

# DARLINGTON MATTERS



Updates from Peter Gibson MP | Member of Parliament for Darlington | Issue 7



**LOCAL SUPPORT**  
PETER DELIVERING COMPUTER EQUIPMENT IN RED HALL

## Government support for local youngsters during holidays

The government has awarded Darlington Borough Council more than £460,000 to provide activities for local youngsters during the school holidays in the year ahead.

The grant has been awarded by the Department for Education as part of its Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme to provide free places at holiday clubs for the Easter, summer and Christmas school holidays.

It will enable thousands of youngsters from across the borough, who receive free school meals, to take part in six weeks of fun and enriching activities – four over the summer and one at Easter and Christmas 2022. All those who take part will also receive a healthy meal as well as nutritional education.

Last year, more than 900 children took part in a range of activities during the summer, and around 1,200 took part in a wide range of enriching and physical activities over the Christmas period. These included a visit to the Darlington Hippodrome pantomime, ice skating, bowling, Santa at the Station visits, as well as arts and crafts, drama and magic sessions. Working with schools to host travelling pantomime sessions and in partnership with many local providers enabled so many children from the ages of five-16 to access the diverse range of activities available.

## Last year's workload



2,117

cases resolved

...That's 40 cases a week!



5,001

policy questions answered

...That's 96 answers a week!



**SPECIAL DELIVERY!**  
PETER WITH THE ROYAL MAIL TEAM IN DARLINGTON

## Peter spends time with posties in the Darlington Depot

Recently Peter visited the local Darlington Royal Mail depot and spent time with posties learning about how deliveries are made across Darlington. Peter thanked the team for their hard work as key workers during the pandemic. 14.4 billion letters are delivered across the UK each day, which is an impressive operation. All deliveries are done during various types of weather. Peter also got to see the new electric post vans vehicles being introduced.



# 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.

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 with me. My details can be found on the reverse of this newsletter.

*Peter*

**Member of Parliament for Darlington**



**DARLO MATCH**  
PETER AFTER A DARLO MATCH, AND WE WON!



**DOOR KNOCKING**  
THE TEAM AND PETER OUT AND ABOUT IN TOWN



**FAITH LEADERS**  
BESS ROBERTSON DISCUSSING PLANS FOR HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY IN DARLINGTON



**ST TERESA'S SCHOOL**  
PETER WAS SHOWN A REMEMBRANCE DISPLAY



**ST JOHN'S SCHOOL**  
YOUNG PEOPLE WITH PETER TALKING ABOUT UK PARLIAMENT WEEK



**VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE**  
PETER LEARNING OF THE ISSUES FACED BY THOSE WITH SIGHT LOSS



**PUPPY ABUSE**  
PUPPY SMUGGLING PLEDGE PETER SIGNED UP TO



**POPPY APPEAL**  
PETER HELPING SELL POPPIES ON HIGH ROW



**MENOPAUSE MATTERS**  
DAVINA MCCALL WITH PETER SUPPORTING THE CAMPAIGN



**RAISING AWARENESS**  
PETER SUPPORTING THE ONE PUNCH CAMPAIGN

Data from 10.01.2022

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



Overall Resolved Casework  
**4,303** Cases



Policy Questions Answered  
**10,619** Answers

## Peter continues to press the case for a Northern Link Road in town

National Highways recently launched an online feedback tool for road users and those who live near to England's motorways and major A roads, to give their views on where investment is needed the most.

Peter met with Roads Minister, Baroness Vere to explore improvements to J57 on the A1 and to press the case once again for the Northern Link Road to connect the A1 to the A66 at Great Burdon. This missing section causes traffic to snake through residential parts of North Darlington like Whinfield and Harrowgate Hill, causing congestion and emissions.

“ The Northern Link Road will cut gridlock and end the nightmare that this causes people in Darlington - Peter Gibson MP

Peter Gibson MP has welcomed the publication of the Conservative Government's £96 billion Integrated Rail Plan for the North and Midlands, which will deliver better transport links and spread prosperity and opportunity decades sooner than previously planned, all while levelling up the country.

The North East will directly benefit from new announcements included in the plan, including a package of improvements to the East Coast Main Line – with 140mph trains and digital signalling, bringing benefits to communities far sooner than originally planned. The Transpennine Main Line will also be fully electrified and upgraded, going well beyond previous plans, building the new high-speed Northern Powerhouse Rail core.

Combined, these changes will mean faster journeys, more seats, and better reliability – with journey times between Newcastle to Birmingham cut to just under three hours – 40 minutes quicker than current journey times. Rail travel between Newcastle and Manchester will be possible in under two hours, 20 minutes quicker than it currently is, and Newcastle to London could be travelled in under two and half hours, cutting journey times by 20 minutes.

## Government's £96 billion plan to level up railways across the North East



## Teesside Airshow to return after five-year grounding



Teesside International Airport will return on Saturday 11 June 2022. Full details of the displays have yet to be announced, but there will be fly-bys and aeroplanes, a classic car show, displays from the Army, and live music. About 18,000 visitors attended the last show in 2017 and it is hoped this show will attract up to 25,000. Teesside Airshow has long been a headline event for our region, drawing thousands from across the country over the years. For tickets and more information info visit [www.teessideairshow.com](http://www.teessideairshow.com)

Have your say!

PETER GIBSON MP

# SURVEY

Office of Peter Gibson MP  
Member of Parliament for Darlington

## 2 Year Satisfaction Survey

I'm interested to hear your views; please consider completing a short online survey scanning the QR code or by visiting [www.petergibson.org/form/2-year-satisfaction-survey](http://www.petergibson.org/form/2-year-satisfaction-survey) to complete the survey.



# Levelling up our communities

Peter recently organised a second project in Darlington to support local communities with outdoor play, by bringing together a range of organisations to build a nursery playground for Maidendale Nursery. This playground will be used by the nursery and local children who use the Firthmoor & District Community Association services.

The imaginative playground is based on all things Darlington and includes shops, an outdoor stage, a beautifully detailed train station and a market hall, complete with a mini replica of Darlington's Town Clock.

Redde Northgate generously donated to this second project and also invited staff to volunteer on the project to help build the playground. Other donor's included Harry Hill & Friends, Darlington Borough Council, Darlington Rotary and EE.

The level of support from across Darlington has been overwhelming. Speaking about the project, Peter Gibson MP said "It has been lovely to see some new faces on this project and I am pleased that we have once again been able to support a local community. I am delighted with the finished results, I know the young children will be enjoying their new playground for many years to come."

Cllr Jonathan Dulston, Deputy Leader of Darlington Borough Council said: "I am proud that the council has been able to support this project as it sits firmly within our commitment of levelling up communities right across the town and I thank Peter for his support."

Rachael Lowes, Head of Children & Young People at Firthmoor & District Community Association said: "We are absolutely thrilled to be part of this project and can't thank the team of volunteers enough for the positive impact this is going to make. The children within the nursery deserve this so much and it is a delight to see their faces light up as they explore the new garden area. This will have a huge impact on their learning and development and we look forward to also incorporating this with our local community."



## Parliamentary Activities 2021

**SPEECH!**  
PETER SPEAKING UP FOR  
DARLINGTON AT PMQ'S



Last year..  
Peter attended  
**121 debates**

And spoke  
**33,248**  
words..

And asked  
**121**  
questions..

And most  
spoken word  
was..  
**Darlington**



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**IN COMMITTEE**  
PETER AND COLLEAGUES  
WITH PETER'S TAXI BILL



**WESTMINSTER HALL**  
SPEAKING IN THE  
GB RAIL'S HQ DEBATE



**DARLINGTON**  
MATTERS

**Working hard for Darlington all year round**

Get in  
touch