



Back to Westminster!

Although everything is back in full swing in Parliament after the Easter Recess, I was still out and about in Mansfield visiting [West Notts College](#) for a meeting where I spoke to stakeholders about the long term plans and ambitions for our community.

Mansfield has received tens-of-millions in government funding recently, from investment into a new Civic Hub on the site of the old Beales building, to the recently announced Levelling-up Partnership which sees another £20m being invested by government into an area of our choosing.

This is all really exciting stuff! It builds on the things already coming our way for more well paid and highly skilled employment opportunities through our Devolution deal (worth at least £1.14bn) and multi-billion pound STEP fusion reactor that's rapidly becoming a reality in neighbouring Bassetlaw.

Meanwhile our local elections campaign continues to gather pace as our fantastic candidates campaign for a change at MDC at the upcoming May 4th local elections. More on this below!

[For those celebrating, wishing Eid Mubarak to the Muslim community across Mansfield!](#)

Here's a quick video from Monday!

Ways to keep in touch

Click to follow and subscribe...



If you're a constituent, join the private Facebook

Fab Mansfield Conservatives are getting on with the job and campaigning for the upcoming local elections!





Conservatives have never been given the chance to run MDC. After decades of Labour/Independent waste and mismanagement, on May 4th, support Andre and this fantastic Mansfield Conservatives team in the local elections.

Your choice...

| | | |
|---|----|---|
| <p>A Conservative Council getting things done</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Long overdue improvement – Delivering on residents' priorities, like tackling antisocial behaviour. ✓ Spending your money HERE – We'll end Labour and the Independent Party's wasteful spending on property in London. ✓ Giving you the chance to scrap the role of Mayor altogether – The role costs more than a 'Leader' but hasn't delivered better outcomes. We'll give you a choice. | OR | <p>More of the same failure from Labour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Still haven't delivered outcomes from the £100m+ of 'Levelling Up' funding that our MP has secured. ✗ Continue to spend your money outside of the District, on London properties first purchased by the Independent Party. ✗ Totally failed to sort out their poor quality housing and look after their tenants, with repairs overdue and money spent elsewhere. |
|---|----|---|

Which will you vote for on Thursday 4th May?





Next trip: 10th July.

Coach travel to and from London will cost £22 per person, with a 6am start on the day!

The trip will include a guided tour of the Houses of Parliament and an opportunity to meet and chat with Ben.

If you're a constituent, get in touch to book your place!

Contact: ben.bradley.mp@parliament.uk



Visit Parliament in July!

There are just a handful of spaces left on the coach to come and visit Parliament in July. Drop us a line if you want to book! Don't hang about as it will fill up again (but we will do another one in the Autumn so, make sure you get on the list!)



Notts County Council delivery plan approved!

On Thursday morning the County Council approved our Annual Delivery Plan for 2023/4, setting out our priorities for the year ahead. [Here's what that means.](#)

[Find out more here...](#)



Local election candidates announced!

All of the candidates for the upcoming local elections to Mansfield District Council are listed here.

The name of the 'ward' or area that you live in should be listed on the polling card that is delivered to your house in the post.

Postal votes will begin to land on doormats this week, and polling day is Thursday May 4th.

Do make sure you use your vote, and if you're going on the day remember that you need take take your ID.

[Find out who your
Conservative candidate is
here!](#)



Pushing to get more powers for our East Mids Devolution Deal

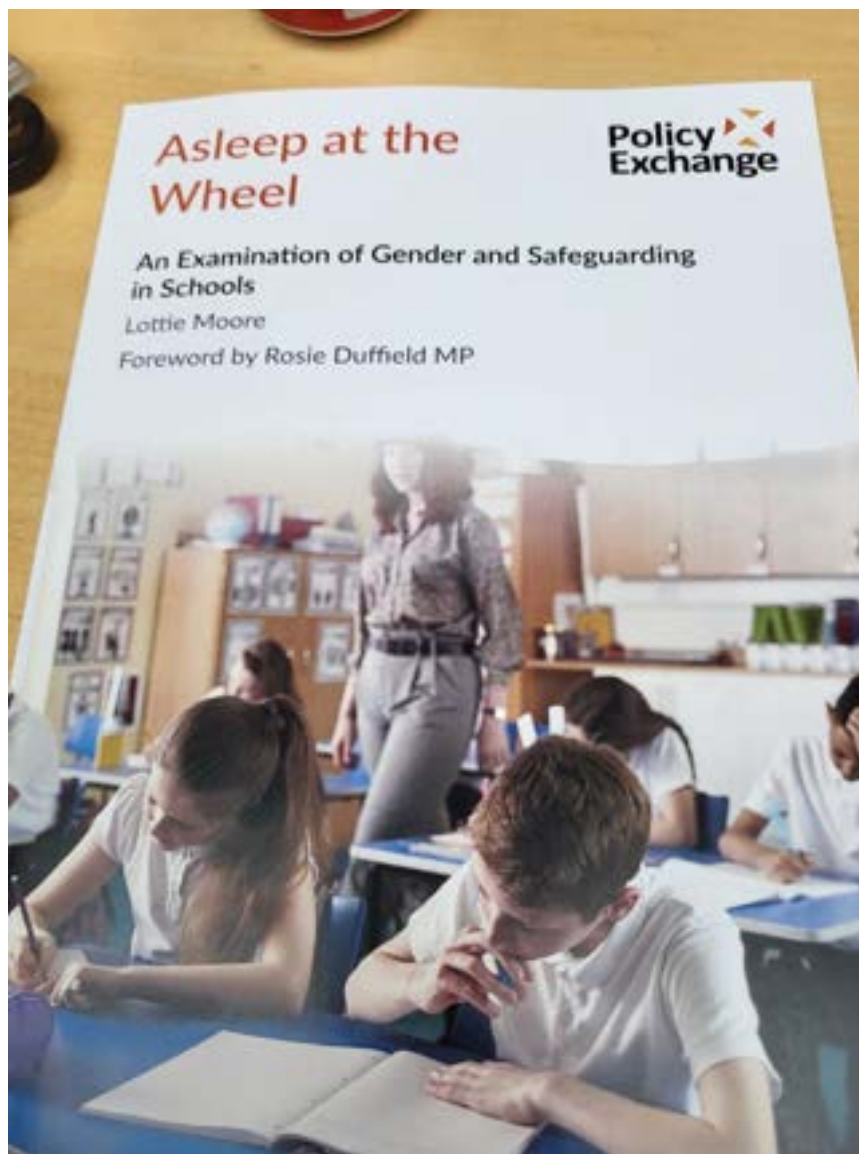
I recently wrote to Ministers, alongside colleagues in Parliament, asking for the freedom for our area to lead and be innovative on 'Levelling Up'.

There's constant coverage of Sadiq Khan imposing new taxes on cars or Andy Burnham making you pay for clean air, but we can't allow left wing leaders to take charge of this agenda, or to define what it means to empower local communities.

Devolution in the East Midlands, under our new Combined Authority that will take shape in 2024, has to be defined by investment, innovation and opportunity; giving people more options, not by left-wing concepts of adding regulations, adding costs or limiting freedoms.

My colleagues and I asked the Government to empower our region, to help us catch up with the funds and opportunities in places like London or Manchester, but to help us use those powers to change lives and boost opportunities for local people. We can't be left behind, and we can't allow the positive agenda to be hijacked by bad ideas!

[Read my article here...](#)



Talking safeguarding in schools around Relationships and Sex Education

This week I met with Policy Exchange to talk about safeguarding in schools, and how gender features in Relationships and Sex Education.

Recently a number of high profile examples have been raised where some schools have been teaching some really ideologically driven content around sexuality, leading to the PM committing to reviewing the whole of the RSE guidance. Meanwhile the Tavistock Gender Clinic has been closed down because it was found that children were being actively encouraged or even pushed in to changing their gender, which obviously presents a huge safeguarding risk.

I can't think of a single other example, aside from this gender issue, where you would take the statement of a child on something this serious at face value, and yet many will seek to affirm a different gender identity because a child says so. Schools can't even give paracetamol without permission from parents and yet many do not disclose children's statements or action that they take around gender dysphoria. From the data collected in the report, a whopping 72% of schools are teaching that your gender identity is different to your sex, despite the lack of scientific evidence for this.

Simply put, it's mad - and most importantly it presents a significant safeguarding risk for children. This is something I'll continue to raise with Government and push for a common sense approach that puts safeguarding at the forefront of this issue, not ideology!



Visiting Whoops IT in Mansfield

I've been to visit Daniel from Whoops IT on Albert Street, near the bus station in the town centre, to talk about his business and both the joys and the pain of running an independent business.

Great to hear that he's expanded in to larger premises here in town - particularly a big well done for doing so in challenging times for the wider economy and retail - and to chat about some of the positive steps we're taking through new investment in improving parking, in regenerating Stockwell Gate, new powers in the Levelling Up Bill to tackle empty shops, and more.

[Find out more about them...](#)



Celebrating Major Hayman Rooke

I've been with Mansfield Woodhouse Heritage Link on Friday at Mansfield Woodhouse Library exploring the history of Major Hayman Rooke and Sherwood Forest in the 18th century.

They've been working on exploring his life and influence at that time as one of Woodhouse's most accomplished residents, and that man who's title was given to the Major Oak.

It's a wonderful project and, as I said to volunteers involved in putting it all together, these stories together form an amazing fabric of history and heritage in Woodhouse and Mansfield at the heart of the ancient Sherwood Forest.

[Watch their video here!](#)



Meeting with Interns on the Supported Internship Programme

71% of people with a neurodiverse condition are not in full-time employment.

Last week I had a really enjoyable visit to Capita on Oakham Business Park, where I went to meet with Ops Director Joe, and with folks from both the business and Vision West Notts College to talk about the Supported Internship Programme.

It was great to hear from some of the Interns about how the programme has helped them in to work, and how that's changed their lives. The feedback here is wonderful; from the support offered by the college, to the positive way Capita have embraced the programme, and the way new Interns with learning disabilities have integrated in to the team and been a really positive influence on the business.

Loads of businesses from all sorts of sectors are struggling to find staffing at the minute, and Mansfield has one of the highest proportions of learning disabled people. The example here at Capita shows that embracing Supported Internships has been a really positive move, for the business as well as the individual students. Joe said he wanted to emphasise that the initial stereotypes and fears that employers might have, the things that might be holding you back from jumping in to a programme like this, just haven't proven to be true.

If you're a business who might be interested in supporting disabled

people in to work and accessing the same benefits for your business as these guys have, then drop me a line on ben.bradley.mp@parliament.uk and I can put you in touch with Joe and/or the college to find out more.

Thanks for the invite and good luck to the Interns I met today who hopefully are on course for permanent roles!

[Find out more about Capita...](#)



Primary School National offer day!

Over 96% of children have received a place at their first choice school, and over 99% have a place at one of their preferred schools. Big thanks to Officers involved in sorting everyone out. Managing 8,000 school places is no simple task!

[Find out more here](#)

A purple advertisement for the Nottinghamshire County Council Local Communities Fund. The top left features the council's logo and name. The main text reads 'Local Communities Fund' in large white letters, followed by 'Investing in our communities to help Nottinghamshire thrive'. The bottom of the ad features a silhouette of a city skyline and a bus, with the text 'Apply now! Go to: www.nottsc.gov.uk/LCF'. Two heart-shaped icons are present: one showing a woman and a child, and another showing three elderly women walking.

[Apply for Local Communities Funding](#)

Calling all community groups and voluntary organisations! Apply now for a range of grants. Several schemes are now open thanks to our Local Communities Fund.

Available support includes:

Two sets of cost-of-living grants to support groups who are helping those struggling the most with rising food and energy costs.

☐ Capital grants to help groups improve community facilities.

☐☐ Revenue grants to help with day-to-day running costs.

Eligible groups have until Sunday 4 June to apply.

[Find out more here...](#)



More roads being resurfaced around Mansfield!

We're working hard to try and catch up with this winters very significant road damage, with a number of changes to the way repairs are done and a rolling programme of resurfacing. Last week I wrote to residents who are having their roads done in the next few weeks to let them know!

FROM THIS WEEK

20,316

PENSIONERS IN

Mansfield

WILL RECEIVE A PENSIONS BOOST

Protecting the triple lock will ensure 12.5 million pensioners receive a record 10.1% pensions increase.



 **Conservatives**

[Read more about this here...](#)



Football Shirt Friday!

Friday this week was #FootballShirtFriday in aid of The Bobby Moore Fund for Cancer Research UK!

Wear your favourite football shirt, share a photo on social media and donate £5 to help tackle bowel cancer!

[Find out more here...](#)



Brave youngsters across Mansfield and Ashfield honoured for courage in adversity.

Amazing stories! A huge well done to everyone involved!

[Read more here](#)



Get involved in the Coronation!

Looking for ways to get involved in the Coronation? Check out the interactive map to find out what's happening near you.

From volunteering with #TheBigHelpOut to community events and Big Lunches, there's something for everyone!

[Find out how to get involved...](#)

And finally, this week's column! ↓

Click below to read...

"I'm pleased the government is finally getting to grips with our antiquated water network"



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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