

DARLINGTON MATTERS



Updates from Peter Gibson MP | Member of Parliament for Darlington | Issue 8



**WELCOME
PETER MEETING UKRAINIAN
FAMILIES IN DARLINGTON**

Support for Ukrainian families

The Ukrainian people and President Zelensky have been courageous in the face of aggression. The full-scale invasion of Ukraine by land, sea and air has had humanitarian impacts across the world.

The situation developed quickly, and the British Government has responded in many ways. The new expansive Ukrainian Family Scheme has enabled British nationals and Ukrainians already settled in the UK to bring a wider group of family members to the UK.

Locally here in Darlington we have seen, just as we did with Covid, a fantastic community response. Peter has been working with groups such as Darlington Assistance

for Refugees and Darlington Borough Council to help coordinate efforts and to support those feeling danger. If you'd like to help, the most effective action you can take is to make a financial donation to one of the charities supporting Ukraine.

The Disasters Emergency Committee is one of those organisations which unites 15 member charities who are experts in humanitarian aid and specialists in different areas of disaster response. The DEC launched a fund which the Government has announced it will match. This fund can be found here: www.dec.org.uk/appeal/ukrainehumanitarian-appeal Peter's office has already assisted a number of Darlington families affected by this situation and stands ready to assist anyone coming forward who needs assistance.



**MAKING A SPLASH
PETER WITH THE FAMOUS
FOUNTAIN IN SOUTH PARK**

Campaign to bring back to life our South Park Fountain

Peter has been working with a number of local partners with a view to having the South Park Fountain restored to its former glory. The work is in the early stages, but watch this space. How great would it be to see this much loved asset working once more for the benefit of local people and visitors to our town



**THE TEAM FROM AMAZON
READY FOR THEIR SHIFT**

Prime Delivery!

Peter recently joined Amazon staff for a shift at the Darlington depot. Amazon provides thousands of local jobs supporting people with degree programmes and a range of training courses. Over 1,500 local people work at Amazon.



Hello,

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



GURDWARA
PETER VISITING THE SIKH TEMPLE IN LOUISA STREET



TV APPEARANCE
TAKING PART IN BBC SUNDAY POLITICS



DENTAL CONCERNS
THE TEAM FROM BUPA WITH PETER TALKING ABOUT ORAL HEALTH



RIVER SKERNE CLEAN UP
PETER READY TO ENTER THE RIVER SKERNE



GB RAIL HQ
PETER MEETING WITH THE RAIL MINISTER



CARDIAC RISK IN THE YOUNG
PETER WITH JUDITH AND THE TEAM AT A LOCAL SCREENING EVENT



DEBT HELP
PETER MET WITH CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY



NATTER BENCH
A BENCH CREATED BY REID STREET SCHOOL IN THE PLAY DENE



NORTH ROAD BRIDGE
PETER HANDS ON HELPING TO RE-PAIN THE RAILWAY BRIDGE

Data from 12.04.2022

insights

Office of Peter Gibson MP
Member of Parliament for Darlington



Overall Resolved Casework
4,846 Cases



SURGERIES



Policy Questions Answered
12,509 Answers

TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT EMAIL:
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HULLABLOO DARLINGTON
PETER TOURING THE FACILITIES AT THE THEATRE HULLABLOO

Darlington Patients with Phenylketonuria (PKU) access sought after treatment



ROUND TABLE
PETER CHATS TO DARLINGTON
FAMILIES AFFECTED BY PKU

Following a review carried out by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) the drug Kuvan will now be available to patients of all ages suffering with Phenylketonuria (PKU) in England. 1 in 10,000 babies across the United Kingdom are born with PKU, a rare inherited disorder which prevents individuals from breaking down the protein phenylalanine. If untreated PKU can lead to damage of the brain and nervous systems. Sadly, 5 residents in Darlington suffer from the condition.

Peter Gibson, MP for Darlington, has worked with families with PKU across Darlington to voice their concerns to NICE about the lack of availability of the Kuvan drug and in February 2021 all children under the age of 18 were given access to the vital medication. However, this would then mean that when the children turned 18 they would no longer be able to access the drug. Thankfully it was announced in December that Kuvan (sapropterin) will be made available to all adults with PKU.

Household support fund

In the Spring Statement the Chancellor announced that the Household Support Fund would be doubled, with an extra £500m being made available. The additional funding will ensure the most vulnerable families continue to get support with their food, energy and water bills.

£913,854 has been awarded to Darlington Borough Council to help families in need. The grant will be distributed through small payments to support vulnerable households meet daily needs such as food, clothing, and utilities. Contact the Council on 01325 405444 for more information.

4,490

Potholes were repaired by Darlington Borough Council last year

1,325 more than in 2020

A programme of Micro Asphaltting works has been carried out on 50 roads throughout Darlington.



You can report highway defects direct on the Council App or by calling 01325 405444

**Shared
Prosperity
Fund**

Tees Valley is to receive £46,357,305 in funding from the Conservative Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to help level up the community – from regenerating run down high streets to tackling anti-social behaviour.

The funding confirms that the Conservative Government has fulfilled its commitment to match previous EU funding on social and regional development.

The fund will help to level up Teesside, Darlington and Hartlepool.



GIBBOS GREEN TEAM
THE TEAM OUT IN BRANKSOME
AND COCKERTON AREA

Tidy ups are well underway

The Great British Spring Clean 2022 has now finished, and as part of the UK wide campaign nearly half a million bags - 449,406 to be precise, were collected by volunteers.

Here in Darlington 'Gibbo's Green Team' are continuing to take local action in Wards across the town. Volunteers have been in areas such as Branksome, Bank Top and Lascelles, Haughton and Springfield and Brinkburn and Faverdale. If you would like to learn more about Gibbo's Green Team and would like to get involved email: peter.gibson.mp@parliament.uk

Peter's Private Members Bill becomes law



NEW LAW PASSED
PETER WITH MEMBERS OF
THE SUZY LAMPLUGH TRUST

On 31st March 2022, the Private Members Bill introduced by Darlington MP, Peter Gibson received Royal Assent, meaning the Bill is now law.

Peter Gibson MP introduced his Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles (Safeguarding and Road Safety) Bill in the hope that it will reform licensing rules for taxis and private hire vehicles and start to overhaul the licensing process, including the safeguarding associated with licensing. This will be done by mandating cooperation across local authorities to prevent dangerous drivers obtaining licences.

Speaking about the Act of Parliament Peter Gibson MP said "I'm delighted to have tabled this important and much needed Bill in Parliament. This new Act makes

changes which will improve the sharing of data on taxi drivers between local authorities and closes a loophole which should never have existed. I am delighted that the Bill has now received Royal Assent and has become law. I have been supported by many groups and organisations as well as many cross-party colleagues in the House, who have all been invaluable in their contributions. Constituents across England can now begin to have more peace of mind knowing that measures have been created in law to make using taxis safer".

Sian O'Callaghan was tragically murdered by a taxi driver in Swindon in 2011. With the help of the Suzy Lamplugh Trust, her mother, Elaine Pickford, has campaigned relentlessly ever since to improve the quality of regulation in this area. Speaking about the news Elaine, and Liam O'Callaghan, Sian's brother said "We are so overwhelmed with pride, as a family we are so grateful to see this Bill finally be given Royal Assent. As a family we have looked to bring about positive change following the loss of Sian. This campaign has not only given us pride but taken Sian's name from that of a victim to that with a legacy now intertwined with this law. Meaning she is now linked to a drastic improvement in taxi passenger safety".

Beanies tastes success with Queen's Award for International Trade



Beanies Flavour Coffee has been awarded a Queen's Award for International Trade in recognition of its growth and commercial success. The award comes just months after the Darlington-based company was listed among the North East's Top 20 fastest growing firms. It currently exports to more than 30 countries worldwide, including South Africa, India, Malaysia, and Japan. The trade makes up 15 per cent of turnover. Beanies launched in 2013 and has since gained an international reputation for producing uniquely-flavoured instant coffees – from Sticky Toffee Pudding and Jam Doughnut through to Chocolate Orange and Maple Fudge.

The Queen's Award for Enterprise in International Trade is the most prestigious award for UK businesses and the endorsement helps further raise the profiles of businesses at home and overseas. John Evans, Managing Director of Beanies,

said: "This Queen's Award means a great deal to the business, I am very proud of achieving this very prestigious award and for the effort that has gone into it from the whole team here at Beanies. Peter has engaged with us extensively, bringing the Secretary of State for International Trade to visit us and encouraging us to explore the Queen's Awards – and I'm delighted he did! The award means that we can really fly the flag for Britain and Darlington around the world showcasing our amazing range of coffee.



COFFEE ANYONE ?
PETER WITH JOHN EVANS
THE MD OF BEANIES



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Get in
touch

**DARLINGTON
MATTERS**

Working hard for Darlington all year round