

Kevan Jones

Your local Member of Parliament speaking up for North Durham



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Winter 2021

It has been great to have been able to get out and about meeting organisations, groups and residents across North Durham. This Report is a snapshot of some of my work in Westminster and out in the constituency over the past few months. I am always happy to meet with constituents, and the past few months have been particularly busy. Please get in touch with me for further information.

Adjournment Debate on Cestrian Court



On 9 November, I hosted an Adjournment Debate in the House of Commons about the issues residents have faced at Cestrian Court in Chester-le-Street. The County Durham Fire & Rescue Service found that the building was not up to the necessary fire safety regulations.

Whilst the works have now been undertaken, the cost of the works have been passed on to residents. I have called on the builders to step in to rectify this and also on the Government to ensure that leaseholders are not left to foot the bill to make buildings like this safe.

Thank you to all of the residents that contacted me to raise concerns about this issue.

Blue Plaque for Lord & Lady Lawson



On 23 October, I was delighted to attend the unveiling of a blue plaque for Baron Jack and Lady Bella Lawson of Beamish at their former home in Woodside, Beamish.

Jack was the MP for Chester-le-Street 1919-1949, and Bella was a suffragist, Labour activist, community volunteer and pioneer of child welfare clinics.

The unveiling of the plaque was organised by local historian Dorothy

Rand MBE and Jack and Bella were nominated for a blue plaque by the Women's Banner Group.



Kevan had his booster vaccination in November. They are now available to anyone aged 40 and over. You can book yours online at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-booster-vaccine/>



Kevan visited St Cuthbert's RC Primary School to present certificates to their School Council and Eco Council.



Kevan officially opened Think Positive in Stanley, which is the new mental-health arm of PACT House and is based in the old Derwentside Mind building.

Rt Hon Kevan Jones MP Parliamentary Report



Kevan visited The Elms in Chester-le-Street to support their Macmillan World's Biggest Coffee Morning

Changes to Bus Services in North Durham

A lot of constituents have contacted me about changes to local bus services that were announced in the summer. As a result, I have met with Go North East to raise concerns about the impact these have had on local residents.

I was presented with a petition from residents in Annfield Plain about the impact of the withdrawal of the X32 and am continuing to pursue these issues with Go North East to ensure that none of our communities are left behind.



Kevan being presented with the petition by local resident Mrs Ramage.



Kevan has visited the new Choo Choo Railway Café at Chester-le-Street Station opened by Lisa. Kevan has been invited to a formal opening soon.

Parents whose children attend St Leonard's in Durham have also raised concerns with me about the significant increase in the cost of bus fares since the start of the term. This has led to me meeting with the Headteacher and the Chief Executive of the Multi-Academy Trust.

If you would like to be kept updated on my work on any of these issues, please contact me on kevanjonesmp@parliament.uk.

Celebrating our Heritage



Kevan continues to support Stanley Indoor Bowls Club who are back to hosting International Competitions



Whilst the Durham Miner's Gala could not take place this year, there has been several more local events instead, including a Mini Gala at Quaking Houses and a Memorial Service for the Pelton Fell Pit Disaster.

Cleaner and Greener Communities



Kevan works closely with the local Police as well as with Joy Allen, the Police & Crime Commissioner.



The easing of covid restrictions has meant that organisations can resume community litter picks. Kevan joined the Newfield & Pelton Lane Ends Residents' Association and children from Roseberry Primary School for their litter pick. If you are arranging an event and would like Kevan to attend, please get in touch.

Health and Care Bill



Alongside my constituent Dawn Knight, I have long campaigned for the Government to introduce legislation to regulate cosmetic surgery.

Currently, no additional training or qualification is needed to undertake cosmetic procedures, and this has led to an increase in 'self-accredited' training courses.

As the Health and Care Bill passed through the Commons, I supported an amendment that would have required the licensing of cosmetic procedures. Unfortunately, the amendment was not accepted, but I hope that a similar amendment will be introduced as the Bill is considered by the House of Lords.

This is an issue that I will continue to campaign on until the law is changed.

COP26



As world leaders gathered in Glasgow to discuss how to tackle the climate emergency, I have been asking residents in North Durham where they feel additional charging points for Electric Vehicles should be installed.

As the sale of new petrol and diesel cars will come to an end in 2030 and of hybrid vehicles in 2035, it is important that we plan ahead.

Across Co Durham, we have a lot of terraced properties that do not have off-street parking to enable electric vehicles to be charged so we are looking at where public charging points could be installed.

If there is somewhere in your community you would like to be considered for a public charging point, please contact me so that we can look into this.



Kevan visited Chester-le-Street Athletics Club and is raising concerns on their behalf about parking at The Riverside.



Kevan visited residents at the Jura development in Ouston with Cllr Alison Batey



Kevan visited Beamish Museum for a tour of their Remaking Beamish project.



Merry Christmas from Kevan (and Biff)



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I'm always happy to speak to local people and can now offer face to face meetings.

If you would like to meet, please contact me for an appointment.



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