

News Report

from Meg Munn MP



A Visit to the local Fire Station

I visited the Fire Station, which covers a large area including Batemoor and Jordanthorpe, Greenhill into Woodseats and up to Gleadless Valley.



Meg is pictured with Station Manager Dave Bedford and Fire Officers.

I heard about what they were doing to tackle

local issues. They have been undertaking fire

prevention work in houses, installing free fire alarms, and beginning a fire safety programme with schools.

I was pleased that the Station is dealing with these problems in a proactive way, which is having huge benefits for the communities they serve.

Tackling Anti-social behaviour

I visited the Safer Neighbourhood Area Team at the newly refurbished Woodseats Police Station to discuss local policing. This new community policing initiative aims to improve relationships between residents, local youths, and the police. These teams include mounted officers, off-road cycle officers and staff from other agencies working together to crack down on drug offences, anti-social behavior and the use of illegal motorcycles.

I also accompanied Community Constable Sean McDermott (pictured here with me) to visit local residents who were concerned about anti-social behaviour in the Greenhill Library Area.



Meg visits St Thomas of Canterbury School

Since I became the MP for the area I have visited all the schools in my constituency. A recent visit to St Thomas of Canterbury School coincided with the school's 'World Book Fancy Dress Day' – with pupils coming to school dressed as a story book character. I met Dennis the Menace and Julius Caesar, among others!



After my tour I met Year 6 pupils (pictured left), who asked a number of questions about my role as a Member of Parliament. They even wanted to know if I have a bodyguard, and if I had met anyone famous.

I thoroughly enjoyed my visit and wish the school and everyone I met every success in the future.

Lowedges School – 50 years old



Lowedges School celebrated its 50th anniversary with the unveiling of two specially designed flags which will fly on flag poles at the front of the school.

The flags were designed by pupils Luke Smith and Demi Knight. The school is in the top 100 most improved primary schools in the country. Congratulations to the hardworking staff, pupils and parents for their efforts.

Beauchief and Greenhill

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Exploring the Countryside in Gleadless

I joined members of Gleadless Wildlife Trust and Sheffield Wildlife Trust on a nature trail at Nether Spring Open Space on Gleadless Valley.

I observed some of the work that the Trusts, Sheffield City Council and community groups have



been doing over a number of years to try and make green open spaces more

accessible. These included a specialised play area, managed meadows and

woodland walks. The woodlands are an important habitat for a range of wildlife, and by managing them responsibly they can be enjoyed for years to come.

Pictured here with Meg are Jane Haigh and Francis Burton from Sheffield Wildlife Trust, John Gilpin from Parks, Woodlands and the Environment (Sheffield City Council) and William Fairhead from Gleadless Valley Wildlife Trust.

A Visit to the Fire Station

I visited the Fire Station, which covers a large area including Gleadless Valley, Norton, Woodseats, Batemoor and Jordanthorpe. I heard about what they were doing to tackle local issues. They have been undertaking fire prevention work in houses, installing free fire alarms, and beginning a fire safety programme with schools. I was pleased that the Station is dealing with these problems in a pro-active way, which is having huge benefits for the communities they serve.



Meg is pictured with Station Manager Dave Bedford and Fire Officers.

Campaigning against illegal motorcycling

Having been contacted by a large number of residents on Gleadless Valley about the nuisance of illegal motorcycling, Councillor Rosemary Telfer and I have been leading a campaign against this problem. The campaign urges the Police and City Council to do more to tackle this dangerous menace.



Figures for the area show that over 90 warning notices have been issued by the police since April and that they are running initiatives to help tackle this problem.

Meg is pictured with Councillor Rosemary Telfer and local resident Eric Billingham collecting names for a petition.

Launching Gleadless Community Safety Partnership

The newly-launched Gleadless Valley Community Safety Partnership brings together many community groups, the police and councillors to form a team to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour across Gleadless Valley.

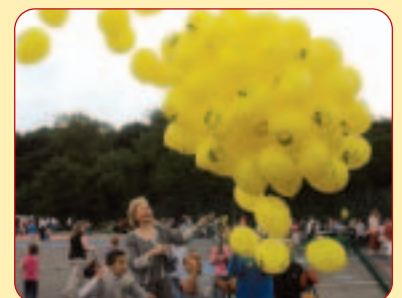


I think the partnership is a big step forward, and I'm sure will have a positive impact, making Gleadless a safer place to live.

New Start – Sure Start

I was pleased to officially declare the go-ahead for a Sure Start project at Bankwood School in Gleadless Valley. The school will host the hub of Sure Start for the neighbourhood, with the new centre welcoming parents and children by January 2007.

I am delighted that the government's flagship programme for childcare will soon be up and running in this area as Sure Start has been a real success, making a positive difference to working families lives.



Heeley and Gleadless

More news from around our area

A Refuge for Women and Children

As Minister for Women and Equality I was asked to open a new women and children's refuge (pictured below).

Many women escaping domestic violence experience physical, mental and emotional abuse, often over long periods of time. Refuges across the country help women, and their children, deal with these problems. These are important centres where abused women can take the first steps toward a new life.



Warming up for Winter

One of my concerns as a constituency MP is the problem of fuel poverty. Local people can struggle to heat their homes, at risk to their health, and this during a time of price increases.

I am pleased that the government's Warm Front initiative is helping to tackle this problem by installing heating and insulation in the homes of vulnerable people, such as the elderly.

To date 324 households in Heeley constituency have been helped, a total spend of £245,918 in the area.

■ **Local residents can contact the Warm Front team on 0800 316 6014 to apply for a grant.**



Voting Age

I think it's important for the local MP to keep in touch with young people. Although they can't vote, I think their views are important. Recently I organised a 'Young People's Debate' on the question 'What age should you be allowed to vote?'

A number of local primary schools took part in the debate. Pupils discussed the question, and considered what issues would affect their decision, and then we held a secret ballot. A large number of pupils who were closest to the current voting age wanted it to remain as it is. However the most popular age for voting was 16.

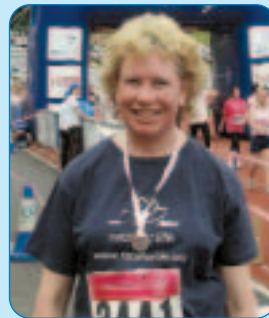
I think that the pupils found the debate and discussions interesting, as did I. Our young people will be running the show before to long, we had better listen to what they say!

Meg is pictured with Lowedges pupil Martina Nyamawuya putting her voting paper in the ballot box.

Race for life

I officially opened this years 'Race for Life' at the Don Valley Stadium before taking part in the run myself. It was a hot and sunny day, which made the race hard for runners, but good for the spectators who had come out to support the event.

I managed to raise £255. I want to thank those who sponsored the participants for Race for Life; we raised valuable funds for Cancer Research UK.



Meg welcomes the new Human Trafficking Centre to Sheffield

My role as a Minister in the Department for Communities and Local Government involves working across government on issues of equality and community safety.

I have been working with the Home Office on the disturbing problem of human trafficking for sexual exploitation. Thousands of women and children suffer from this every year. To help tackle this issue the UK has established the UK Human Trafficking Centre in Sheffield, which I visited at its official opening.

The new centre is the first of its kind anywhere and brings together intelligence work, detection and support for victims under one roof. By working on all aspects the centre hopes to both reduce trafficking and prosecute more traffickers, while helping victims to recover from their dreadful experiences.



Contact Meg

Meg Munn MP, 2nd Floor Barkers Pool House, Burgess Street, Sheffield S1 2HF.

Tel: 0114 263 4004

or email: munnm@parliament.uk

www.megmunnmp.org.uk

Meg holds regular local advice surgeries around the constituency

- Batemoor
- Heeley
- Woodseats
- Gladless
- Manor Top

To make an appointment please ring the office on 0114 263 4004



Meg Munn – your local MP for Sheffield Heeley

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Fishponds back to its former glory



After featuring in a Calendar News competition to win a lottery grant, Woodthorpe Fishponds has been brought back to its former glory.

The Fishponds are not only a place enjoyed by local people; they form

part of the identity of the area. I was pleased to see the extent of the work and I congratulate Woodthorpe Development Trust, and others, who have worked to turn the Fishponds into a pleasant public space.

'Send my Friend a Teacher' – say Woodthorpe Pupils

I visited Woodthorpe Primary School after pupils Thomas McNally and Greg Marshall invited me to see what they had been learning about the 'Send My Friend a Teacher' campaign.

The campaign aims to ensure that every child in the world gets an education, and for children to explore each other's typical school day in different countries.

I was shown the work of Year 6 pupils which included various displays on typical school days around the world, models of their ideal teacher and two presentations describing the school day of African children. Pupils also asked me some questions about my role as an MP. They were most interested in finding out why I went from being a social worker to becoming an MP.

Meg is pictured listening to pupils describing an African child's school day.



Out on the Beat!

With local councillor John Robson I joined the Safer Neighbourhood Area Teams to observe their work. The initiative aims to improve relationships between residents, including local youths, and the police.

These teams include mounted officers, off-road cycle officers and staff from other agencies working together to crack down on drug offences, antisocial behavior and the use of illegal motorcycles.

They are doing some excellent work, as I saw at first hand, and I am sure that once the new teams are well established, they will be a great asset to tackling crime in the area.



Sheffield Springs Academy Opens

This year saw the official opening of the Sheffield Springs Academy. I have worked alongside others, such as former Head Teacher Ed Wydenbach, to support the transformation of Myrtle Springs into a new Academy offering wide ranging vocational and academic courses, with a 6th form for the first time.

Construction of the new school building is underway and will open next year. It will have state-of-the-art equipment, including electronic white boards in every classroom. I was delighted to attend the official opening and present students with a commemorative scroll.

Arbourthorne and Richmond