



## Amazing new investment for Mansfield!

This week I've been out and about around Mansfield and our wider area talking all things from devolution to rail infrastructure, and all the amazing investment in high skilled, well paid jobs coming our way!

There really is so much going on across North Notts and the wider East Midlands that will be game-changing for communities like ours in Mansfield. From a proud coalfield past to being able to access the latest innovations and job opportunities that will lead the country, and in many cases the world, when it comes to things like STEP Fusion technology!

Find out about some of these latest partnerships and investments below!

I've also had the chance to catch up with NIDAS this week, who are a domestic abuse charity in Mansfield - [you can find out a bit more here](#).

[Watch a quick recap of all the investment coming our way!](#)

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### Ways to keep in touch

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**I'm standing to become our first mayor of the East Midlands**

Over the weekend [in the Telegraph](#) I announced my intention to stand for Mayor of the East Midlands, and to enter in to the race to become the Conservative candidate. I'm sure for many of you who follow me regularly, you're probably not shocked!

This is a huge opportunity for our region to draw in billions of additional investment, create new employment and training opportunities for local people, and improve infrastructure across the whole of Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.

Local leaders have been trying to make this happen and help us to catch up with other, better off regions for a decade, without success. I've been the one to finally secure this funding for the East Midlands, and to get it done. I've delivered billions of future investment for our communities, and I can deliver again as Mayor.

As Mayor, my leadership would be defined by new opportunity for residents, through new investment, skills, amazing new jobs and more. I will work to offer more choices and options for people, and NEVER take choice away with the kind of restrictive and bureaucratic policies that Labour Mayors have introduced elsewhere, like ULEZ or 'congestion charges' that price people off the road.

Loads more information to come over the weeks ahead, and as a brand new role for our area I know people will have questions. I haven't been selected as the Conservative candidate yet, and there's a whole process still to come, so Mansfield residents can rest assured that absolutely nothing will change in terms of the day job.

**If you want to find out more,  
follow my campaign on  
Facebook**

**Or visit my website here**



## **Visiting West Notts College Engineering Innovation Centre!**

I've been at Vision West Notts College's Engineering Innovation Centre this week, just off the A38, which is about to become home of the UK's first Gene Haas Foundation Centre for Advanced Manufacturing.

Now you might recognise the name, as Haas are obviously a global business and a Formula 1 team too, and it's brilliant that they've chosen here for their first UK Centre, having opened more than 60 in

the US to help develop skills in advanced manufacturing and engineering.

What an amazing opportunity for local people, and huge congratulations to West Notts for securing this partnership. We've got loads going on around our area in skills, tech and manufacturing, from automation to clean energy, aviation and more. Exciting!

[I talk more about this here!](#)



## Visiting NTU's Clifton Campus!

Spent an evening at Nottingham Trent University on the Clifton Campus this week, having a look at all the amazing work and investment they've put in here. As a former NTU student it's a real source of pride that the university has gone from strength to strength (mainly since I left!).

It's also really important for Mansfield, as the new NTU Hub at West Notts College is now delivering brilliant Higher Education right on our doorstep and offering new opportunities to 500 local people. That's been a real game changer for Mansfield and for the life chances of local people in recent years!



## **Visiting Abbey Primary School**

At Abbey Primary school on Friday, where I've been speaking to years 4 and 5 about their recent visit to Parliament, and what its like being their local MP.

As ever loads of fab questions and I'm really pleased they enjoyed their trip.



## **75 years of the NHS and a long-term plan for its future**

This week marks the 75th anniversary of the NHS, our most treasured national institution, as we deliver a better NHS for staff and patients now and in the future.

We know there are pressures on services, particularly following the pandemic, and it is important the NHS changes and adapts in response to this by improving technology and medical advancements.

That is why we are supporting our NHS with record levels of investment and record numbers of doctors and nurses. Investment must be supported by reform, which is why last week we set out our 15-year NHS workforce plan, backed by £2.4 billion, modernising the workforce and setting out the largest expansion in training and recruitment in the NHS' history.

We are confident that with our plans for recovery and reform and an embrace of technology and innovation, it will be fit to deliver the best care to patients for another 75 years, as we deliver on the Prime Minister's pledge to cut waiting lists.

[\*\*Find out more about the plan\*\*](#)

A poster for the NHS Long-Term Workforce Plan. At the top, it says 'LONG-TERM NHS WORKFORCE PLAN' in white text on a blue and purple background. Below that, it reads 'THE LARGEST EXPANSION OF NHS STAFF IN HISTORY' in large, bold, light blue letters. To the left, there is a photo of a doctor and a nurse smiling. On the right, there are three bullet points with checkmarks: 'Training double the number of doctors', '24,000 extra nurses trained each year', and 'Reforming the system to retain more staff'. At the bottom right, it says 'ON TOP OF THE 90,000 NEW DOCTORS & NURSES ALREADY IN OUR NHS' in light blue. The Conservative Party logo and name are at the bottom left.

LONG-TERM NHS  
WORKFORCE  
PLAN

THE LARGEST  
**EXPANSION**  
OF NHS STAFF IN HISTORY

- ✓ Training double the number of doctors
- ✓ 24,000 extra nurses trained each year
- ✓ Reforming the system to retain more staff

**ON TOP OF THE 90,000  
NEW DOCTORS & NURSES  
ALREADY IN OUR NHS**

Conservatives



## **Meeting with the Business Minister and local Mansfield business leaders**

A pleasure to have Business Minister Kevin Hollinrake MP in Mansfield on Friday, where we spoke to some local business leaders about the economy, about challenges and opportunities for business, and what needs to be done over the year ahead to deliver good outcomes.

Really grateful for Kevin's time, and to hear more about all the work

he's doing to support the right outcomes for SMEs, who make up some 90% of Mansfield's economy.



## **Speaking to the Institute for Government and University of Nottingham on devolution**

A pleasure to speak to the Institute for Government and University of Nottingham conference on devolution, here in Nottinghamshire. We shared some aspirations for our region, some of the challenges and the journey, and also a take on some of the national policy around empowering local communities and leaders to deliver more.



## **Continuing to reduce the County Council's office footprint**

The County Council is moving its Civic 'Head Office' from West Bridgford to Hucknall, in the middle of the County. The move will save millions of pounds for local taxpayers, ensuring that we are spending money on delivering services for people rather than on heating empty old buildings. It's part of a bigger plan that has seen us reduce our office footprint from 17 buildings down to nine.

As it stands, though County Hall is a lovely, historic building, it costs £1.7m a year to run and is only 30% occupied. To maintain it for the next 15 years will cost over £50m of taxpayer's money. It's also nowhere near the levels of energy efficiency etc that residents would

expect. That just isn't viable, and we cannot legitimately prioritise maintaining a building over delivering vital services, and so we will be asking Councillors next week to agree to vacate the building.

Instead we'll be locating the democratic decision making part of the Council in Hucknall, with an £18m+ investment in the local area, new jobs, new bus connections and a boost to the local economy there. Public services will also be located there, improving access to local residents. The plan will also mean that decision making will be equally accessible to more people, being based in the centre of our county rather than at the southern border.

This move will save over a million pounds a year in running costs, be far better for emissions, energy efficiency and the environment, and obviously also avoid that huge £50m bill to maintain County Hall. When you consider these figures, it's the only logical decision to make the best use of taxpayer's money.

Obviously we'll protect the heritage of County Hall and work with residents there to decide what to do with it next. Whatever it is will be in-keeping with the nature of the building and protect it's features etc. We'll also continue to have a staff base in West Bridgford of course, at Trent Bridge House just over the road. The County Hall site has the potential to be a wonderful asset to the local area in the future with a positive and attractive new use.

[Read more here](#)



## Speaking on local podcast Chatterbox!

An absolute pleasure to speak to Rachel on The Wolfpack Project Chatterbox podcast, about Nottinghamshire, about my journey in to politics, and also everything we're up to in terms of services and investment.

[Have a listen here!](#)



UK Government

Help for Households

# £2

## Single Bus Fares

**Extended to 31 October 2023**  
and then £2.50 until 30 November 2024



To find out how the Government can help you  
**Search 'Help for Households'**



### **Speaking at the Midlands Connect rail conference**

I've been at the Midlands Connect rail conference in Derby, along with the Minister Huw Merriman MP and Derby North's Amanda Solloway MP. We've been discussing the opportunities of major transport investment and the Integrated Rail Plan.

For Mansfield, that can help us to unlock new hubs for jobs and growth, and to finally ensure that the business case for our Maid Marian and Robin Hood Line projects ticks the boxes.



## **One Fest 2023**

"A reminder of all the amazing events we have on offer between 15-21 July 2023. Kicking off with Learning Disability Pride on 15 July, we have so much on offer for everyone!"

Here is our accessible version of the program for OneFest 2023!"

[Find out more here!](#)



## **Warsop Carnival!**

Well done to everyone involved in putting it together...

[Read more here](#)



## Have your say on the appearance of Mansfield town centre

"How much do you care about the appearance of Mansfield town centre? Now's your chance to make a difference by helping us shape a Design Code that will determine the future look and feel of public spaces and buildings in the heart of this district.

The Mansfield Town Centre Design Code will form a blueprint for how future developments and cover aspects such as the design of streets, public spaces, buildings and any green spaces, too. It will be used to guide future decisions on planning applications and town centre improvements.

A six-week public consultation gets underway today for people to have their say on the first draft of the code and make any comments before a final draft is prepared. Comment by visiting our consultation portal: <https://ow.ly/fe6K50P608n>.

If you are not already registered on the portal you will need to register and log in to contribute.

Printed copies of the draft guidance can be viewed at Mansfield Civic Centre and libraries in the district and comments can be made email or by letter. Find out more at <https://ow.ly/ZjC350P608q>."



[Fill in the survey here](#)

## Checking in

Every so often I like to ask Mansfield constituents to share a general sense of their thoughts and priorities, both in terms of local and national issues, and also on the politics of it all.

It only take two minutes to tell me what you think, and it helps me to make sure I'm on the right track.

Please take my survey here, and help me to do the best job that I can.

## **And finally, this week's column! ↓**

*Click below to read...*

**"Mansfield is at the front of the queue for investment into local healthcare"**

That's all for this week!

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

Ben

### **Follow me on social media**



**Don't forget to follow my Mayoral campaign too, click [HERE](#)**



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