



Seema Malhotra MP

Working hard for Feltham and Heston

Shadow Business and Consumers Minister



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JUNE/ JULY 2021 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Welcome to my June/ July 2021 Newsletter!

This report outlines some of my recent work in Feltham and Heston, and in Parliament working hard for local families and businesses. If you have any thoughts about my newsletter or any issues you wish to raise, then please email me at seema.malhotra.mp@parliament.uk. You can also find out more about the work I do, through my social media pages or my website at: www.seemamalhotra.com

TRAVEL DAY OF ACTION

In June, I joined the **Travel Day of Action** outside of Parliament alongside unions like Unite and GMB to speak up for aviation & the wider travel and tourism industry. The sector has faced ongoing challenges for over **18 months** due to the pandemic and the Government's lack of support and funding. This has risked businesses and livelihoods across aviation and aerospace supply chains, with around **62,000 jobs lost so far**. I am working in Parliament and with the council to protect local employment. This is also why the Labour Party has been calling for a proper plan for aviation. I continue to work with GMB and Unite to support jobs in businesses around Heathrow, and call for an end to some of the shocking fire and rehire practices that we have seen. I am also proud to have worked with Unite the Union to develop the **Unite Learning Hub @ Heathrow**. Sign up to take an online course to retrain or just learn new skills. Find out more here: <https://www.learnwithunite.org/heathrow/>



PALESTINE/ ISRAEL

In May, I wrote a letter to the Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP regarding the **alarming situation in East Jerusalem**. I called on the Government for their **urgent intervention** in helping to stop the violence and the forced evictions of Palestinians from their own homes in Sheikh Jarrah. Britain has a great historic responsibility and we must use our diplomatic influence when needed.

I believe it is essential that the international community steps up to help support a lasting two state solution that brings peace and stability to the region. It is vital that we see the upholding of international law and recognition of the state of Palestine. You can read the full letter on my website: www.seemamalhotra.com



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

This year to celebrate World Environment Day, I launched a photography competition for young people in Feltham and Heston so that we could see the local environment through their eyes. Participants were encouraged to take part in taking a photo of something which represented nature in Hounslow, for example of a tree, community park, wildlife, or even of their garden!

Over 120 young people from under 7 to aged 18 took part. The winning entries displayed the talent our young people and ranged from people's back gardens to Bedfont Lakes and Swans in Osterley Park. I was so proud and overwhelmed by the number of entries we had received, showing just how passionate our young people are about caring for the environment. You can see the winning entries on my website www.seemamalhotra.com

The environment is incredibly important to me, and so I also recently spoke on the Environment Bill Debate in Parliament in which I also called for action on a Deposit Return Scheme. You can watch the full speech here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cN8bwgwk4-M>



COVID VACCINE

I recently had my first and second dose of the COVID vaccine at Jade Pharmacy in Heston. I want to take this opportunity to thank all the brilliant NHS workers, GPs, pharmacists, volunteers and the Public Health Team at Hounslow Council who have led our local vaccination process.



The COVID vaccine is now available to all over the age of 18, so please do book an appointment or walk in to any of our walk in vaccine centres so you can keep yourself and our community safe. Cases have been rising in London and in Hounslow, so remember to **keep safe by washing your hands, keeping socially distanced, wearing a mask and downloading the NHS app!**



Get in touch with me!
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CAVALRY BARRACKS

In June we marked the closure of Cavalry Barracks in Hounslow West after 229 years, a huge part of our identity and our history. I visited the barracks during their farewell ceremony and met some of the amazing men and women in the armed forces, as well as meeting Seamus, the Irish wolf hound - the mascot of the Irish Guards! It was incredibly sad to see that this long and proud military heritage of the barracks was ending, but I am grateful to all the regiments that have called Hounslow home while serving our country and community. I wish the best for the Irish Guards and express my gratitude to all current and former members of the Armed Forces for their courage and fantastic work serving the country.



SCHOOLS SPORTS FUNDING

Last month, I spoke in the House of Commons on the sacrifices that teachers, children and schools have made during this pandemic. It is clear that this Government has failed our children. Schools have needed clarity on catch up funding for too long and it is simply not good enough. There is still also a lack of mental health support and failure to fund sports activities in our local schools. Sport is vital to our young people's wellbeing and health and yet data from the Schools Active Movement shows that **84% of PE teachers say that physical fitness is worse than before the pandemic.** Therefore, I called for an urgent announcement to be made on the funding of a school sports premium & school games organisers for next year. **Two days after this speech, the Government brought forward a £320m school sports fund.** Our children deserve a Government that puts them first.



As Shadow Minister for Business, I have been standing up for businesses during this crisis by making clear that economic support must go hand in hand with public health measures, and calling on the Government to introduce a flexible plan to help businesses pay back their loans in a sensible way when they are generating profit and back on their feet. From my speeches in Parliament regarding the Post Office Horizon Scandal, to ensuring that steel safeguards are maintained, you can keep up to date with my work as Shadow Minister for Business on my social media pages and my website www.seemamalhotra.com

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION (HMOS)

I have met with local residents concerned about the rise of houses in multiple occupation (HMOS) in our constituency and the effect they are having in our communities. **We need to understand the full scope of this issue in Hounslow and across the country.** I am currently working with local councillors on this issue across Hanworth, Feltham and Heston, to identify further action that needs to be taken. I am also working in Parliament on this issue and where we must strengthen regulation.

SANTANDER BANK CLOSURE

I recently met with residents in Hounslow West to campaign against the closure of the local Santander branch. Santander recently announced the closure of 111 branches across the country, with the Hounslow West branch due to close on July 15th. The closure of bank branches is very worrying and is yet another sign of the huge challenges facing our high streets. It is incredibly important that our local residents are heard and that bank branches, which are so important for accessibility and inclusion, stay in our local communities.

I will continue to work with local councillors and residents to try and stop the branch closure and I am calling for a debate in Parliament to highlight the urgency of this issue. If you would like to sign our petition, please send me an email.



MEDIA APPERANCES

I spoke on ITV's The Big Debate where I discussed the importance of having COVID support for businesses. Delays in tackling the virus by this Government and in not controlling our borders has resulted in a greater spread over the last two months over the virus in West London. This has meant that local businesses and residents have suffered greatly. **Businesses cannot be left to pay for the mistakes of the Government, be it the hospitality sector or aviation.**

I was also interviewed on Radio Jackie to discuss the latest Queen's Speech and the troubling gaps in the Government's housing, social care and COVID plans.

I also discussed **Hounslow's Promise** and my work in helping local schools provide computers or laptops to their pupils. You can find out more about ConnectingKids@Home at: <http://www.hounslowspromise.org/connectingkidshome.html>

BEAUTY AND WELLBEING INDUSTRY

I recently spoke in a Westminster Hall debate regarding the Beauty and Wellbeing sector. The Beauty and Wellbeing sector has been an overlooked area by Government despite contributing so much not just to our highstreets and communities but also to our economy. Feltham and Heston is home to great salons, and hairdressers, and they have made a vital contribution to our community. I am concerned that **Government's approach throughout this pandemic has failed to appreciate the importance of this highly skilled sector.**

Businesses have done right by our country during this crisis and the Government must now do right by them. I will continue to hold the Government accountable and call on them to ensure that those in the beauty sector do not continue to be disproportionately affected by the economic hit from this pandemic. You can watch my full speech here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aX8dwckDXuE>