

MARK FLETCHER MP NEWSLETTER



February Newsletter



Dear Resident,

I hope you and your family are well.

Despite being the shortest month of the year, February has turned out to be an extremely busy and hectic month for me. Whether that's back home in the constituency, where at the beginning of February I had the opportunity to spend a full week across our patch visiting businesses, speaking with residents, and delivering my updates. Or in Westminster, where I met with the Secretary of State for Education, attended a roundtable event on domestic abuse at 10 Downing Street, met with the Housing Minister, and spoke in Parliament on support for first-time buyers and Bolsover's bid for a sixth form!

Oh and I had a week in Norway with the Royal Marines and a considerable amount of time at Copenhagen Airport (for those who read my special edition newsletter on the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme)!

I hope you find this edition interesting!

Best wishes,

Mark



Mortgages Roundtable in Westminster



Delivering local leaflets in Belph



Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme in Norway



Meeting with Trent Barton, alongside Cllr Cupit



Updating residents in Whitwell about my work



Speaking to residents in Elmton



Meeting the Minister for Housing



Delivering updates to residents in Langwith



Meeting the Secretary of State for Education

I recently met with The Rt Hon Gillian Keegan MP, Secretary of State for Education to discuss Bolsover's bid for a new post-16 education centre.

The Redhill Academy Trust (RHAT), which runs The Bolsover School, has submitted an application to the Department of Education to open an age 16-19 mainstream free school in Bolsover. The application has been submitted in line with the aims of the Government's White Paper which identified Derbyshire as an Education Investment Area. The bid proposes to set up a new post-16 centre in Bolsover with an academic focus.

The Bolsover district currently has no further or higher educational facilities - meaning local students have to leave the area for their post-16 education. This results in disengagement, lack of aspirations, and low percentages of young people progressing onto university after KS4.

I will keep pushing for our young people to have better access to the education they deserve.

I also raised this again during Education Questions, which you can watch below.

[Watch my Question to the Secretary of State for Education on Bolsover's sixth form bid](#)



Affordable Housing

I said I'd keep pushing to ensure there was help for people to buy their first home in the Bolsover constituency. That's why I asked the Secretary of State, Michael Gove MP about the Government's plans for when Help-to-Buy ends next month. He confirmed that an extension to the current scheme is being

sought. I still believe more can and should be done to assist our young people and key workers to get a foot on the housing ladder within the Bolsover constituency and will continue campaigning on the matter.

Watch my question to the Secretary of State on support for first-time buyers



Meeting Trent Barton with Cllr Charlotte Cupit

I have been hearing lots from constituents experiencing problems with their local bus services, in particular extended delays and cancellations of services like the 9.3 through Pinxton and the Comet through Mickley run by Trent Barton.

That's why Cllr Charlotte Cupit and I went and sat down with the Managing Director to ensure there were plans in place to get these services back up to the standard of service residents need.

The 9.3

Trent Barton have been dealing with maintenance issues with some of their older buses, with parts being unavailable or obsolete, and are waiting on a replacement fleet of new modern buses. These were originally due to be delivered in 2021 but was temporarily suspended due to concerns with reduced passenger numbers during the pandemic. As these aren't now expected until July, in the short term, 3 additional vehicles have been switched to the local depot to support number 9 services. With the company leasing a further 3 further vehicles to prevent cancellations due to bus maintenance.

The Comet

Cllr Cupit raised concerns that for the past 2-3 weeks The Comet has simply not been turning up with parents, workers and children stranded and in the completely unacceptable position of having to pay for taxis. She has also asked if they could look into restoring the Sunday service.

Trent Barton are investigating the recent issues and I will share their response when I have it. However, the Comet issues are primarily driver related from the Derby depot 15-20 workers short from 170. They are recruiting - > <https://www.trentbarton.co.uk/join-our-team>

Overall, Trent Barton acknowledge there has been a problem over the last 12 months and that services are well short of standards they wish to set for customers.

I will continue to work with Ministers and local partners such as Derbyshire County Council to help address wider issues such as staff shortages and skills for engineers, as well as support for routes to rural villages that are not seen as commercial viable.



1-year since Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine

The 24th February 2023, marked one year since Russia launched an illegal and unprovoked attack on Ukraine.

I will take a moment to remember the tragic losses that Ukraine has endured and to think of the brave men and women of Ukraine who continue to pay the ultimate sacrifice to defend freedom and democracy in Europe.

I am incredibly proud of our country for its world-leading support for Ukraine. Whether that's supplying NLAWs (anti-tank weapons) before the invasion which helped in the early days/weeks of the war, our warm and welcoming response to refugees which I have seen first-hand across Bolsover, working with allies to introduce crippling economic sanctions on Russia, and being the first country to supply modern tanks and long-range missiles to Ukraine.

This war will define the future of Europe. If Russia succeeds it will continue its expansionist and imperial policies in former Soviet republics like Moldova and embolden authoritarian regimes in China, Iran, and North Korea.

This is a challenge The West must meet head on. Putin must fail.

Thankfully, NATO has never been stronger and our support for Ukraine is unwavering. The Ukrainians have demonstrated incredible courage, bravery, and determination during this war. They have adapted to new weapons systems and demonstrated superiority over Russian forces with victories in Kyiv, Kherson and Kharkiv Oblast. With our continued support they can defeat the Russian military, liberate its land and free the Ukrainian people from occupation.

Slava Ukraini!



Domestic Abuse Roundtable @ 10 Downing Street

I attended a roundtable meeting at Downing Street with colleagues from across Government to discuss the tough new measures announced to help protect people from harassment, aggression and violence, and focus on stopping domestic abuse before it takes place.

Devastatingly, domestic violence, abuse and stalking have resulted in the death of a number of people in our area in recent years and it is an issue personally very close to my heart.

It is imperative that victims are listened to, their concerns acted upon, quickly, and they are supported in making extremely difficult decisions.

I understand the challenges local organisations and local authorities face, not least with safe and secure accommodation, and I welcome the additional funding that has already been made available to help in this area.

I raised my concerns about ensuring a consistent approach to reports of domestic abuse and stalking across front line policing, and that we must take action to ensure that sex offenders and abusers are unable to avoid the consequences of their actions by simply changing their names.

This is such an important issue and although I absolutely welcome the stronger measures, there is always more that can be done.



HS2 Safeguarding Petition

I very much welcomed the news announced by the Government in 2021 that HS2 Phase 2b (Eastern Leg) will no longer go as far north as the Bolsover Constituency and will instead terminate at East Midlands Parkway. I am now campaigning to remove the safe-guarding policy which covers swathes of land surrounding the route and lift the restrictions that are causing problems for local residents, properties and businesses, as well as stopping potential infrastructure projects from going ahead. That's why I'm asking you to sign my petition and back the campaign to remove HS2 safeguarding.

[Sign the petition - help remove HS2 safeguarding](#)



Jobs & investment in Derbyshire

I was delighted to read the news that Air India had signed a multi-billion pound contract with Airbus and Rolls Royce to produce their new fleet of aircraft. This investment is a massive win for our region and will create more skilled and well-paid jobs in Derbyshire. Last year I visited the Rolls Royce site in Derby and had a tour of their state-of-the-art facilities. This international company is absolutely essential to our local economy - with over 100 people being employed just from the Bolsover Constituency. I will continue to champion the East Midlands as a place for investment, so that residents in our constituency can benefit from new jobs and opportunities.



Storthfield House, South Normanton

I recently visited Storthfield House in South Normanton, a 22-bed specialist high dependency inpatient rehabilitation service for men. I toured the facility, run by health and social care provider Cygnet Health Care, and spoke to staff and service users to find out more about the treatment offered on site and what a typical recovery journey looks like for the men benefitting from the service. I would like to thank the staff who took the time to speak with me, they are incredibly hard-working and passionate people who go above and beyond in the care of their service users.

[Visit my Website for More Content and News](#)



Need My Help - Book A Surgery Appointment

In February I held three constituency surgeries in Pinxton, Pilsley, and Bolsover - with my next surgery being held in Whitwell.

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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