



## Ben Bradley MP's weekly update

### Loads to report back on this week!

It's really refreshing to be getting back to business as usual and have a range of different topics both local and national to report back on.

Loads more happening with our East Mids devolution deal this week! I wrote about the environmental benefits of the deal and how we will be able to develop our own Energy Plan, creating a cleaner, greener future for the region. I also spoke to local businesses on Friday where there's a lot of excitement about the deal's potential to grow business across the region.

I also wrote to Ministers this week about Britain's 'hidden' sports facilities and shared the shocking statistic that 45% of these facilities nationally are locked up every evening and weekend, unavailable for community use.

Speaking in Parliament this week, I asked the Home Secretary Suella Braverman about small boat crossings and the impact this has on local councils, especially when it comes to the vast majority of asylum applications which come from young single men, many who claim to be under 18.

In more positive news, HUGE congratulations to Mansfield theatre Unanima who received a share of £2.5m Arts Council funding, announced Friday!

Last, but certainly not least... I had the opportunity to visit some local businesses last weekend, along with a new local cafe opening in Mansfield this week, a couple of stories about this below.

### Ways to keep in touch

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**If you're a constituent, join the private Facebook group [here!](#)**

# Poppy Appeal

● Your poppy shows you care. And helps the Royal British Legion to continue its vital work.

● Our Armed Forces risk everything to protect you, despite never having met you.

● Wearing your poppy shows serving personnel, veterans and their families that their service and sacrifice means something to you and will never be forgotten.

● The Royal British Legion is there for the Armed Forces community throughout their lives, whenever they need us.

  
*Ben Bradley MP*  
serving Mansfield and Warsop

## Poppy Appeal

I'm proud to be supporting Royal British Legion for this year's Poppy Appeal and I know that my constituents across Mansfield and Warsop will also be doing the same!

"**Young men** are arriving in the UK and later claiming to be **unaccompanied children**. At that point the local authority has to treat them as 'looked after children'. We then have to look after them until they are **25 years old**. The average cost of a looked after child is over **£100,000 a year**.

I think my constituents will be horrified to learn that their **council tax** is being spent on that when it's intended for public services.

It will be impossible for the public to trust that our **immigration** policies are properly **robust** and **fair** for as long as people can arrive here illegally, from a safe country, and be able to stay here at the **expense** of UK tax payers."

  
*Ben Bradley MP*  
serving Mansfield and Warsop

## Small boat crossings & local authorities

I spoke about the situation with small boats in the chamber this

week.

I welcome the Home Secretary's tough stance on this because ending illegal immigration from safe countries is a fundamental issue of fairness. My constituents need to know that the system is working for them, and not prioritising those who have arrived here illegally, having paid people traffickers to get them here from safe countries like Albania, or France.

I asked her additionally to look at some of our domestic rules here in the UK, where young single males - who make up the majority of cases - claiming to be under 18 can end up being 'looked after children' with taxpayers responsible for their welfare until they're 25, at great cost. That's easily rectified if Government want to save money, and allow Councils to focus on public services instead.

[Watch my question to the Home Secretary here](#)



## **Devolution deal and the environment**

"The deal is a golden opportunity to improve the lives of the 2.2 million people who call the region home by creating a greener future. Devolution would mean we can work more effectively on a larger scale on cleaner air, more energy efficient homes, to promote renewable energy, and more, with clean heat coordination and a new local energy plan."

[Click here to read in full](#)

## EAST MIDLANDS DEVOLUTION DEAL

- A 30 year investment of £1.14 billion that brings decision making on public services closer to the people of Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire.
- This means an extra £38 million per year to help level-up the region and further develop local services.
- The deal is the largest of its kind on offer, transferring decision making away from Whitehall and to the East Midlands.
- As a result of this deal, both counties and cities will become a 'combined authority' with an elected Mayor.

### What does this mean for us?

- We can set our own net zero targets.
- We can make bus, train or tram journeys go further for less, across both counties.
- We can combine council budgets, meaning better value for money for our public services.
- We can tailor adult education to the job market of the East Midlands, so re-training costs less and you can 'earn while you learn'.
- We can build new affordable homes based on local needs.
- We can build on our UK-leading green technologies industry, creating jobs and skills for the future.
- We will be able to better address social mobility, community safety and support for young people.

  
*Ben Bradley MP*  
serving Mansfield and Walsley

## Excitement amongst businesses for Devolution!

On Friday I was talking to businesses about opportunities that will come their way to grow, employ and upskill people through devolving powers down from Whitehall to our area.

The opportunity ranges from things like more money for roads and buses right up to huge long term, life changing plans to attract amazing new, highly paid jobs and help local people take advantage of those opportunities 🏡👨🏫👩🏫

All good stuff, lots of support!

[Watch my video on this here](#)



## Unlocking 'hidden' sports facilities

I've written to Ministers this week to once again raise the issue of Britain's 'hidden' sports facilities, with around 45% of facilities in our schools locked up every evening and weekend, not available for community use.

It's a travesty that we have so many - tens of thousands - of sites with good facilities that are left unused, when we have made health inequalities and inactivity key priorities for health and levelling up. The most disadvantaged areas have particular problems with access to sports and leisure facilities.

Locally, we've recently seen the Manor Sports Centre close last year as the Academy Trust decided that it couldn't keep it open to the community any more. That's understandable in many ways, as of course the school is going to prioritise the curriculum etc, but it's meant that countless local clubs and groups have been made homeless, and deprived the local area of use of these facilities.

I've been trying to work locally with partners to get it reopened, but so far we've not been able to find a solution.

I'm asking Government to get involved, and to help us reopen facilities like these, so that they're not wasted when communities want to be able to make the most of them!

[Read my letter in full here](#)



# 380 MORE POLICE OFFICERS FOR NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

"Since September 2019, over 15,300 new police officers have been recruited nationally.

Nottinghamshire has so far recruited 380 new police officers. This plays a huge role in pursuing criminals, keeping neighbourhoods safe, protecting victims and reassuring the law-abiding majority."

*Ben Bradley MP*

## **380 more police officers for Notts**

I work closely with Nottinghamshire Police and I know how hard they work every day to keep the streets of Mansfield and Warsop safe.

An additional 380 police on our streets will play a huge role in pursuing criminals, keeping neighbourhoods safe, protecting victims and reassuring the law-abiding majority.

This Conservative Government is delivering on its promises to the British people - showing it is only the Conservatives that can be trusted to keep Britain's streets safe.

[Read more about this here](#)



**9,100  
MORE  
NURSES**

in our NHS since August 2021

 Conservatives



**3,700  
MORE  
DOCTORS**

in our NHS since August 2021

## **More Doctors and Nurses in our NHS**

New data shows we have a record 1.2 million people working in the NHS with over 3,700 more doctors and 9,100 more nurses since August 2021.

This fantastic news shows our NHS Long Term Plan is working as we deliver on our manifesto commitment to recruit more doctors and nurses. Clearly they're much needed, given the huge challenges we know our health and care services are facing right now.

These staff will prove vital in protecting the NHS that we all rely on, working to tackle Covid related backlogs and constantly improve patient outcomes.



## International Trade week

Boosting trade abroad.

✕ Cutting tariffs.

Creating new opportunities for British businesses.

International trade week returns for a second year! Organised by the Department for International Trade, this week gave businesses the opportunity to attend events hosted by trade experts.

Particularly useful for small-medium sized businesses who are yet to start trading internationally, this week showcased the support available for businesses so that they can get started and feel the benefits of exporting.





## Arts Council Funding for Mansfield

Fantastic news that Unanima Theatre will receive £200,000 in arts funding announced today. Levelling Up isn't only about redeveloping town centres and devolution deals, although they are key, it's also about developing arts and culture in places like Mansfield.

I have seen the amazing work that Unanima do, giving learning disabled and autistic people a chance to express themselves artistically. I know this funding will be welcome news for Unanima and will help secure their future and growth the organisation, providing more opportunities for people to become involved in the arts in Mansfield.

I would like to thank Arts Council England for providing this funding and I look forward to the arts and culture sector in Mansfield growing in the future!

Mansfield District Council has also been granted £579,000 of Arts Council funding to support local assets like the theatre and museum over the coming years. Great to see more funding and opportunities in arts and culture coming to Mansfield

[Find out more about them here](#)



## Charity run Cafe opens in Pleasley

This week was the opening of Roots coffee lounge at Pleasley Landmark which is run by Mansfield charity, REAL Foundation Trust.

The charity supports young people with additional needs and disabilities into finding meaningful employment through mentoring and out of hours opportunities.

This new coffee shop benefits from the support of coffee shop experts 200 Degrees who offer training opportunities, and has also received matched funding from Nottinghamshire County Council Local Community Fund of £20,000.

Big thanks to the Trust's Manager Rob Lyons for inviting us along, to Matthew Wright who donated his time to design the interior of the shop which looks AMAZING, and to Cllr Sinead Anderson from Mansfield West who went along on my behalf yesterday as I was in Westminster.

It looks mega!

[Learn more about this charity here](#)



## Support local businesses

I was out and about in the constituency last weekend delivering my newsletter to residents and visiting local businesses.

It was lovely to meet Gemma and her team at Cakefield Cakes in Pleasley.

I was interested to learn more about Gemma's business, especially about how they adapted over the pandemic to serve their local community, by delivering food and even dropping round the local shops to support residents.

We chatted about the challenges facing small businesses with energy bills and the importance of small businesses having a role in the local community. It's brilliant to see a local businesses in Mansfield striving to play an active role in their local communities so do come and pay a visit to this hidden gem!

[Visit their Facebook page here!](#)



# 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*

## **Chesterfield Road highways works**

I was out on Chesterfield Road where there's been an issue with some flooding in recent weeks, caused by some damage that a utilities company did when installing their kit under the road.

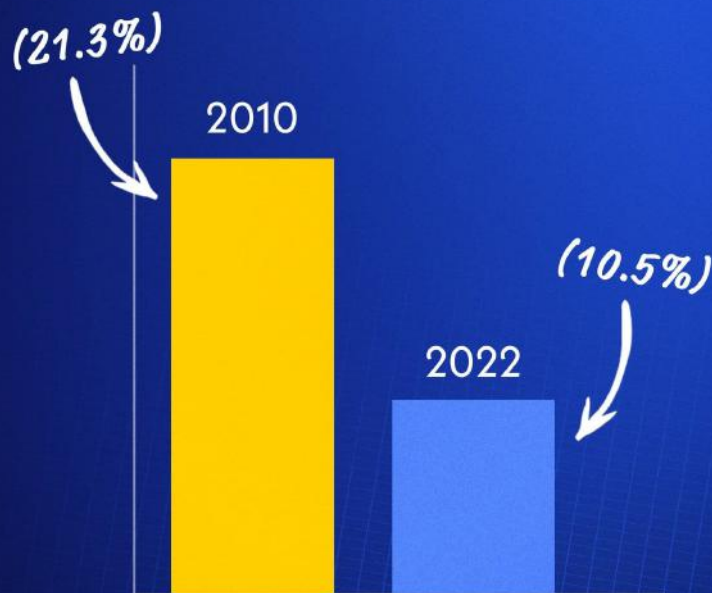
It's proving difficult to get these companies to come and take responsibility for the problems they cause, and that means delays and more disruption for residents.

I've been to meet Highways Officers to learn about the problems, so that I can take these companies to task in the weeks ahead and make sure they're putting you first!

[Watch my video on this here](#)

# NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON LOW PAY HAS HALVED

As a proportion of the UK workforce



 Conservatives

SOURCE: ONS, 26 OCT

## Number of people on low pay halved

Unemployment and low pay are both at historic lows. As we deal with the cost of living crisis which is largely caused by the war in Ukraine, it's vital that the government continues to ensure that taxes are kept low and that people earn a decent living wage so that we can ride through this crisis.



## More diversity of experience in teaching

This week I spoke in Parliament about the recruitment and retention of teachers. Before politics, teaching is what I always wanted to do, and I've always felt that we should open up teaching to a wider range of people, and have more diversity - not of physical characteristics, but of background and experience.

I think we should do more to support people from business and industry to get in to teaching, do more to support different routes like Apprenticeships for Teaching Assistants to progress and become Teachers, support pathways from Early Years education in to Primary Schools so that people with the background and experience with children can progress in to teaching without the financial barriers of having to go and get a degree or PGCE...

More options and flexibility for people who want to teach, and for schools to bring in good people with a wide range of backgrounds and experience, can only be a good thing.

I also spoke about the importance of male role models in teaching, with almost a third of East Midlands schools having no male teachers at all. Those role models are so important, and we absolutely must do more to ensure that we have more positive male role models in our schools too.

[Read the story here](#)



**Supporting Safer Gambling Week**

Pleased to support support Safer Gambling Week 2022 recently, which is a campaign created to start a national conversation around safer betting and gaming.

It is crucial we spread the word about safer gambling and what tools are available so that punters can enjoy gambling safely, aware of the risks and knowing when to stop and reach out for support.

[Watch a TikTok video on this here](#)

## Weekly Highlights

### Rishi Sunak becomes PM 🇬🇧

Congratulations to Rishi Sunak on becoming PM, after the challenges of the last few weeks and with lots to tackle, I wish him the best of luck. As a government and a country we need to restore some stability and get back to working for the country.

### Sainsbury's junction 🇬🇧

Those who follow me closely know that in 2020 I secured the money from the Government's Pinch Points Fund. However, as soon as the lockdown was announced, the whole of the Pinch Point money was reallocated to other priorities. Since then I've been trying to get Government to revisit this. I'm still on it, the plans are still there and good to go!

### DEVOLUTION update 🇬🇧

In the next few weeks we'll launch a consultation on plans and priorities for bringing new powers and funding to the East Midlands. I've spoken with the new Prime Minister about this in recent days and been assured that he's fully committed to delivering on the promised £1bn of initial extra investment in our area.

### More Police on the streets 🇬🇧

Pleased to confirm that as a share of 15,300 extra police officers nationally, Nottinghamshire has recruited 380 with more to come as the government plans to train a further 5,000.

### Levelling-Up Committee 🇬🇧

I've been sat on this committee for the past few weeks, and there's lots of positive news when it comes to the local economy, in areas such as transport or economic development, where local people will have more opportunity to drive an agenda and to deliver on more local priorities.

  
**Ben Bradley MP**  
serving Mansfield and Warsop

## Catch up on last week's highlights!

Last week I continued to work hard to deliver for Mansfield, Nottinghamshire and the East Midlands. Above are some highlights.

## This week's column ↓

[Click to read...](#)

**It's the right time to move forward and focus on uniting our country**





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That's all for this week!

Thanks for reading and I hope you have a great weekend.

Ben

## Follow me on social media



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