

# newsreport

from Meg Munn MP for Sheffield Heeley



## Welcome

It's a great privilege being the Member of Parliament representing the residents of Sheffield Heeley. Every year out and about in the constituency I meet hundreds of you and this can lead to me taking up issues or campaigning to get change. This year's newsletter tells you about some of those meetings and some of the issues I have taken up - there's more information on my website, [www.megmunnmp.org.uk](http://www.megmunnmp.org.uk). If you would like me to visit you or your group, or have an issue that you would like to raise, please get in touch with my constituency office.

*Meg*

## Scarecrows in Graves Park

I met Sheffield Council Rangers in Graves Park to find out about the free activities they provide for children in the summer. Talking to parents I know how much they appreciate these events, where children learn to play and engage with the natural environment.

I also gave a helping hand with the ever popular Scarecrows in the Park, where children, their parents and grandparents, stuff old clothes with straw to make their own special scarecrow.



## Helping to tackle carbon emissions

I have been supporting a Sheffield-based company, Disenco Energy plc, in its bid to tackle climate change through improved energy efficiency. I arranged a meeting between representatives of the company and a Minister in the Department of Energy and Climate Change to discuss new regulations that will affect the company.

Disenco is developing a micro combined heat and power unit to generate electricity in the home or office using low cost natural gas. Any excess energy produced can be sold to the national grid. The company, only established in 2003, has won the prestigious Rushlight Award for Power Generation & Transmission - presented for the most significant engineering development that has improved energy efficiency from source to consumer.



## White Willows Extra Care Home

The last remaining tower block on Dyche Lane, Jordanthorpe, will be demolished and replaced by the new White Willows development. This will be a new Extra Care housing scheme for the elderly completely wheelchair accessible developed by South Yorkshire Housing Association. I visited the building site to learn at first hand how the plans are progressing.

## Heeley Constituency Office

I have a fully staffed office, open Monday to Friday to offer help and advice to the residents of the constituency. The members of my staff are trained to assist in a number of different areas – such as health services, Inland Revenue, CSA and Social Security to name a few. Each year the office deals with a large number of people's concerns keeping it extremely busy, but the staff are always happy to assist whenever possible.

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## Friends of Richmond Park

It's always a pleasure to meet residents who are keen to help improve their local area. One such group, the Friends of Richmond Park, invited me to visit their local park and discuss plans to provide a BMX track and a children's play area. They also work with council staff to clean and improve the park pond.

## Re-cycle your... bicycle!

I was shown around the Heeley Development Trust's impressive bike recycling project, called ReCycleBikes. It's a not-for-profit workshop, run by the Trust, and provides a range of services including repairs, servicing, new and used sales of bikes and parts, cycle maintenance classes, youth training and even guided cycle rides for groups.



## Sleeping Disorder Victory

Following the tragic death of a young man, when a lorry ploughed into his car on a motorway, I have been campaigning for truck drivers to be screened for a sleeping disorder that can cause them to nod off at the wheel.

I organised a meeting with the Transport Minister, medical experts and family members of the deceased. The Minister agreed that undiagnosed Obstructive Sleep Apnoea (OSA) is a greater danger on the roads than previously acknowledged. There will be changes to the medical form that drivers complete, to increase awareness and to support research.

## Helping to raise aspirations at Springs Academy

I visited Springs Academy to talk to a group of young girls about my work as their Member of Parliament. The Academy is keen to raise the aspirations of young girls for their future careers. The pupils had a lot of questions, including the difficulties of women being elected to Parliament and what life is like as an MP.



## Attending the Paralympic talent day trials

I attended the Paralympics GB Talent Day at the English Institute of Sport, where over sixty people ranging in age from 11 to 43 were tested in twelve of the Paralympic summer sports.

Paralympic Fencing Bronze Medallist, Suzannah Rockett was one of the sports people I met. She was busy screening the sporting competitors to represent the UK at the Paralympic Games to be held in London.



## On the Beat in Jordanthorpe & Batemoor

I met the Jordanthorpe & Batemoor Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and wardens to discuss how they tackle anti-social behaviour on the estates. Since their introduction in 2006, PCSOs have proved their worth in local communities. In Parliament I voted for their introduction and I'm pleased that they are tackling problem behaviour and providing a reassuring presence on our streets along with the Sheffield Homes Neighbourhood Wardens.



## Westminster World

The main part of my job as your Member of Parliament is to represent the concerns of the constituents of Heeley in Parliament. I use my best endeavours to find out what constituents want on a particular issue whilst using my own judgement about what may be possible. It's not always easy, and as the phrase has it – 'you can't please all the people all the time.'

As you may have seen on the television some of my time is spent taking part in debates in the Chamber of the House of Commons or sitting in committee's discussing legislation. Every day the first hour of Parliament is devoted to questions to Government Ministers from departments, taken in turn over a 4 week cycle. In the last year I have asked about drugs, prostate cancer, investment in trains, apprenticeships, road deaths, Iran and Iraq. I have also submitted questions for a written response on foreign policy issues, women and work, restorative justice and body piercing.

This year in terms of legislation I focused on the Welfare Reform Bill and argued specifically for more help and support to be given to people with learning disabilities so they can get the chance to work. I also sponsored a Bill introduced by my colleague Malcolm Wicks to update the law on co-operatives and credit unions. Another recent Bill I sponsored in the Commons called on private organisations to cooperate with the police over the use of CCTV in order to help identify suspected criminals.

The committee work I've undertaken varies enormously, from obscure points of law that only a High Court Judge would appreciate to those with a local and practical application. Very recently I sat on the committee that confirmed that the term 'Made in Sheffield' could only legally be used on products made in the city. Sheffield is the only city accorded this protection, other geographical words in the regulations relate to countries such as Scotland, Britain and the UK.

Securing debates in the House of Commons can be a good way of highlighting an issue. I have been successful in securing debates on the dangers of drivers with sleep apnoea, diversity of appointments in the public sector and the future of St. Helena. In each case a Government Minister from the relevant department had to respond to my points and questions. I have taken part in other debates such as on child protection following the death of Baby Peter.

I am currently chair of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy which works to support the development of democracy around the world. This cross-party organisation helps strengthen democratic institutions including political parties and parliaments in various countries. You can get a taste of the work we do by visiting: [www.wfd.org](http://www.wfd.org)

People sometimes ask, 'what is a typical day as an MP?' I can honestly say there isn't one. You have to deal with what comes up, whilst keeping on doing what you believe is important. That's what I've been doing, and how I hope to continue.

*Meg*

## Going Bananas for Fairtrade

I joined thousands of others across the country in 'Going Bananas for Fairtrade' by eating a Fairtrade banana as part of the world's biggest banana-eating event during Fairtrade Fortnight. During the two weeks, events focus on promoting and extending fair-trade for farmers and workers in the developing world.

During this global economic downturn, it is vital that the poorest do not suffer more. By buying food from developing countries on terms that are fair to both producer and consumer we help economies to grow and reduce poverty. Consumers and retailers acting together can make a difference to the lives of some of the world's poorest people.



## Visiting the new RSPCA Shelter

I visited the new Sheffield RSPCA shelter on Stadium Way which offers a temporary home for dogs and cats in modern facilities. The team of dedicated staff provide much needed care and affection for lost and abandoned dogs and cats.

Good animal welfare is an important hallmark of a civilised society and I am pleased to support the good work the RSPCA do.



## Silver Surfers in Heeley

'You're never too old to learn' appears to be the motto of Maxine Bowler from the Heeley Development Trust. Maxine has been appointed a regional 'Digital Inclusion Champion' and aims to get older people involved in using the internet.

I accepted her invitation to call into Heeley Advice Centre and meet the 'silver surfers'. They were all engaged in finding out about the internet so they can keep in touch with family and friends through using e-mail, order shopping on-line to be delivered to their door, as well as find local services.

## Dutch Ambassador visits Sheffield Heeley

I invited the Dutch Ambassador, Pim Waldeck, to spend a day with me to learn about the work of a British Member of Parliament in their constituency.

He accompanied me on a roving surgery walkabout in Woodseats, and was intrigued to see the variety of problems that constituents raised. We also visited Woodthorpe Primary School and the Business School at Sheffield Hallam University. Finally we met senior police officers to discuss the latest crime figures and police operations.



## Banning cigarette vending machines to save lives

I supported the first steps to introduce a ban on cigarette vending machines across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. A ban would reduce the numbers of children able to obtain and smoke cigarettes.

Smoking is an important factor in heart disease as well as a number of other serious illnesses. Young people continue to take up smoking, even though it is known to be the biggest preventable cause of premature death. By banning these machines we will be cutting off an easy supply of cigarettes to children.

This move has support from the British Heart Foundation, ASH, Smoking Mirrors and a whole range of organisations who have argued passionately for a ban to protect the public's health.

## Green energy a feature at the new City College

The new City College building is now emerging, and I was delighted to be shown around the site by Project Manager Alan Biggin. This modern building will incorporate various green energy features, including solar panels and wind turbines, as well as being connected to the city's incinerator heating scheme.



## The New Newfield School

I visited the brand new Newfield Secondary School to see the improvements contained in the multi-million pound building. The new school has designated teaching areas for each subject, ICT and video conference facilities and performance, dance and drama areas. The school is part of the government's Building Schools for the Future programme – which will eventually replace or modernise every secondary school in the country.



## Meg Munn – Sheffield Heeley's voice in Parliament

### MY ADVICE SURGERIES:

- Batemoor
- Gleadless
- Heeley
- Manor Top
- Woodseats

### 6 WAYS TO CONTACT ME

PHONE my constituency office on 0114-258-2010  
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