

newsreport

from Meg Munn MP for Sheffield Heeley



Supporting local Police in Gleadless Valley

I supported the police when they wanted an extension to the powers that enabled them to disperse gangs congregating in Gleadless Valley. I met with Inspector Tim Ireland (pictured) to discuss this matter, and was pleased to learn that crime and anti-social behaviour in the area had already been reduced by 23%.

I fail to understand why the council has steadfastly refused the police request to stop gangs congregating, even after local people came to a council meeting to seek this help. As crime and anti-social behaviour is an important issue in Gleadless Valley, I have urged the council to re-think its position.

Newfield Secondary School

I visited Newfield School to discuss with the pupils my role as the MP for Heeley. We talked about what I do in Parliament and how I raise issues that concern my constituents.

The new school is nearing completion, which is part of the government's major investment in building new schools for the future. I am looking forward to visiting the new school when it opens.



Saving Bishops' House

Local residents approached me with their concerns about vandalism and the anti-social behaviour that occurred around the historic Bishops' House.

I arranged a visit to the site and organised a round table meeting to discuss solutions – and it was agreed that fencing would provide the best deterrent. Further work will now be done by the council to complete the scheme, with the help of local residents.



Lunch in Gleadless

A small but dedicated team of volunteers provide a luncheon club for a group of elderly and mainly isolated residents of Gleadless Valley.

I was pleased to drop in on one of their regular Monday sessions where, between 11.00am and 3.00pm, they socialise and enjoy a hearty good meal at the Methodist Church on Blackstock Road.

Local skills training

I met with representatives from three local Community Forums to discuss future funding for adult learning. Gleadless Valley, Batemoor & Jordanthorpe and Lowedges Forums each provide adult learning and skills classes – which may be lost unless future funding becomes available.

I have lobbied government organisations for greater and easier obtainable funding for community forums.



Heeley

Gleadless Valley

Meersbrook



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