

## Weekly update!

On Sunday I was on BBC Politics East Midlands where we discussed a range of topics including the [PM's new approach to the green agenda](#) - which has been absolutely spot on, and really refreshing!

Our region's biggest car manufacturer has backed the PM, there's a renewed focus on green growth and jobs in sectors like clean energy and clean fuels where our area is really strong, and all that good stuff comes as we move away from policies that would have a negative impact on the finances of individuals and families. It's all fantastic news!

We discussed other topics too, including HS2 coming to our part of the world, and you can read more about below!

In my weekly column, which you can catch up on [here](#) in case you missed it, I talk in more detail about our new approach to 'net zero' and why common sense finally prevails!

Loads more to report back on below, including highlights from this week's Full Council meeting at County Hall and what I've been up to out and about around Mansfield this week!

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### Keep in touch!



[Join my constituents only Facebook group here!](#)

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## PM's decision on petrol and diesel cars is fantastic news for worried residents

On Thursday at our full council meeting I was asked about the impact of the Prime Minister's decision to ditch bans on petrol and diesel vehicles.

Short answer, I think it's fantastic news for residents who have been worried about the cost and practicalities of having to fund electric vehicles or the risk of price increases for second hand cars, as well as being really positive for local jobs and investment, with local car manufacturer Toyota backing the plans and giving security to 2500 employees.

Businesses like that, and others across our area, are at the forefront of clean energy innovation; hydrogen, fusion, modular nuclear, and more. The PM recommitted to the 'green growth' stuff, the innovation, research and investment, and thankfully shifted away from previous proposals to ban stuff or force people to buy expensive kit. That's good news for local jobs and the East Midlands economy.

I totally back what the PM has said. Here's my tuppence worth from today

[Watch here](#)

**A NEW  
APPROACH  
TO REACH**

**NET  
ZERO**

**What's your  
opinion on the  
PM's new approach  
to net zero policy?**

[Click here](#)



## Rejecting calls to roll out Sadiq Khan's flagship policies in Notts

At the Full Council meeting of Nottinghamshire County Council, the Ashfield Independents are asking us to consider rolling out the same policies as lauded recently by London Mayor Sadiq Khan. Khan has recently spent £130m of taxpayers money in extending Free School Meals to every child, but of course 'Free' School Meals are not free, they're funded by taxpayers, who are now shelling out to feed the children of Lawyers, Politicians, Consultants and Professional Footballers...

I fully accept and understand the vital importance of supporting people who need help to get by. Throughout my time as Council Leader I've shifted the whole agenda towards 'prevention' and supporting those families and communities who most need help as a top priority. We're working hard to ensure that taxpayer's money is targeted where it's most needed. What I will NEVER do, is shift it back the other way, and put millions and millions of pounds in to offering free meals to people who neither need nor want them. It's mad, and a total waste.

Meanwhile, schools and Councils in London are set to be hammered by the additional, unfunded costs of the scheme. Lewisham Council have explained that schools in the area will be hit by some £600k of extra costs to try and cater for every child, every day, where previously many children would have brought their own lunch. Many schools don't have the staff or the kitchen space and equipment to physically manage delivering this. None of this is factored in, and both schools and local authorities - also taxpayer funded of course - are having to pick up the pieces at the expense of their existing services.

Not only has Sadiq spent £130m on this - a one off budget just for election year, of course - not just helping those who are struggling but fundamentally making the state responsible for feeding every child, even the children of the rich, he's done that by extending the taxes and charges paid by normal working people, including those who might already be struggling themselves.

Sadiq's 'Free' School Meals are funded by the hated ULEZ scheme, where he charges people £12.50 a day just to go to work or go about their daily lives. Meanwhile, the richest can afford ULEZ compliant vehicles and so don't pay. He's using that money - the £12.50 a day extra tax on working families - to fund free meals for people who are currently quite happily paying for it themselves.

For example, a single parent who is supporting two kids working as an electrician, who might be struggling with the bills already and kids might already be in receipt of Free School Meals, is now paying an extra £12.50 a day in ULEZ charges so that a player at Fulham FC on £30k a week can also get free meals at school for their kids. Utter, utter, madness.

He's not seeking to find ways to help those in need. He's not considering whether to extend support to more people who might be struggling. He's just throwing taxpayers money at EVERYONE, the majority of whom haven't asked for it, and don't need it, whilst taking it away with the other hand. The scheme is unmanageable, and whilst a small minority of children will no doubt benefit, this is just not a sensible way to tackle the issue. Most of the money will be spent on food that is not needed, for people who didn't need it and haven't asked for it.

Why does Sadiq not just scrap the hated ULEZ scheme, give people back their £12.50 a day so that they can spend it on food for their kids themselves, and focus his support on people who actually need help?

If the Ashfield Independents think this is a good way forward and Sadiq is somebody we should be seeking to emulate, then let's all thank our lucky stars they aren't in charge of it!! I will NEVER take funding away from key services that our County's most vulnerable people rely on, or raise taxes and charges on residents, in order to fund lunches for people who are already well off! It's nuts!

The state is already too big, too expensive, and taxes too high as it is. The welfare state is a safety net, and help needs to be targeted at those who need it. Taxpayer's money should be used where it's most effective, in supporting people who are really struggling; not on buying food for families who are earning £100k+ already.

That's why we rejected the Ashfield Independents' plans at Full Council.

Agree?

[Watch my response here](#)





## Discussing HS2 on BBC Politics East Midlands

There's a lot of conversation in the media about HS2 East at the minute, and my view is this...

New hub stations around Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire are important centres for new jobs and investment, and plans we've been working in for a long time. It's vital that High Speed Trains ultimately reach those stations, and it's vital we have certainty on that ASAP so we can begin delivering on those plans.

In truth though, apart from the Birmingham to Nottingham/Derby new bit of line, which is really beneficial and important, north of there I can see multiple options as to how you can tick those boxes for us ensure that our area's priorities are delivered. It doesn't have to be one big new expensive track, and you could tick all those boxes whilst also saving money and helping more people to actually be able to access the service.

There are options where you could get trains to all the key places, improve times, improve capacity and still tick our local boxes, as well as save money. I want to lock in maximum opportunity as quickly as possible, and get some certainty. I'm much more bothered about the potential for growth, jobs and investment than I am about whether it's one big track, or several smaller ones etc.

There are several options that would work, some that can both work and save a lot of money, and I'm talking to Government about that. The key thing is we get a) investment and b) certainty as soon as possible.

[Watch here](#)



## **Home Secretary is spot on with seeking changes to international rules on asylum**

I've been listening to the Home Secretary's speech from Wednesday on Illegal Migration and the Asylum system, as I travelled in to the office this morning.

Can I say, she's absolutely spot on, and I'm pleased to hear her setting the scene for Britain to seek changes to international rules and obligations in this space. She's right to say that the legal framework around asylum, set up after the Second World War to try and support the safe passage of 2m people displaced by war, is now outdated, and we live in a different time. That number now, under those same rules, has grown to over 700m!

She's also right to say that Britain, and other nations, can't be expected to wait for global consensus, and she lays out a range of arguments as to why Britain has to act independently to tackle illegal migration.

Clear, measured arguments about the viability of a nation-state and a British culture under the pressure of 'multiculturalism and too much, too fast; important security arguments, and the obvious financial and practical implications of scrambling to find enough resource, enough infrastructure, and to prop up public services that can't cope.

It's half an hour long, but honestly, thoroughly recommend a listen of you want to understand Britain's approach to tackling this, the Home Secretary's view, and the action were taking as a country.

[Watch here](#)



## Youth services and working in our communities, with Switch Up

I've been to the **Switch Up Community Hub** on Barringer Rd to see Marcellus Baz and the team there who are doing amazing things for a load of kids who can otherwise be really hard for traditional services to reach.

This is basically my dream model of youth services, right; from the ground up, largely community and private sector funded and managed, not top down stuff being 'done to' people, but mentors with lived experience...

Youth Services are amazing, and important, and even better if they're also deliverable and sustainable locally, with Councils acting as a helper, facilitator, occasional funder, but not 'owner'. It's spot on. Something I massively support!

It was great to chat about their work and plans, a bit about the future, and how we can work more closely across the sector. I also met Paul, a young lad who's using the service, with his own story to tell.

Top stuff, honestly, and Marcellus' own journey is remarkable. Something to be incredibly proud of!



## Supporting people in Mansfield with



## learning disabilities

I've been to **Reach Learning Disability** at the St John's Centre where they're offering day support services to local people of all ages. It was good to chat to the guys before they all went off bowling for the afternoon, and then to meet with Steve, Julia and Maria about the various challenges and opportunities in the sector.

Just like with Switch Up earlier on, I'm hugely supportive of this model of 'bottom up', community driven services, where organisations like Reach have been able to make it sustainable and deliver good quality.

It's great to hear they're growing, and that they've just built their own new supported accommodation too and expanded what they do. Big thanks for the invite!



## At Rainworth and Blidworth Boxing Club!

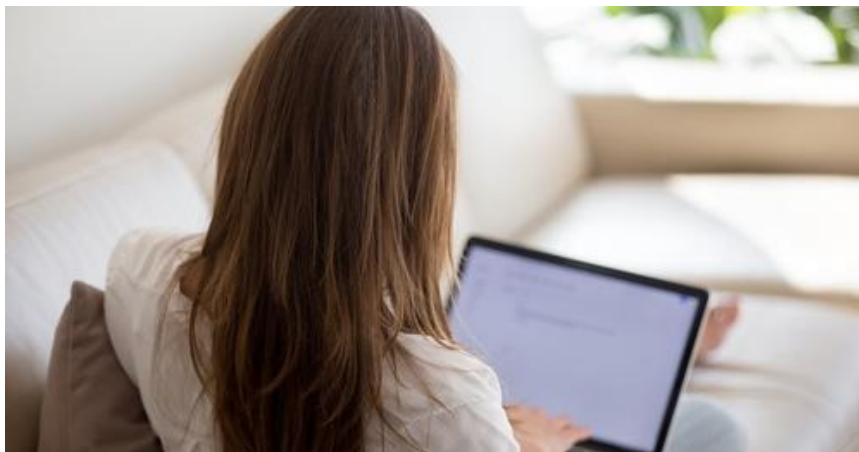
I've been out to **Rainworth & Blidworth boxing & fitness club** this week, where I've been learning a bit more about their club and their brilliant plans for investment here.

Those who follow me will know I LOVE my sport, and I'm a huge supporter of youth and grassroots sports in particular, so it's always fab to be able to come and see local clubs in action, hear their stories and to meet kids and coaches.

Great to see the kids hard at work, learning and developing and keeping fit, and looking forward to coming back when the work is done to expand the space and bring in a load of new kit. A great time to get involved if you fancy a go. Have a look on their facebook page for contact info.

Big thanks to Malk for inviting me, and to **Councillor Tom Smith** for putting some of his Councillor Divisional funding in the pot here already. Hopefully we can help attract a bit more too, and support some more development and growth





## Youth unemployment is 43% lower than it was under Labour

But we want to go even further to help more young people gain all the benefits of work.

And so this week we've expanded our successful Youth Offer to inactive 16-24 year old claimants for the first time, as part of the next generation of Conservative welfare reforms.

More support will be available with things like sorting CVs, preparing for interviews, and access to work coaches through the DWP. We want to help get young people on the career ladder, so they can be independent, can contribute and fulfil their potential.

[Read more here](#)



## Visiting Notts County Council Customer Service Centre

A really enjoyable morning on Friday with Cllrs Matt Barney and Gordon Wheeler at the **Nottinghamshire County Council** Customer Service Centre at Annesley meeting staff there, and finding out a bit more about what they do.

An amazing place and some amazing people, dealing with everything from social care enquiries to schools, roads, registrations and all sorts. Fountain of knowledge! They can also deal with the vast majority of queries there and then too, with no 'we'll call you back' type response that people hate. Its not just people on phones

as some might think, but a whole range and Web of complex systems, platforms and all sorts that they're trying to make simple for you.

We want to try and bring this team's proactive, customer-focused culture to everything across the Council really, so it was fab to get their feedback and hear more about the new things they're working on. We recently asked them to do more around responding to social media enquiries too, so if you tweet @NottsCC or comment on the Facebook page you can get good, useful answers there too.

Really grateful for everyone's time and enthusiasm!



## Coaching u10s at Nottingham Hockey Centre

I've been down at Nottingham Hockey Centre last weekend coaching the u10s.

So rewarding to see them all enjoying sport and improving, and getting involved looking after threme teams that my kids play in.

It's a HUGE network of volunteers that keep grassroots sports going. Big shout out to all those fabulous people - the mums and dads that get stuck in, and the club stalwarts who show up week in week out - for giving so many kids these opportunities

[Find out more here](#)



## Well done Alex and the England Deaf Football team!

This is a wonderful story about Mansfield's Alex Smith, who plays for Southwell City FC, who kicked off the World Deaf Football Championship in Malaysia over the weekend playing in goal for England, in a victory over Australia. Then today he saved not one, but TWO penalties in a win over Nigeria! Awesome!

Love it! Representing Mansfield on the world stage. Well done Alex! As a goalie myself, wish you and the England Deaf Football team the best of luck!

Next up is a final group game against Gabon on Wednesday, which you can watch live on the Malaysian Deaf Football Association's YouTube Channel.

[Read more here](#)



## New mental health hospital for Mansfield

Fantastic news, and alongside our new Community Diagnostic Centre which is also due to open next year, there is millions of additional investment in new capacity for our local health services!

[Find out more](#)

## Your feedback matters!



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.

[Fill in the survey here](#)



 Nottinghamshire  
County Council

**RISING**  
TO THE CHALLENGE | supporting independence,  
building resilience

The budget survey is now open until 12 November, so have your say today on how together we can best rise to the challenge.



## The budget survey is now open!

"Our budget survey is now open. It's time to have your say on how we can best set a budget to help create a healthy, prosperous, and greener future for everyone who lives in **#Notts**

The short survey takes just a few minutes to complete but will be invaluable in helping us to understand your priorities.

Find out more information about the pressures we face and complete the survey below.

The survey closes on 12 November but have your say today so together we can rise to the challenge."

[Take the survey here](#)

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## And finally... This week's column



**"Common sense prevails with PM's pragmatic approach to net zero"**

**Click/tap on the button above to read this week's column!**

The PM has done exactly the right thing on the country's 'green' plans this week, by focusing on the innovation and the technology that can make things cleaner and more sustainable - the clean fuels and clean or renewable energy programmes that our region is



leading the way in - and ditching the proposals that were going to come at the expense of people who may not have been able to afford it, like having to buy upgraded cars and boilers to meet a deadline.

We can do a huge amount to make our lifestyles cleaner and greener without attacking peoples freedoms and wallets, particularly when times are already tight. It's just not feasible to be expecting everyone to shell out on expensive kit right now.

Ultimately, people will choose to make greener choices when they are efficient, cost effective and readily available. People will use public transport rather than the car when it's convenient, more accessible and reasonably priced, not because we've just priced them out of their cars or banned them.

I think the PM's new approach is spot on, and can also allow our part of the world to really lead the way in 'green growth' with new jobs in sectors where we're already strong, like Fusion, Modular Nuclear, Clean Fuels, Hydrogen and more.

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**Thank-you for reading my latest update, I hope you have a great weekend!**

**Warmest regards,**

**Ben Bradley MP,  
for Mansfield & Warsop**



**Keep up to date with my work**



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