

DARLINGTON MATTERS



Updates from Peter Gibson MP | Member of Parliament for Darlington | Issue 10



IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS
PETER RAISING THE NORTHERN LINK ROAD IN PARLIAMENT

Darlington Northern Link Road moves a step closer

Peter Gibson MP for Darlington has raised the case in Parliament with Richard Holden MP, the Minister for Roads and Local Transport, for a Northern Link Road in Darlington.

The Northern Bypass would see a new connection between Junction 59 on the A1 and Great Burdon on the A66. Speaking in the House of Commons Peter Gibson MP said “Can I thank the Government for all that they are doing to improve connectivity at Darlington, including the £135 million invested in Bank Top Station, but my constituents in places like Harrowgate Hill and Whinfield still suffer from congestion and emissions on the roads. Can the Minister guide me as to what more I can do to ensure that we ease this gridlock by delivering a northern link road?”.

Responding the Minister for Roads and Local Transport said “We have worked together on many local transport issues and National Highways continues to work with the Tees Valley Combined Authority, who have worked closely in developing proposals for a Darlington Northern link road, which would connect the A66 and junction 59 of the A1”.

“The work to date will form part of a body of evidence informing the investment plans for future roads between 2025 and 2030”.

This missing section causes traffic to snake through residential parts of North Darlington like Whinfield and Harrowgate Hill, causing congestion and emissions. This is an issue which Peter Gibson has championed since his election in December 2019 and has raised in Parliament a number of times, including during a Westminster Hall Debate in June 2021 and during regular one-to-one meetings with Ministers.

INSIDE



Local Council Elections 2023



Peter's message and update



Memorial Hospital update

BACK THE LINK ROAD NOW! 👍



Let me know if you support my Northern Link Road campaign
petergibson.org/link-road

insights |

Over the past three years, I've regularly published newsletters, responded to every piece of constituent correspondence and I continue to deliver on my promise to keep you informed of what I'm doing on your behalf, raising the profile of Darlington, resolving your issues and essentially being the best representative of you I can be.

 **26,087**
Cases dealt with

 **15,868**
Policy questions answered

Over **500,000**
Items of literature delivered to local people across Darlington.





Hello,

Thank you for taking the time to read the tenth 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. In this edition you'll find information about candidates standing in the local elections which are happening in May.

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



FITNESS IS KEY
CYCLE CHALLENGE WHILE VISITING THE FORGE FITNESS CLUB



STUDENT REPORTERS
PETER BEING INTERVIEWED BY HUMMERSKNOTT ACADEMY STUDENTS



LIVE FROM THE MARKET
RADIO FIVE LIVE INTERVIEWING PETER IN THE INDOOR MARKET



CHANCELLOR VISITS
HAVING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CHANCELLOR RIGHT HERE IN TOWN



DIWALI CELEBRATIONS
PETER ATTENDED A LOCAL EVENT TO CELEBRATE DIWALI



HELPING HAND
PETER SUPPORTING THE BREAD AND BUTTER THING



FAITH GROUP GET TOGETHER
MEMBERS OF LOCAL FAITH GROUPS MET WITH PETER RECENTLY



DISTRIBUTION HUB TOUR
PETER RECENTLY TOURED THE ARGOS, DHL AND SAINSBURY'S WAREHOUSE AT FAVERDALE



CPI VISIT
£10M INVESTMENT AT CENTRAL PARK



CROSSING PATROL
COCKERTON VISIT WHERE PETER MET LOCAL PEOPLE REGARDING ROAD SAFETY



LOCAL REFUSE SHIFT
PETER RECENTLY HELPED OUT ON A REFUSE ROUND



MOWDEN PARK ARENA
PETER ATTENDING A LOCAL RUGBY GAME

Darlington Memorial Hospital – Update

I've visited Darlington Memorial Hospital multiple of times since being elected.

Over Christmas I had the privilege of visiting the Emergency Department where I was able to talk directly with nurses, doctors, healthcare assistants and security. I am always keen to do this on a regular basis to understand the issues that have been raised with me and to see what the frontline team deal with on a daily basis.



I am grateful to the Trust Chief Executive, who supports and facilitates the visits, and I thought you'd like to see what I've learnt whilst on my visits.

- Darlington Memorial Hospital Emergency Department and Urgent Treatment is **double** the size that it was pre-covid.
- The hospital trust has over **700 more** clinical staff than it did pre-covid.
- Darlington Memorial Hospital Emergency Department is incredibly busy. That may feel likely an oversimplification and it is, but there are a number of things to say.
- Not enough people are getting in to see their GP, which is seeing greater attendance at A&E.
- Waiting times can be long, as those serious cases requiring very urgent treatment are prioritised.

Capacity in A&E is impacted by the difficulty in discharging patients elsewhere in the hospital, thus freeing up a bed for a patient from A&E. Discharge is delayed due to a shortage of capacity in the community to provide care to those who are better but need care. Darlington Memorial Hospital has done some innovative work to manage patient flows better, including doing minor surgical work without admission, thereby freeing up beds and it is worth noting that we have one of the best discharge rates in England.

I had some really great and frank conversations with healthcare staff asking them about their views, thoughts and concerns. It is really informative for me to visit and I gain a much clearer understanding of the challenges faced.

I was blown away by the positivity and dedication of some amazing people who every day are going above and beyond. These winter times are really the toughest times for our hospital as they face increasing pressure from influenza and other respiratory infections. I continue to speak with local health leaders, the local authority and the Government about a wide range of support measures to help improve the overall service.

Your priorities are our priorities.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has recently outlined his top five priorities for the United Kingdom. These are the five foundations to build a better, more secure, more prosperous future that our country deserves.

1. We will halve inflation this year to ease the cost of living and give people financial security.
2. We will grow the economy, creating better-paid jobs and opportunity right across the country.
3. We will make sure our national debt is falling so that we can secure the future of public services.
4. NHS waiting lists will fall and people will get the care they need more quickly.
5. We will pass new laws to stop small boats, making sure that if you come to this country illegally, you are detained and swiftly removed.

These are five pledges to deliver peace of mind, so that you know things are getting better, that they are actually changing, that you have a government working in your interest, focused on your priorities, putting your needs first.



[Volunteer | Sign Up](#)

Why not sign up to help with my campaigns and events? – Just take a picture of this QR code with your phone camera.

Local elections in Darlington

On Thursday 4th May 2023 there will be local Council elections in Darlington. The Council consists of 50 Councillors representing 20 Wards. Some wards are represented by two or three Councillors depending on the population size.

Over the past three years I've developed a great working relationship with Darlington Borough Council thanks to its Conservative leadership. I am working hard to ensure that come May, local Conservatives can continue the rejuvenation of our town that really has only just begun. I look forward to joining the team and speaking with many of you in the coming weeks.

Keep an eye out for the details of your local Conservative candidates.

Peter

Member of Parliament for Darlington

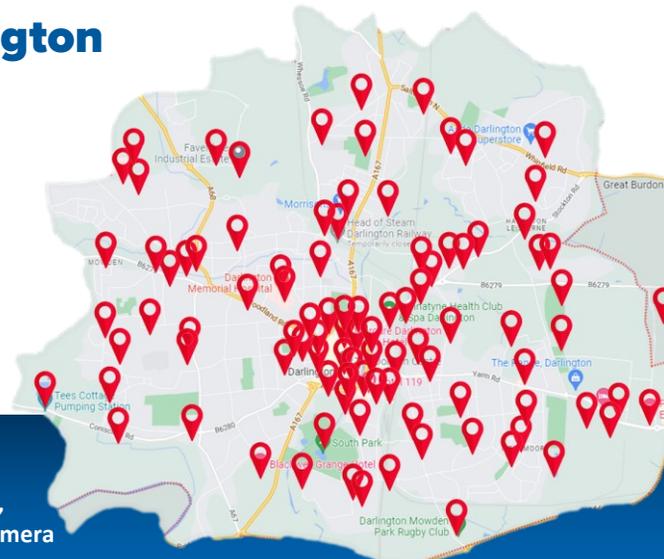


Thursday 4th May 2023



Hundreds of visits across Darlington

Since being elected I have visited hundreds of local businesses, events and community organisations across Darlington. It isn't always possible to attend everything due to much of my working week being taken up in Parliament, however if you would like me to come along to an event, visit a business or visit your local area, please do get in touch with me directly and I can arrange a visit accordingly.



Darlington Matters | In Brief

Keep up to date by signing up to my email newsletter, just take a picture of this QR code with your phone camera



Get in touch with me to get it sorted

Dealing with casework is a huge part of my role as MP, which is why I launched Reported and Sorted. Please do get in touch with me if you have any long standing issues that need attention in your area.



Constituent Feedback

I just wanted to thank Peter and the team for the prompt assistance given to me over the issues I have been dealing with for over a year.

Within a couple of days, I had two phone calls from two different departments, and although the outcome wasn't totally what I had hoped for, the matter has now been resolved and it certainly wouldn't have been without your help.

Keep up the great work everyone!



peter.gibson.mp@parliament.uk

01325 711711
34 Duke Street
Darlington
DL3 7AQ

Get in touch

DARLINGTON MATTERS

Working hard for Darlington all year round