

newsreport

from Meg Munn MP for Sheffield Heeley



Norton College

It was good to meet the staff and students at Norton College – where students came top of the league tables for training journalists. The college trained the most candidates taking the National Certificate Examination for reporters last March, and their pass rate was the best in the country!

After talking to the students one-to-one, we discussed issues they were researching, and I explained my role as an MP.

Award Winning Environment Group

I met with members of the Beauchief Environmental Group – who have recently been awarded “top marks” by Natural England for the improvements being made at Ladies Spring Wood. The wood is a *Site of Special Scientific Interest* because it boasts one of the best examples of ancient Pennine Oak and Birch woodland in South Yorkshire.

The Group, which was started in 1988, now has over 200 members who help look after the publicly owned woodlands in the Beauchief area by improving paths, repairing stone walls and caring for wildflowers.



Helping St Peter's Church

Whilst visiting St Peter's Church, Greenhill, I saw the benefits of the Landfill Community Trust. The Church has had work done on its roof and stained glass window thanks to a grant from The Veolia Environmental Trust.

The Landfill Community Trust was established to ensure landfill site operators donate funds back into local communities. Operators donate a percentage of their landfill tax liability in return for a tax credit which currently stands at 6.6%.

Greenhill Primary School

I was delighted to visit Greenhill Primary School and meet the new staff team and the School Council members.



I discussed with the School Council members my role as the local MP and a range of subjects including the Queen and the Prime Minister – and they voted on whether children should be made to go to school.*

The School Council is a great way of involving children in the running of the school, as well as giving them an early insight into the democratic process.

* 90% of the children voting agreed that they *should* be made to go to school!

Crossing the road with Jessica

Ten-year-old Jessica Saunby recently wrote to me about her near-fatal accident whilst crossing Bocking Lane.

I visited Jessica to talk about the problem and walk the route she takes. We found a van and a car parked illegally – which meant crossing Bocking

Lane at the roundabout near Greenhill library – was both difficult and dangerous, even for an adult.

I later visited Streetforce and discussed the problem with senior managers – who agreed for Parking Services staff to undertake visits and any necessary enforcement action.



Beauchief and Greenhill Ward



Policing the Steel City Derby

The football derby between Sheffield United and Sheffield Wednesday requires a large contribution from South Yorkshire Police to ensure that everything goes well – before, during and after the game. I accompanied Chief Inspector John House (pictured) to observe the police operations at first hand.

Welcoming South-East Asian Ambassadors

Whilst a Minister at the Foreign Office I invited a number of Ambassadors and High Commissioners from countries of South-East Asia to visit Sheffield for the day. They were keen to get a better understanding of life outside of London. The diplomats visited a number of locations in Heeley constituency, talking with people involved with a variety of community activities. I know they appreciated the warm welcome they received.



Respecting Shop Workers

I joined shopworkers at a Co-operative store in my constituency to call on customers to “keep your cool at Christmas” in support of the campaign by retail trade union Usdaw to cut down on the abuse and assaults suffered by shop staff. Many local shops like the Co-operative are open long hours including evenings and weekends. Treating shop workers with respect all year round is important so that they can continue to provide this vital local service.



Dan Aid Petitions Downing Street

I joined Christina Anderson, her family and members of the campaign group Dan Aid, in handing over a petition to 10 Downing Street. Dan Aid was set up in memory of Christina's son Daniel Hindle, who died of septicaemia after having his lip pierced.

The petition, signed by over 3,800 people, urged the Prime Minister to pressurise local authorities to implement and enforce new legislation to avert a similar tragedy. Sheffield became one of the first councils to adopt the new law which requires body piercing shops and tattooists to be regulated by their local council.



Commemorating HMS Sheffield

On a Ministerial visit to the Falkland Islands I wanted to lay a wreath at the Monument to HMS Sheffield, which was sunk in 1982 with the loss of 20 lives. Unfortunately high winds prevented the helicopter flight to the monument – but I was able to present the wreath to the RAF, who later laid it on my behalf.

Meg Munn – Sheffield Heeley's voice in Parliament