



## Ben Bradley MP's weekly update

### Some brilliant local news this week!

Another packed week full of local and national issues and announcements! And of course a weekend for contemplation as we mark Armistice Day.

It was brilliant to head into the weekend last week with the announcement that Mansfield will benefit from Arts Council funding of £811,000, with a local theatre taking a big chunk of that investment!

I also visited Woodhouse Colts JFC to learn about what's involved with running a local football club. I discovered that they'd had a spate of antisocial behaviour that was costing the club both money and time to deal with, so I made a small donation in the hope we can drum up some more support for this fantastic club.

I'm also pleased to introduce the Conservative candidate for Mayor of Mansfield District Council, Cllr Andre Camilleri. Andre brings years of experience as a Councillor and I'm looking forward to working with him on his campaign leading up to the election next year.

Nationally, I continued to push the levelling-up and devolution agenda for the East Midlands from Westminster, having a meeting with both Michael Gove and the Prime Minister on Tuesday which was a great opportunity to talk all things Mansfield and Nottinghamshire.

I'm also pleased to see our Home Secretary this week speak on the return to common sense policing, ensuring that our police officers are trained up to tackle REAL crime and don't have to go to university first to do so!

There's loads more to read below, including my contribution in the Commons on the small boats crisis and as always, my weekly column at the end.

### Ways to keep in touch

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## Remembrance Day

A privilege to attend the ceremony, parade and two minutes silence at Vision West Notts College on Friday, remembering those who gave their tomorrow for our today.

As the Principal Andrew Cropley said, for many of us and the young people from the Uniformed Protective Services course here at the college who took part in today's parade, the impact and realities of war have never been more real or visible in the world.

Can I thank every one of these young people for their dedication and commitment to public service.





## Arts funding for Mansfield!

Fab news last week that Mansfield has been awarded Arts Council funding to support local assets like the theatre and museum over the coming years!

Unanima Theatre : £232,000

Mansfield District Council - My Mansfield : £579,304

[Read more on the details here](#)



## **Our candidate for Mansfield DC Mayor**

Last weekend Mansfield Conservative Members met to select their preferred candidate to contest the upcoming election for a new Mayor, to lead Mansfield District Council from 2023.

Following a selection meeting and presentations from three shortlisted candidates, Members chose Cllr Andre Camilleri as their candidate, with the aim of ending decades of Labour and Independent leadership of the District Council. The Association and Local Members would like to extend their thanks to all of the applicants, who each did a fantastic job and brought an awful lot of strengths to the table.

Andre is a highly experienced local Councillor, having been the Cabinet Member for Public Safety at MDC going back over a decade. More recently, he has represented Mansfield South on Nottinghamshire County Council since May 2021, where he also sits on the Police and Crime Panel and acts as Deputy Cabinet Member for Finance. Andre has run a number of successful businesses locally. He has also acted as Chairman of local charities such as D.A.R.E (Lifeskills Education) and Making It Enterprises.

I know that Andre would provide that drive, would hold the Council to account to deliver on its promises, and would work with our team to join the dots with County and national politicians to get things done.

The poll will take place on May 4th 2023, alongside the election of new local Councillors on Mansfield District Council.

[Read more here](#)



## Support your local football club

Fantastic to drop in to Woodhouse Colts JFC over the weekend to meet the Committee, including Jamie who dropped me an email a few weeks ago. We spoke about the amazing time and effort that goes in to running a club like this, as well as the costs and how they can be made worse sadly by antisocial behaviour and criminal damage on site.

It's a pleasure to be able to contribute even a small amount to try and help, and of course I'll try to open some doors to other support too.

Could you help? Are you involved in a business or do you know individuals who are able to contribute either their time or through sponsorship to support hundreds of local kids to play football? If so, let me know and I'll put you in touch (or of course you can contact the club direct).

If you fancy doing a refereeing course you could actually top up your own income too, as you can get up to £40 a game to blow the whistle. Supporting a few games at the weekends as a ref could be a real financial boost in these challenging times. Again, get in touch if you're interested.

Great to meet everyone and thanks for the invite.

[Watch my video here](#)



## **Mansfield business roundtable**

I dropped in to Il Rosso in Mansfield this week to meet with Barclays Business UK and local businesses, to talk about the short term challenges of rising costs, and also the longer term opportunities of some of the major projects we have going on like STEP Fusion or devolved funding for skills and economic development.

Fabulous food and a really good conversation! Lots to take away and discuss with Ministers in the days and weeks ahead.



## **Friends of Bellamy coffee morning**

On Wednesday I went to see Friends of Bellamy to talk about their work in organising and supporting the community on the estate, as well as about some of the challenges we need to tackle. Always a pleasure to visit and talk through these things, so really appreciate the invite!

**Part of the community? Join  
here**



## Visiting the home of fusion energy

Amazing to visit the home of fusion energy at Culham this week with the UK Atomic Energy Authority, where we've been learning more about the technology that has led us to our amazing STEP Fusion announcement recently.

We've secured a £20 BILLION pound investment to make North Notts the home of this research and to create a new commercially viable power plant for fusion technology.

We saw the JET programme and other predecessors to STEP, and met some fab Apprentices going through the system here.

One of the first benefits of STEP will be a new Apprenticeship programme based in North Notts. So exciting!

We were with Channel 4 filming for a short project that will air in a few weeks. Look forward to sharing it with you.

[Read more on this here](#)



## Levelling-up meeting with Michael Gove

It is always a pleasure to be invited to talk about the exciting Levelling Up Agenda we have been developing in Nottinghamshire, particularly with the man who's job it is to progress that agenda!

During the meeting we covered a lot of subjects from the Devolution Deal to STEP Fusion and the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill. It was good to get into the detail of these projects and what they mean for our region with Michael who is not only passionate about Levelling Up but has been key in progressing these projects through his previous stint as Secretary of State for Levelling Up.

I am luckily in quite a unique position as being both a Council Leader and Member of Parliament means I am able to feedback to government on a daily basis about these projects and then go away and make the changes necessary to action these projects. Through this unique dual role, I have managed to help secure billions in funding for our region and kickstart some really exciting projects such as our STEP Fusion reactor at West Burton.

I would like to thank Michael for meeting with me today and I look forward to pushing forward with the Levelling Up Agenda in Nottinghamshire.

[Watch a short video here](#)



## **Notts County Council votes for devolution deal & a chance to talk about how we fund public services with the Minister...**

Over the moon that, following the Extraordinary Meeting of Full Council last week to discuss our devolution deal, Councillors agreed to progress to public consultation and spoke at length about the opportunities of the deal. The vote was 56 in support, 2 abstentions, 0 against. Good stuff!

In the next few week's we're launching a consultation to get your views on the key priorities for the new £1.14bn of funding we've secured for our area. I'll share the links and info when available.

It was also a pleasure to have the Minister for Local Government Lee Rowley MP with us this week, where we discussed the funding of local services at length, before heading out to have a look at some major investment opportunities.

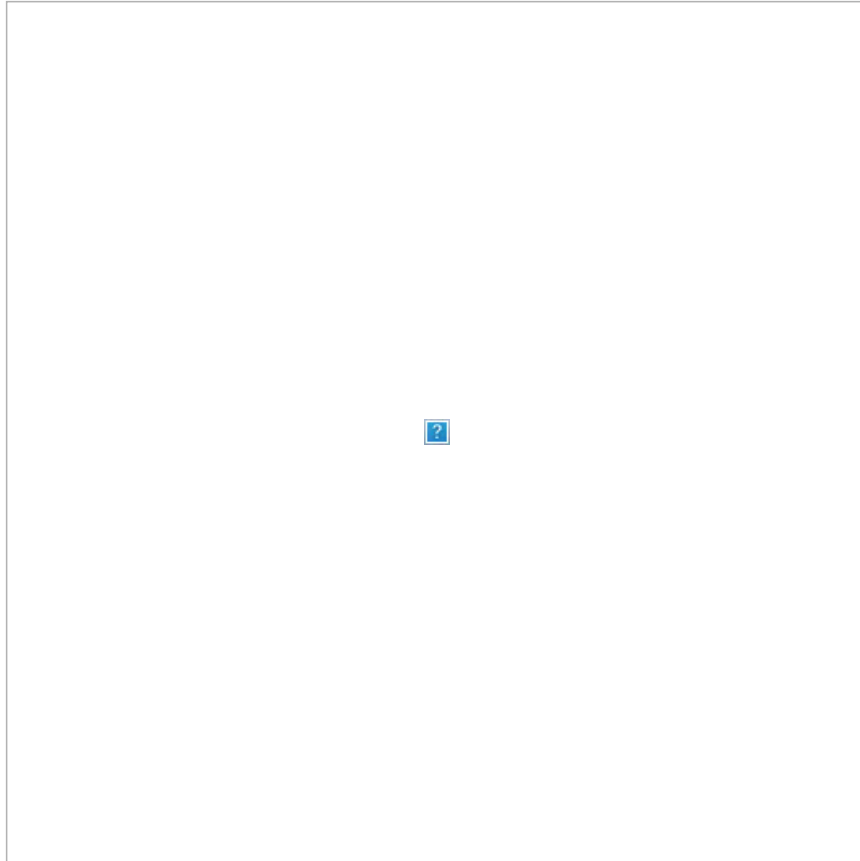
We spoke about STEP Fusion, about jobs and housing growth at Toton, our Freeport and DevCo propositions that can create



significant new local opportunities... the list goes on!

Great that Lee has chosen to come and speak to us locally on all of these Council issues as his very first visit in the role. Through our time and effort, innovation and ideas, and my being able to both speak directly to Ministers AND do the local work on the ground, we're really joining the dots and making things happen!

[Watch a clip from the meeting here](#)



## **Devolution & the environment**

I recently wrote an article for the Environment Journal on how devolution can lead to a greener East Midlands.

Just in case you missed it, catch it below!

[Read in full here](#)



## Cost of living support explained

We're supporting people this winter to help manage the rising cost of living, with the energy price cap and £400 discount in place for everyone, the reduction in national insurance that will begin to appear in November pay packets, and further cost of living payments for those most in need. Whilst it's not possible to make these challenges just go away, local and national Government is working to offer as much help and support as possible.

[Find out more about this support](#)



## **The return of common-sense policing**

More positive, robust steps from a Home Secretary who really gets it, in my view.

This week at the Police Chiefs Conference she announced that she is working to end the ridiculous notion of 'non-crime hate incidents' and police wasting resources monitoring gender debates on Twitter.

The home secretary also said she's ending the practice of requiring officers to have degrees and reopening pathways into the Force, and she called on senior officers to get tough on climate extremists who are currently out causing criminal damage and ruining the lives of others by bringing motorways to a standstill.

[Read an article on this here](#)

**"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 boats channel crossings

The small boats issue is not just about migration, its about the basic fairness of our system and our services... If we're going to be asked to reduce public services and Council budgets supporting our citizens at the same time as spending more on asylum seekers and foreign aid, then the system is broken.

The Chad think I'm wrong  
(read it here) but what do  
you think?



## Speaking at Institute of Book-keepers

This week I spoke to the Institute for Certified Book keepers in Parliament, bright and early, about some of the long term

opportunities for business, for entrepreneurs and for driving investment. Book keepers and accountants obviously sit behind many of our small businesses, which in places like Mansfield in particular make up the vast majority of our local economy.

I spoke about our Towns Fund and Levelling Up Fund projects, I spoke about the education partnership between local colleges and universities, I spoke about the chance to drive investment and manage our local skills and qualifications through devolution (not to mention the £5bn+ extra investment it will bring) and about the opportunities of STEP Fusion for jobs and inward investment from around the globe coming to North Notts.

The time it typically takes to deliver a major capital project is something like 7-8 years, so lots of these things are still in the pipeline. Some, like our devolution plans, are incremental and will have an impact over the coming decade, but we have an awful lot to look forward to from a business and local economy perspective, beyond what is obviously a really challenging short term issue with costs and inflation.

Always a pleasure to host people in the Commons (especially when they bring me breakfast!)



## Supporting British Farming

Back British Farming Day took place earlier last week!

Back British Farming Day is a chance to celebrate all the great things about the industry and I was pleased to show my support for British farming.



## Addressing online abuse...

Turns out I get a higher proportion of abusive messages than any other MP, according to data released this week.

Such a shame that keyboard warriors are increasingly able to put people off entering politics, or to silence people they disagree with.

Needless to say, whether it's small boats or white working class boys, protecting children from gender ideology or calling out the insanity of net zero protesters, I won't be put off from debating issues that are really important to our values and culture.

[Read an article on this here](#)

[Listen to my radio interview on this here](#)



## So much to look forward to!

I spoke to the Nottingham Post over the weekend about the events of recent months and the frustration around changes in Westminster...

But I also wanted to share my optimism, along with all the amazing things coming our way for the region! The article below is a great recap on all these exciting projects, many of which are rapidly gaining momentum in the background.

[Read the article here](#)



### Stakeholder Panel with Mansfield and Ashfield 2020 Business Club

Today I had the pleasure of speaking to local businesses at West Notts College, and sitting on a panel with stakeholders from across education, business and local Government.

We discussed the great potential of our plans to devolve funding and powers over skills, transport and economic development down from Whitehall to our region and how people can engage with the consultation from next week. We also talked about education and some of the other opportunities we have coming forward for the area.

### Migration Crisis

On Monday, I stood up for tax payers and asked the Home Secretary to make sure that anyone who enters the country illegally goes through the proper security checks. I voiced my concern that in the majority of cases these migrants are young men, many of which claim to be under 18, thereby becoming the responsibility of the tax payer until they are 25.

### Devolution Update

In an article this week, I wrote about the environmental benefits of devolution and how the East Midlands can lead the UK towards net zero. The deal comes with £18m to support housing and our net zero ambitions. I wrote that with this investment we could build low carbon homes, and retrofit existing homes with external wall insulation.

### Arts Council Funding

Fantastic news that £200,000 in arts funding has been awarded to Mansfield theatre Unanima with Mansfield District Council also receiving £579,000 towards local assets like museums. Unanima do brilliant work giving learning disabled and autistic people a chance to express themselves artistically. Thanks Arts Council England for providing this funding!

### 'Hidden' Sports Facilities

I wrote again to ministers this week to voice concerns over the tens-of-thousands of sports facilities that go unused during evenings and weekends. Around 45% of our sports facilities in the UK are within schools and it's a travesty that outside of school hours these aren't unlocked for communities to use. This, especially with government focussing on health inequality which is also part of the levelling up agenda.

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[www.benbradleymp.com](http://www.benbradleymp.com)

  
**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...*

**Our asylum system needs to work for tax payers**



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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