



Ben Bradley MP: Weekly newsletter

21st October 2022

The PM

So it won't have escaped your attention, I'm sure, that it's been a difficult week in Westminster. The Prime Minister's resignation on Thursday had become somewhat inevitable, as it became clear that the mistakes made around the handling of the mini-budget in particular meant that she no longer had the confidence of enough people to be able to deliver her plans. In fairness to her - though she made some major errors in her short time in office - her principles are the right ones, and I feel for her on what must have been an incredibly difficult day yesterday.

There's been a lot of disappointment in recent months hasn't there, as first the huge opportunity that was presented by Boris being so engaging and so different went to waste, and now the opportunity to take forward a genuinely conservative, low tax, pro-growth agenda that I firmly believe is the right way to do things has been lost through mismanagement. It's been a tough few months for our country... but now we have a chance to reset. It's a chance we need to take.

I haven't yet decided how I will use my vote on Monday, in the contest to choose a new Prime Minister. Now that we know the rules, a maximum of three names will be able to come forward on Monday afternoon for MPs to consider. The early front runners are Rishi, Penny and Boris. As before, I'm interested in the views of constituents as I make my choice. Please click the link below and let me know who you would prefer to see take over next week.

[Our next PM: Have your say here](#)



Another busy week in Parliament, plenty of positive news as a distraction from current events!

Plenty to report back on this week as I began my work on the Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill Committee in which I'm ensuring Nottinghamshire is front and centre of all things 'levelling-up'.

I've made some important contributions in Parliament around education and ensuring that schools train and retain local teachers within the community, and offered my views on the role apprenticeships have to play in this, both in reducing the cost and the time out of the classroom for future teachers.

I also spoke about how 30% of schools in the East Midlands do not have a single male teacher and how this needs to improve so that young men have positive role models to influence them as they grow up.

In the constituency, work has begun on the £76m investment by Severn Trent to make Mansfield safer from the risk of flooding, creating "rain gardens" that double up as flood alleviation. More on all this below!

Are you a constituent? Join my Facebook group!



I have a group that's open to all constituents to join! All you need is to do is fill in the form with your postcode so we can check you're a constituent! In this group you can ask me questions directly, as well as hear from your neighbours about local and national issues.

[Click to join my constituents only Facebook group](#)

**This week I began my work on the
Levelling-up and Regeneration Public
Bill Committee**



I've spent a chunk of time this week on the Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill Committee! A Public Bill Committee is a committee set up by the House of Commons to examine the details of a particular Bill, and literally go through the clauses line by line.

The Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill is something I'm incredibly passionate about - it'll bring SO many opportunities to our area! We're already seeing the benefits of the levelling-up agenda through our world-beating STEP nuclear reactor programme based here in Nottinghamshire, investments in the pipeline through Towns Fund and Levelling Up Fund bids worth over £150m across North Notts, and more. Though much of this work is still in planning stages, the money is committed and things will start to take shape in the coming months.

I'm keen to get as involved as possible, particularly as this Bill is what will confirm our £1.1 BILLION new investment through our devolution deal, to hand more powers over local investment, jobs and transport down to our local area instead of things being decided in Whitehall.

Lots of work to be done and I'll be ensuring Mansfield and the rest of the region are at the heart of Government's plans.

HUGE progress improving local highways



INVESTING IN HIGHWAYS TO DRIVE GROWTH

"We all know it's really important our roads are kept in good condition for safety reasons, but less often considered is the importance of having a fit for purpose highway network, supporting the local economy and our growth ambition."

Ben Bradley MP

In Wednesday's debate in Parliament on transport in Nottinghamshire - brought forward by Gedling's Tom Randall MP - I gave an update on our huge progress in improving local highways.

Areas like the A60 at Berry Hill and A617 at Rainworth are examples of the new, high quality repairs we're rolling out, and so far we've reduced the use of temporary repairs by nearly 60%, with the scale of new high quality repairs having DOUBLED.

It's a massive long term project, but that's real progress.

As I said in my speech, its key to our long term plans to grow our economy and create opportunities, as well as being a big priority for residents. Nottinghamshire County Council are making major improvements and investing an extra £12m.

[Watch my speech in full via Facebook here](#)

**How we can support people from a
range of backgrounds into teaching
careers**



MORE OPTIONS FOR TEACHERS TO PROGRESS

"Being able to learn on the job through an apprenticeship removes financial barriers and enables people to gain experience without taking a career break. All this can be done locally, improving retention and retaining talent within the community."

Ben Bradley MP

I also spoke in Westminster Hall about ways to support people with a wider range of backgrounds and experience into teaching, including supporting highly qualified early years practitioners in to primary education, offering more routes for people to shift from business or other sectors in to schools, and 'learn on the job' apprenticeship-type opportunities for teaching assistants and others.

I also asked the Minister to look at ways to get more men in to teaching, as 30% of East Midlands schools don't have a single male teacher, which I think is really bad news for many young people who need positive male role models more than ever.



IMPORTANCE OF MALE ROLE MODELS IN TEACHING

"In the East Midlands 30% of schools do not have a male teacher. In some of the most disadvantaged communities, that male teacher might be the only decent role model a young man has, especially if they don't have a positive environment at home."

Ben Bradley MP

[Watch my speech in full via YouTube here](#)

Severn Trent begins £76 million project to improve Mansfield's flood resilience



Great to see Severn Trent held an event earlier this week to mark the creation of thousands of SuDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems) with work beginning on two "rain gardens" in Mansfield town centre. It might sound a bit dry (excuse the pun) but it will also really improve the look of our town centre too.

Really exciting project, which I'm pleased I was able to play a part in securing! Have a look at the link below to see both work underway and an artist's impression of the completed rain garden at 'The Court House' in Mansfield town centre.

Mega stuff!

[Read more about this here](#)

The list of local projects to look forward to is endless



This last week or two has clearly seen some unhelpful uncertainty in Government, I think that's clear to all of us.

Read my column below which lays out all the exciting projects to look forward to in Nottinghamshire!

[Read more about this here](#)

CONFIRMED: Pensions Triple Lock

CONFIRMED
CONFIRMED
CONFIRMED

TRIPLE LOCK
TRIPLE LOCK
TRIPLE LOCK

PROTECTED

Delivering on our promise and
helping pensioners with the cost of living

 **Conservatives**

Good news that the Government has firmly re-committed to the Pensions Triple Lock during Prime Minister's Questions on Wednesday afternoon. Pensions will rise in April as previously announced. This is good news for local people who have been contacting me about this.

Getting Britain Moving

We're bringing forward plans to ensure that politically motivated strikes can't bring people's lives to a standstill...

PROTECTING COMMUTERS

Our Minimum Service Levels Bill will:



Keep public transport
running during strikes



Ensure people can carry on
their daily lives and make
vital medical appointments



Require employers and
striking unions to maintain
services during strikes



Recap: Meeting with Culture Secretary



Earlier this week I met with the Culture Secretary Michelle Donelan to talk about the Online Safety Bill. Previously, this bill contained a section on 'legal but harmful' content.

This section of the bill would give social media companies the power to remove content that is not necessarily illegal but is deemed harmful. I raised concerns about the implications this part of the bill presents for free speech and the power this would give to social media companies to decide what constitutes harmful content.

I was assured by the Culture Secretary that she would look again at this section of the Online Safety Bill. I was also assured of the importance of free

speech to this government and the Culture Secretary agreed with me that people should feel free to express themselves online, provided they are not breaking the law.

[More information on the meeting here](#)

STEP Fusion Rolls Royce meeting



It was great to meet with representatives from Rolls Royce earlier this week in Parliament to discuss STEP Fusion and career opportunities for people in the East Midlands.

I was really encouraged to hear about their enthusiasm for the STEP Fusion project (it's nice when others are as excited about it as I am!) and how they can support the project moving forward.

We also discussed other key clean energy projects for our region and how we can help our region lead the way in clean energy generation for the future

Did you know that Rolls Royce has approximately 64% of their workforce based in the East Midlands!

[More information on the meeting here](#)

WATCH: A typical constituency Friday (day in the life)

[Watch here via Facebook](#)

And finally...

Sir David Amess MP

SIR
DAVID AMESS MP
1952 - 2021



One year ago I came out of the same college Q&A session that I did again this week, and I checked my phone, saw this news - that my friend and colleague Sir David had been stabbed to death - and then sat in my car and cried. I missed my next appointment.

David was the best of us. A kind, caring, and supportive friend, taken to soon by someone who has nothing but hate in their heart.

Gone but not forgotten.

Thanks for reading and for keeping in touch.

Ben

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