

DARLINGTON MATTERS



Updates from Peter Gibson MP | Member of Parliament for Darlington | Issue 5



BANK TOP NEW LOOK
ARTIST IMPRESSION OF THE
NEASHAM ROAD ENTRANCE

Station Plan revealed

Proposals for the new look Darlington Train Station have been revealed. Darlington's Bank Top station is in line for a £105 million redevelopment, which it is hoped will be finished by December 2024. The development will see three new platforms built to the east of the existing station as well as a new station building to complement the existing one, which is aimed at bringing more frequent services to the region and in

particularly from Tees Valley. A public consultation is underway ahead of a planning application being submitted in June. Views can be shared at www.darlington.gov.uk.



WELL DONE
LEVELLING UP
CHAMPIONS

Skerne Park Academy have been named as a winner in this year's Levelling Up Awards 2021 in the Successful School Years category.

The award recognises the hard work that Headteacher, Kate Chisholm and her team put into ensuring every child successfully achieves their potential in attainment and development.

Action on off-road bikes

Over the last few months there has been an increase in reported issues relating to off-road motorbikes being used antisocially across our town. The Police are working to tackle this issue by means of seizing vehicles and issuing fines. Over the last few weeks, the police have issued a number of traffic notices, which means if a vehicle is reported being used in an antisocial manner it can be seized. If you observe incidents, please contact Durham Constabulary on 101, live chat 101 or Crime Stoppers.

If you have any information regarding offenders, their addresses or any images of those causing a nuisance you can email information to asbbikes@durham.pnn.police.uk and the Police will look to act on the intelligence provided anonymously.



TAKING ACTION
POLICE BIKE UNITS
IN DARLINGTON

Town Mission

Darlington Town Mission was founded in 1838 by Darlington businessmen and has been caring for the elderly and disadvantaged ever since. The Mission provides companionship and practical help to many residents across Darlington and this has been vital support to many local residents during this challenging time. Peter visited the team to support in their efforts over Easter. If you would like Peter to visit your group or event please get in touch.



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Get in
touch



Hello,

Thank you for taking the time to read **Darlington Matters**, which I've created to keep you up-to-date with some of the positive activities and achievements that are happening here in Darlington.

Despite the pandemic we have achieved a lot in the last year. The Government continues to demonstrate their commitment to Levelling Up as we have seen in recent weeks with the announcements of jobs and investment in our region and both myself and my counterparts in the region will continue to champion the Levelling Up agenda to ensure that the North gets the recognition and investment that it deserves. I am looking forward to seeing our region continue to flourish as we see the impact of this investment.

It has been great to see Darlington reopen in recent weeks and I would like to encourage you all to support the fantastic local businesses we have here in Darlington.

Over the last year we have pulled together as a community, worked hard to support each other, and seen the benefits community spirit can bring to our health and wellbeing and I would like to thank you all for the efforts you have put in to supporting your family and neighbours at this difficult time.

This newsletter hasn't cost you anything. As well as regular door knocking, hosting surgeries and circulating surveys, this is just one of the ways I communicate with you as your Member of Parliament. I do hope you find it useful and informative.

If there is ever anything you would like to bring to my attention or raise with me, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Peter

Member of Parliament for Darlington

insights | Office of Peter Gibson MP
Member of Parliament for Darlington

- Overall Resolved Casework
3,055
- Policy Questions Answered
7,391
- School Engagements
67
- Surgery Appointments
91



A return to our coat of arms

Darlington Borough Council have recently announced that they will begin using the town's historic coat of arms as their corporate logo and will discontinue use of the old logo. With expense in mind the refreshed logo will be rolled out incrementally, so that items carrying the old logo are replaced as they reach the end of their functional life. As part of the change the wall on the Town Hall Council Chamber will be brightened to reflect the host of other town centre improvements including the River Skerne walk way enhancements, the revamped Victorian Market and Town Clock lighting projects. Councillor Jonathan Dulston, Deputy Leader of Darlington Borough Council said "We think it's important the Council reflects our town's heritage and we want to showcase our history, particularly with an eye on the 2025 Celebrations. We're going back to the coat of arms, with a modern twist"



DARLINGTON
Borough Council



Old Logo

The new logo with town's enhanced Coat of Arms

Peter organises regular community action days across Darlington. Everything from litter picking, to tree planning to clearing paths of pesky weeds – all events and activities aimed at keeping our communities tidy and tip top. 'Gibbo's Green Team' are always looking for volunteers to take part in events and activities. In addition, if you know of an area in Darlington needing some attention get in touch directly.

If you would like to learn more about 'Gibbo's Green Team' and would like to get involved email: peter.gibson.mp@parliament.uk

An update from Rishi



At the Budget in March, I outlined my plan to support people and businesses through the pandemic, begin the work to fix the public finance, and start building our future economy.

Central to this plan is levelling up all regions and parts of the United Kingdom – none more so than Teesside. I was pleased to announce in the Budget investment in local towns, the selection of Teesside as a location for one of our eight freeports – and of course, the establishment of a new Treasury North Campus in Darlington.

Our future economy demands a different economic geography and if we are serious about levelling up, that starts with the institutions of economic power. Hundreds of Treasury civil service jobs will be based in Darlington, not only bringing jobs and prosperity to the region, but also bringing our decision-makers closer to the country which they represent. With other government departments following suit, I hope this will be of huge benefit to Darlington and Teesside.

I also took great pleasure in visiting Darlington following the Budget, meeting your brilliant local MP who has been a passionate fighter for investment in Darlington and the Tees Valley.

In areas such as Darlington and Hartlepool, and all over Teesside, my focus as Chancellor will remain steadfast on spreading prosperity and opportunity everywhere, building a more equal country, and ensuring we deliver on our mission to level up.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rishi Sunak'.



World Book Day Competition



Following the recent launch of the Darlington Autism Forum Facebook group for parents in Darlington to join, to share their stories and experiences of supporting their children with autism, Peter has decided to launch a creative writing

competition to raise awareness about autism in Darlington.

The competition invites young writers, Primary and Junior School aged, to write a creative short story about Henry Pease. Henry is aptly named after Henry Pease a former railway owner of the Quaker Pease family of Darlington. Henry is Peter's furry colleague who supports Peter's engagement with children across Darlington. You can find out more about Henry and the competition on Peter's website by visiting: www.petergibson.org/henry-pease-darlington

Town's Railway Bridges



**Peter on site at the
Yarm Road Bridges**

Network Rail have been restoring three historic railway bridges in the town, as part of a £60,000 project. Improvement work on two bridges on Yarm Road was completed late in 2020 and planning for restoration work for the bridge on North Road is underway.

Network Rail workers restored and repainted the bridge, and carried out repair work.

Westminster Update

Recently, Peter spoke in a debate about a treatment for Phenylketonuria (PKU) – a rare genetic disorder that sadly 4 people, 1 adult and 3 children, in Darlington suffer from.

1 in 10,000 babies across the United Kingdom are born with PKU and this rare inherited disorder means that individuals cannot break down the protein phenylalanine, which if untreated, can lead to damage of the brain and nervous systems. Peter has been active in Parliament on this matter since he was elected, lobbying Ministers to reconsider treatments for PKU.

A decision was recently made which enables children with PKU to access Kuvan, a proven successful treatment for PKU sufferers. Peter is continuing to campaign to enable adults with this rare genetic disorder to also have access to the treatment.



DID YOU KNOW?

Since March 2021, Peter has appeared **21** times in Parliament asking 13 questions and delivered 8 speeches.

NEW HARTLEPOOL MP PETER INTRODUCED JILL MORTIMER TO PARLIAMENT

Peter's Speeches

- NHS Pay
- Conversion Therapy
- Levelling up
- Treasury Darlington
- Kick-Start Scheme



**REPRESENTING DARLINGTON
PETER SPEAKING IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS**



Message from Ben Houchen Tees Valley Mayor



I am humbled and honoured that local people from across Teesside, Darlington and Hartlepool have once again put their faith in me as Mayor and I'm very proud to be able to continue with what we have started.

Working with Conservative MP's like Peter over the last 4 years, we have made a great start in putting the building blocks in place that will create thousands of good-quality, well-paid jobs for local workers across our amazing region, but there is still a huge amount to do and no time to waste.

We cannot, and I will not, rest on my laurels; that's why just a day after being re-elected I was back at work on the Teesworks site overseeing the delivery of one of the biggest diggers in the county.

We need to secure more investment and create even more skilled, well-paid jobs so that that even more local people can put more money in their pockets for them and their families. We need to continue to push forward the transformation of Darlington Railway Station. We need to continue the amazing progress we're making in turning around the fortunes of our airport. And we need to continue to push forward the relocation of Government jobs to the region.

Both Peter and I will be banging on the Government's door demanding more money for Teesside, Darlington and Hartlepool. This is not the end of the road; it is just the beginning of a brighter future for our remarkable region.

Ben

in case you missed it..



COUNCILLORS QUESTION MP ON CONVERSION THERAPY

Darlington Councillors have raised their concerns following the Westminster Hall debate on Conversion Therapy

£222,365 TO HELP SUPPORT VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE



Darlington Borough Council to be awarded £222,365 to help support victims of domestic abuse victims



PETER HELPS SECURE £8,000 TO SUPPORT FIRST STOP

First Stop Darlington awarded £8,000 to support local people

£984,000 TO MAKE HOMES GREENER AND WARMER

Darlington Borough Council awarded £984,000 to make homes greener & warmer



Office of Peter Gibson MP
Member of Parliament for Darlington

Working hard for Darlington all year round

DARLINGTON MATTERS