high at over 10%), unemployment remains low, and Ukraine continues to defeat Russia on the battlefield thanks to the ultimate sacrifice of thousands of brave Ukrainians and the continued support of the UK & our allies. And locally we have some very interesting projects in the pipeline!

Finally, I just wanted to THANK YOU for giving me the great honour of being your Member of Parliament. I am incredibly proud to do this job and to be able to represent so many amazing communities across the Bolsover constituency. I absolutely love my constituency, living in Clowne, meeting residents, and enjoying everything which our area has to offer. I will continue to work just as hard to deliver for residents across our wonderful constituency in 2023, but to end I would like to wish you and your family all a very lovely Christmas and a happy New Year.

Best wishes,

Mark

P.S. Please note both my Westminster and Constituency Office will be closed from today until Tuesday 3rd January and only urgent enquiries will be dealt with.



World Aids Day



**Elliotts Butchers,
Bolsover**



**Barlborough Christmas
Fair**



**Christmas Fayre,
Stonebroom**



Julie's Sandwich Shop



Morefruita Farm



Whaley Thorns Primary School

On a very chilly morning last week I joined Whaley Thorns Primary School. I thoroughly enjoyed chatting with their wonderful pupils and I look forward to hopefully welcoming the years 5/6's to Parliament in the New Year. It was a pleasure to meet with the staff and the TEAM education academy trust to discuss their experiences from the year and their cost of living strategy. Huge thanks to Sarah Baker, CEO of TEAM, and to Mrs Place, Headteacher, for being so welcoming.



Langwith Bassett Junior Academy

Last week I enjoyed a tour of Langwith Bassett Junior Academy and their nursery to see some of their classes in action. I held a Q&A with years 5 and 6 on important issues like treating each other with respect in a democracy, support for Ukraine, and questions about Boris and Rishi - most importantly we chatted about my favourite footballer, Bukayo Saka. Huge thanks to Mrs Bacon for welcoming me - it really is a fantastic little school and a credit to the community.



Prime Ministers plan to tackle illegal immigration

The Prime Minister has set out his plan for dealing with illegal immigration, enabling us to focus on those in genuine need, and removing those who ignore the rules.

Over 40,000 people have illegally crossed the Channel in small boats this year, putting pressure on local public services. Many originate from safe countries and travel through safe countries. That is unfair on those who come here legally, unfair on those who have a genuine asylum claim - and especially unfair on the British people who play by the rules.

Earlier this month, the Prime Minister and Home Secretary set out five new steps:

- o A new agreement with Albania so that the vast majority of Albanian claimants can be removed - with weekly flights until all Albanians in our backlog are sent home.
- o A new, permanent, unified Small Boats Operational Command in the channel with 700 new staff
- o Tougher immigration enforcement with 200 new staff and better data sharing with banks
- o Cheaper accommodation sites so we can move migrants out of expensive hotels

o Clear the initial asylum backlog by 2023 by doubling the number of caseworkers and radically streamlining the process

Early next year new legislation will be introduced to make it clear that if you enter the UK illegally you should not be able to remain - but should be swiftly detained and removed.

By taking these steps, we will be tough but fair, tackle illegal migration - and stop the boats.

East Midlands Mayoral Authority

Early this month, Parliament debated the proposed East Midlands Mayoral Authority, I know there is some opposition to this from local councillors, but ultimately, I think most people care about politicians delivering better services, more jobs & investment, and value for money, in whatever form of local Government that comes in.

Personally, I think we have a huge opportunity to bring more powers and deliver more investment to the East Midlands through the East Midlands Mayoral Combined Authority and if we are serious about levelling up our region, then we need to grasp this opportunity with both hands.

The Authority would be one of the largest Combined Authorities in the country with a population over 2 million and an economic output of over £42.9 billion GVA (Gross Value Added), but currently the East Midlands receives the lowest per-head investment of any area in England at £12,113 (10% below the UK average) in comparison to £15,490 in London (15% higher than the UK average).

With an East Midlands Mayor we can attract more investment and jobs, as well as have more local control over key issues such as education & skills, and transport & infrastructure.

Locally we have punched well below our weight for too long and have missed out to other regions like the West Midlands and Teesside due to the effectiveness of their regional mayors - it is time to return powers to local leaders and unleash the economic powerhouse that is the East Midlands.



The National Lottery Community Fund

It was great to join The National Lottery Community Fund to see a breakdown

of the nearly £4million in funding they've given to local projects in the last five years thanks to National Lottery players. In August I joined Marc Lupson from The National Lottery Community Fund in presenting a cheque for £214,000 in grant funding to the fabulous Freedom Community Project. The fund has also made awards to Release Community Money Advice, Hillstown Miners Welfare, Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centres, Rhubarb Farm, BLAST, Riding for Smiles, and so many other community organisations and projects in our area.

Groups across the Bolsover constituency can find out more on how to apply by clicking the link below.

[Click here to apply for funding](#)

Question the Leader of the House of Commons on Community Pharmacies

Community pharmacies play a vital role in our communities, and across the Bolsover constituency. Not only do they provide important medical services, but they also provide somewhere for the elderly to go in order to discuss their condition. That's why, in response to a number of letters from constituents, I raised the issue with the Leader of the House of Commons, Penny Mordaunt MP, and to place on record the importance of independent community pharmacies, and the vital role they play in promoting community cohesion and supporting residents in rural towns and villages.

Click the link below to watch/listen to her response.

[Watch](#)



A61 Consultation

The A61 which runs through the west of our constituency is a major route into Chesterfield, passing through villages such as Shirland, Higham, Mickley, Morton and Stretton. Over recent years the route has seen a significant increase in traffic and roadside development, both commercial and residential. I have received many letters from local residents raising their concerns about the safety of the road, primarily due to the speed of vehicles. There are a number of places where residents find it tricky to cross the road on foot, to access bus stops, neighbours, shops and services, despite the

installation of pedestrian refuges at major crossing points.

Over the last year Derbyshire County Council have been working on plans to review, and reduce, the existing speed limits, and now invite residents and users of the route to have their say.

You can find the Consultation and maps showing the proposed changes by clicking the link below.

[A61 Consultation](#)



Need My Help - Book A Surgery Appointment

Last week, I held my last constituency surgery of the year at The Glapwell Centre. We discussed a number of local and national issues and I thank those that came along. I start 2023 with surgeries in Clowne (January), Pilsley (February) and Pinxton (February).

Need my help with something? Click the button below and request a surgery appointment with me. 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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