

DARLINGTON MATTERS



Updates from Peter Gibson MP | Member of Parliament for Darlington | Issue 11

New SEND School for Darlington



The Department for Education has approved a free school for Darlington. The Free Schools programme is committed to improving provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) across the country.

Children with SEND and their families have often felt penalised by a system that doesn't support their needs.

The new free school alongside the wider SEND and AP Improvement Plan will help to provide more specialist educational provision for children, often vulnerable and disadvantaged, and provide more support for children and their families so that every child gets the help they need.

Speaking about the news, Peter Gibson, Member of Parliament for Darlington, said "I am delighted by the fantastic news that the council's bid for a new special free school has been successful. It is a huge investment, bringing a much-needed additional specialist resource to our town and will relieve the pressure on our existing SEND provision in Darlington. I look forward to hearing who will be successful in running the new school. This is yet another significant step towards our ambition to level up education, giving every child the best possible start in life so that they can fulfil their potential."



Veterans Minister visits local charity

The Veterans' Minister visited Darlington recently where he met volunteers and local veterans. The Rt Hon Johnny Mercer MP joined Peter Gibson at The Viking Boat Company (Plane Sailing) on Albert Hill, where they toured the

workshop and gained an insight into the work being undertaken to support local veterans. The Minister also got hands on, and saw first-hand the progress being made on a replica Viking boat. Peter Gibson said "The Viking Boat Company do a great job in supporting veterans, it has been fantastic to show the Veterans' Minister the positive impact of their work. Bob and the team are a credit to the town, and I look forward to visiting again very soon."

INSIDE



Boundary review for Darlington



Arriva buses update

NIGHT SHIFT WORKER SURVEY

Do you work nightshifts?



Scan Me

Peter would like to hear about your experiences.

To complete a short survey, just use your mobile camera to scan the QR code above.



Hello,

Thank you for taking the time to read the eleventh 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. Since 2019 I've distributed over ½ million newsletters.

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

insights



29,513

Cases dealt with



17,326

Policy questions answered

Data snapshot from week ending 25.06.2023



VISITORS TO PARLIAMENT
PUPILS FROM BEAUMONT HILL
ACADEMY TOURED PARLIAMENT



THAT'S A GOAL!
DARLINGTON SPRAIRE
LADS & LASSES MEETING



EUROVISION
ATTENDING THE MARKET
EUROVISION EVENT



**NORTH BAY RAILWAY
ENGINEERING SERVICES**
PETER VISITING THE TEAM
BASED ON ALBERT HILL



ST. AIDAN'S VISIT
PETER WITH SCHOOL
COUNCIL REPS



MARIE CURIE UK
37TH ANNUAL GREAT
DAFFODIL APPEAL



RAIL HERITAGE
NORTH EASTERN LOCOMOTIVE
PRESERVATION GROUP VISIT



PULLING PINTS!
PETER AT DARLINGTON FLYER
CELEBRATING THEIR REFURB



PARKINSON'S UK EVENT
MEETING MARGARET & HER DAUGHTER
AIMEE FROM DARLINGTON



UKRAINE CHAMPION
OLENA RUSA WITH THE PM
AND PETER AT A NO.10 EVENT



HOME SECRETARY
DISCUSSING OFF ROAD BIKES &
CHANNEL BOAT CROSSINGS



POSITIVE SCHOOL VISIT
REID ST PRIMARY SCHOOL SHOWING
PETER THEIR POSITIVE POSTBOX



HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES
LENDING A HAND, SERVING
LUNCHES AT SKERNE PARK



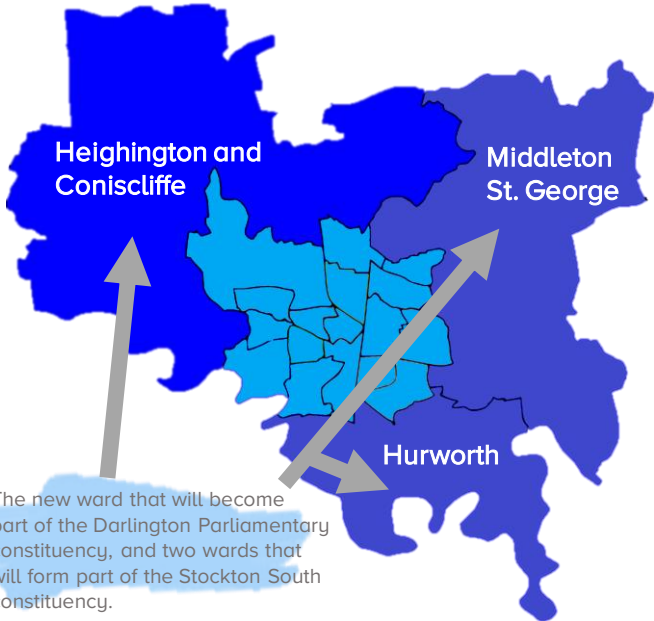
PETER WITH HEIGHINGTON & CONISCLIFFE WARD COUNCILLORS GERALD LEE & PAUL CRUDDAS ALONG WITH PAUL HOWELL MP, WHO AS MP FOR SEDGFIELD REPRESENTS THE THREE OUTER RURAL WARDS OF DARLINGTON BOROUGH

The Conservative 2019 Manifesto promised to ensure that we have updated and equal Parliamentary boundaries in the UK.

The Boundary Commissions for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland have published their final recommendations for changes to constituency boundaries for next general election, to ensure all seats are as near to 73,000 people as possible. Peter was recently selected by the Darlington Conservative Association as the candidate for the expanded Darlington seat, which he will contest at the next general election.

At the next General Election the Darlington seat will include the Heighington & Coniscliffe ward, taking in 18 of the 20 Darlington Borough Council wards. The other two wards (Middleton St. George and Hurworth) move from Sedgfield into the newly formed Stockton West seat. All wards shown above will still be part of Darlington Borough Council.

Darlington Boundary Review



The new ward that will become part of the Darlington Parliamentary constituency, and two wards that will form part of the Stockton South constituency.

Levelling Up In Action

Darlington is a growing town and it is important we have a balance of homes available for people in all circumstances. The Council is investing over £30m into Neasham Road, which will see 150 new affordable homes being built. Helen's group are developing the Burtree Garden Village too, with £43 million in support from Homes England.



Plans for The Railway Heritage Quarter are well underway, where we will celebrate the 200th anniversary of the first passenger railway. You may have also seen that spades are in the ground, as the £139 million pound Bank Top Station expansion continues at pace.



It's great to see a number of local business owners step up and begin to revamp and invest in their own buildings. Skinnergate and the Yards are seeing investment from the Town's Fund. The building on the corner of Skinnergate has recently undergone major private renovations, which just shows businesses are confident about Darlington's future.



Darlington Garden & Yarden Competition



Do you or someone you know have a fabulous garden or garden!? Each year Peter runs an Annual Garden & Yarden Competition in Darlington.

All gardens with their unique charm including small yards to larger gardens and even creative planters will be considered! If you would like to enter send a picture to peter.gibson.mp@parliament.uk and you could win this year's 'Darlo's Garden & Yarden Competition'

Deadline: 28th August 2023

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.

Highlighting the cost of fuel in Darlington



Peter Gibson MP recently highlighted the cost of fuel at petrol stations in Darlington being much higher than in surrounding areas. Speaking during Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) questions in the House of Commons, Mr Gibson said “Sainsbury’s, Morrisons and Asda are charging more for road fuel in my constituency than they are doing in neighbouring towns.”

“I will continue to press the government and retailers to equalise regional fuel prices, so that my constituents aren’t penalised unfairly.”



It is deeply disappointing that Arriva have chosen to reduce much needed and relied upon bus services in Darlington. The Government recently announced £300 million worth of investment to protect bus services into 2025, including capping single fares at £2 until 31 October 2023 and £2.50 thereafter.

It is important to stress that this is an entirely commercial decision taken by Arriva at a time when they are looking to increase their market value as they look to sell their business. It is a decision that neither I, nor the Tees Valley Combined Authority have any control over.

A number of meetings have been held between Arriva, the Tees Valley Mayor Ben Houchen and Darlington Borough Council to work to establish a solution. As a result of those discussions, the planned cuts to the Number 12 service, Number 3/3A service, and Number 4 service have been reversed. I will continue to monitor this situation closely.

I also met with representatives of Arriva and the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Roads and Local Transport in the Department for Transport, Richard Holden MP, to discuss this matter in great depth.

This afforded me the opportunity to ensure that the anger and disappointment expressed by so many people across our town, and its villages, has been taken right to heart of Government, while also allowing me to make representations to Arriva and ensure they recognise their responsibility to residents of this town.

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 camera phone

Reported, 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. **Here you can see just some of the examples of things I've reported to be sorted.**



RIVER SKERNE
FALLEN TREES REPORTED,
REMOVED AND CLEARED

BEFORE

AFTER



CLOCK RESTORATION
MORRISONS NORTH ROAD
REVAMPING THEIR CLOCK



BEFORE

AFTER

BUILDING DAMAGE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
BUILDING TILES REPLACED

Did you know?

You can use the Darlington Borough Council App to report issues and to complete common tasks more easily on your phone or tablet. You can use your phone's camera and location to help give a better idea of the issue. If you are logged into the app when you report certain types of problems and you can then track their progress within the app too. You can also contact your local ward Councillor and ask them to deal with the issue on your behalf.



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Keep Connected

WITH PETER ON
SOCIAL MEDIA



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