

## This week's news from Ben Bradley MP



### **£500 million of extra funding for Councils!**

It's always rewarding when you work hard to achieve something, and you get results. In recent months I've lead a campaign alongside colleagues from Councils and in Parliament to ensure that we support local Councils to deliver vital services to vulnerable people.

Where budgets are squeezed, children's services and adult social care are coming under pressure, and Councils have a legal duty to provide them, but not enough money to do it. Our campaign has lead to Government amending the recent Local Government settlement and increasing funding for these services. A big, big win.

[Read more here](#)

Some Councils are in a mess through their own mistakes, and those that have gone bust like Nottingham or Birmingham have shown high profile waste and bad decisions, but pretty much all Councils -

even well run ones - are under financial pressure as demand and costs rise, just the same as household budgets get squeezed.

That's why this victory is so important, because ultimately that money - whilst not fixing the more fundamental issue of long term sustainability - will protect communities all around the country and be the difference between a library or a children's centre shutting, or not in those areas. That's a big thing!

**I spoke about this on the Today programme here**

Fortunately, Nottinghamshire County Council is a well run and financially challenging stable authority, but we're still under huge pressure from the rising demand and cost of care services, for both children and adults. This money - whilst not ultimately a solution to that - will help us to navigate those pressures and reduce the impact on communities and taxpayers, which can only be good news.

**I was also on Times Radio talking about this too!**

Huge thank you to the County Councils Network, to the the 40+ colleagues who have signed our recent letter, and to Council Leaders who have all played their part in securing this support.

**I was on ITV too!**

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## Keep in touch!



**Join my constituents only Facebook group here!**

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## Talking with EFL, Nigel Clough and Dion Dublin in the Commons!

This week I was with the EFL, the Secretary of State responsible for Sport, and reps from FIFA, football league clubs and other stakeholders talking about the upcoming legislation aimed at protecting clubs and fans, and trickling money down the football pyramid. This new legislation is coming soon, and needs to benefit clubs like Mansfield Town Football Club, so it's something I'm following closely.

It was brilliant to hear from Nigel Clough and Dion Dublin, particularly Nigel on the value of football in communities, and on how grumpy his dad would be that he's now surpassed Brian's numbers of games in management!

Positive words for the Radfords and the commitment of Mansfield Town Football Club owners and board. Great to see Stags represented in Parliament tonight.



## Keir Starmer's Culture Wars Obsession?

I was on GB News with Martin Daubney responding to Keir Starmer's nonsense about Conservatives stoking "culture wars".

In Starmer's big speech this week, he reckons he'll change our society so everyone is nice to each other, and all will be well. That is of course as long as you don't question anything, because only one set of opinions is allowed. If you disagree then you're guilty of stoking culture wars, and your opinion doesn't count.

That's the world according to the Labour Leader. The man who would be Prime Minister.

The entire point of Parliament is to debate and scrutinise our institutions, to hold to account, to discuss culture and beliefs. That's not 'culture wars'. That's what MPs are for!

Ironically he was the only one talking about this, whilst Conservatives were discussing the economy and illegal migration, so I'm not clear on who is stoking what!

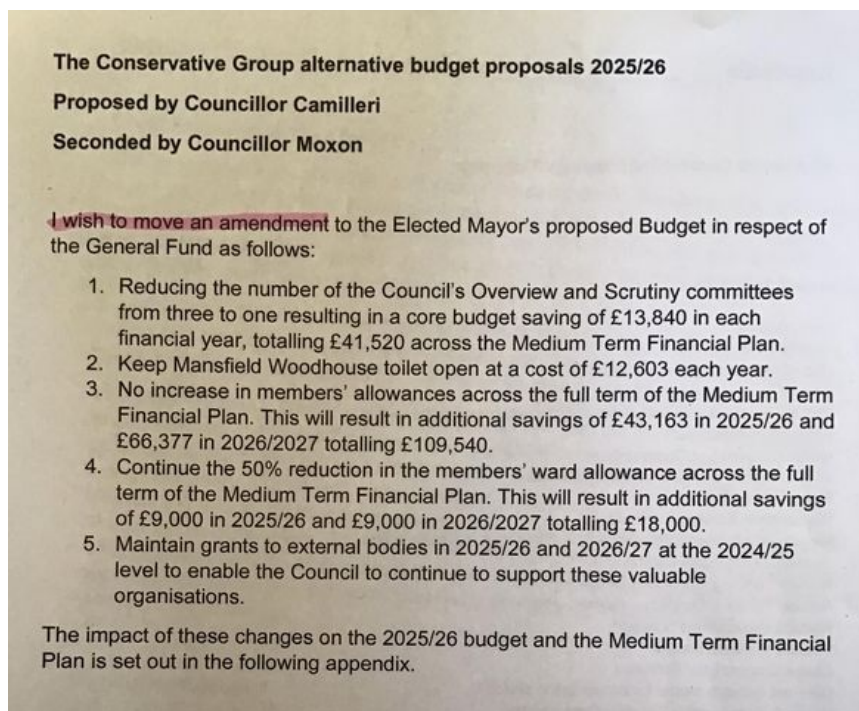
Anyway, the idea that conversations about gender ideology or identity politics are just 'culture wars' is rubbish. These things are

fundamental to our shared values and culture, and are really important issues to be able to properly discuss and debate.

I raise issues like these because I know many of constituents are really concerned about them, and it is the job of MPs to scrutinise our institutions and hold them to account.

As ever, Starmer delivers another speech full of meaningless waffle, and absolutely no firm plans for anything at all.

[Watch here!](#)



## Labour-led MDC rejects budget proposal that would have kept public toilets open and community groups funded

This week MDC Labour rejected the Mansfield Conservatives Budget proposal.

Conservatives want to cancel Labour's decision to close public toilets and cut grant funding to community groups, and instead make the savings from Councillor Allowances and by having fewer Committees.

Labour said no.

## Roads survey!



I need your support to ensure that we deliver major new road investment with the £1.5bn Transport Fund that I've secured for our region.

This is really important.

Please share your views on the roads using the link below!

[Fill in the survey here](#)



## Visiting Ratcliffe on Soar power station

I've been at Ratcliffe on Soar power station looking at the huge potential for investment here in the Freeport, for long term growth, jobs and innovation.

There are sites all around our area that are opportunities to create amazing new jobs and industries that will power our economy, and offer a bright future for our kids and grandkids.

Mansfield sits in the middle of a ring of these kinds of sites, at Retford, Worksop, Derby, Toton, Ratcliffe amongst others, and collectively they're a massive injection of investment that will be really transformative for our economy in the coming decades.

The potential of clean energy, advanced manufacturing and engineering sectors here are just massive, and for our part of the world to power Britain and keep the country's lights on, just as we have in the past.



## Getting put through my paces at Kang Han Martial Arts Centre!

I've been at Kang Han Martial Arts Centre on Dallas Street, these guys invited me down and offered to put me through my paces!

Lord knows I've done that much exercise for a while, and it's a long time since I've been able call myself an athlete, so I won't comment on how I got on!

But really enjoyed myself, stretched muscles I didn't know I had!

Anyway, those who follow me will know I'm a huge sports nut, a huge supporter of youth work and youth sports, and community-led clubs and teams like this are the absolute heart of a tonne of good stuff for young people in our communities - and people of all ages, to be fair! Hats off to the guys who organise and support all this here at Kang Han, and at sports clubs and teams all around Mansfield.

Why not come and join in? Have a look below!

[Find out more here!](#)



## **Speaking to students at West Notts Sixth Form College!**

On Friday I've been at Vision West Notts Sixth Form College on Chesterfield Road, where I've been talking to politics students about my role as an MP, about who does what across our structures of Government and decision making, and answering some questions. Looking forward to welcoming them to Parliament in a few weeks as well.

Cheers for the invite guys!

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## Visiting Berry Hill Foods!

I've been with Cllr Nigel Moxon - Ling Forest Ward at Berry Hill Foods off Chesterfield Road, where Barry is expanding his family business and employing local people. The building is part of an investment from the Coalfields Regeneration Trust - England who make commercial investments in coalfield areas and reinvest the profits in to community work and young people.

This is a great and growing business, employing more and more local people, renting out this unit from CRT who are reinvesting that money in helping kids from coalfield communities. It's a great model, one that works, and one that we need a lot more of!

Also, Barry reckons this will be Mansfield's biggest freezer, going in now in this warehouse. Quite an accolade, right! Let me know if there are other contenders out there for that particular prize, well have a 'chill off...' I'm sure there's probably prizes available!



## Mansfield's own Atlantic crossing!

Brilliant to track the progress of these guys from Mansfield, who are rowing across the Atlantic in support of local dementia charities.

A great challenge, and a great cause.

Well done guys! Stay safe!

[Find out more!](#)

## Meeting with residents and Severn Trent

I've been at The Court House, Mansfield meeting with



residents and business owners in town, along with Severn Trent Water, to talk about the rain gardens and other projects that STW are installing in town and around some residential areas.

Obviously STW's investment is based on the data around the flash flooding issues we have, and it's only a month or so ago that parts of town were underwater, but I know that it's causing some residents concern and we're taking that up directly with STW.

If you do have particular issues with these developments or the work, do let me know on [Ben.bradley.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:Ben.bradley.mp@parliament.uk) and I can engage direct with STW.



## **Meeting with Inspire and Achieve Foundation!**

Met with Pippa from the The Inspire and Achieve Foundation where we talked about support for young people, about how we manage funding for training and alternative education, and about some of the opportunities that might be coming our way.

These guys do some fab work supporting young people in and around Mansfield to fulfil their potential, and I'm trying to bring this sector together so that we can work together better and achieve more. Hopefully some steps forward will come of it!





# Friends of Bellamy

## Big Cycle Challenge

Jan 27th 2024  
8am-3pm

Oak Tree Leisure Centre

**Come & join in the challenge! Help us hit our target of 80 miles per bike and £2000 for prostate cancer. Whether you do 1 mile or 10, jump on and pedal, support, donate and raise awareness with us.**

*Health & Wellbeing stall*  
*Advice and information available*  
*Smoothy bikes have a go 50p*

For any information email us at [friendsofbellamy@yahoo.com](mailto:friendsofbellamy@yahoo.com)





**SUPPORTING PROSTATE CANCER UK**

**MLCT** More Leisure Community Trust

let's do **MORE**

Prostate Cancer UK is a registered charity in England and Wales (1005541) and in Scotland (SC039332) Registered company 02653887

Why not join this weekend and help put some miles on the bike for Friends of Bellamy, the Bellamy Estate Community and to tackle prostate cancer!



**BEN BRADLEY**

**'SAINSBURY'S JUNCTION' FUNDING SECURED!!**

**ICYMI: We've finally done it!**

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



"Good to see things are moving in right direction on illegal migration"

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



**Ben Bradley MP**

**Member of Parliament for Mansfield & Warsop**

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