



# Seema Malhotra MP

Working hard for Feltham and Heston

Shadow Business and Consumers Minister



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## JULY/ AUGUST 2021 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

### Welcome to my July/ August 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](mailto: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](http://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 shared a photo of something in their local environment that inspired them. We received over 130 fantastic entries.

To celebrate the young people and their success in the World Environment Day Photography Competition, I hosted a reception and invited our 12 winners to accept their certificates and trophies! The Worshipful The Mayor of the London Borough of Hounslow, Councillor Bishnu Gurung attended and shared how **inspiring it was to see the passion the young people of Feltham and Heston had for the environment.**

The evening was a huge success. A big thank you to all the children, parents, volunteers, our judges and our distinguished guests!



### SANTANDER BANK CLOSURE - UPDATE

A huge thank you to those of you who campaigned outside the bank or helped to gather signatures in their shops, from neighbours, or through promoting the petition online. The campaign received coverage on community TV, Brentford TV, and radio channels including Radio Jackie. We were very disappointed that the closure went ahead. We want to see that one day in the future, services return.

**I presented a petition in Parliament which was signed by over 400 residents.** You can read the full text of the petition on Hansard here: <https://tinyurl.com/santanderpetition>

If you are an existing Santander customer, who is now struggling to access banking services because of the branch closure, please do get in touch on [malhotras@parliament.uk](mailto:malhotras@parliament.uk) so that we can help to support you. This isn't the end of the story and along with Cllr Bandna Chopra and other local councillors, I'll continue to fight for the financial inclusion of all residents.



### EUROS 2020

I am incredibly proud of the England Football Team for getting as far as they did – a first final in 55 years is a fantastic achievement and it was great to see the country and local community come together to support our young diverse football team that **represents the very best of our country.**

Football spirit in our communities has been fantastic in Feltham and Heston and this spirit was embodied in a really special way at Towfield Court in Hanworth! I was so proud that the efforts of residents were recognised nationally and in the media. And it was great to meet Jade and Bruno and neighbours as they got ready for the match!

What has followed is the racism that Rashford, Saka and Sancho have experienced, and it has been truly abhorrent. **This England team represents the best of modern Britain – everything we know this country can be.** The Government's inexplicable inaction over tackling racism online and the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary not backing England players for making a stand against racial inequality – has fuelled this issue further.

**England reaching the final has been an inspiration to young and old alike and it highlights the massive importance of grassroots football in our communities.**

This is a young team with huge talent and I am looking forward to supporting them in the World Cup in Qatar next year.

Read my speech on grassroots football in Feltham and Heston here: <https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2021-05-12/debates/1DA454DA-9A2B-4D47-BDC0-B841CA9CA7DE/details>



### Some more of what I have been doing in Parliament

- Spoke in the Building Safety Bill debate on the unacceptable costs for leaseholders for remedial fire safety works and shockingly high service charges
- I asked questions on ensuring support for minority communities in Afghanistan
- I spoke in a debate on providing amnesty for undocumented migrants
- I voted against the Nationality and Borders Bill and against the UK reducing its spending on foreign aid

Get in touch with me!

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**Big thank you** to all the brilliant NHS workers, GPs, pharmacists, and volunteers who have led our local vaccination process. The COVID vaccine is now available to all over the age of 18, so book an appointment to get your jab so you can keep yourself and our community safe.



### SUPPORTING BUSINESS RECOVERY

We are at a critical moment in our fight against the virus. We need government to take responsibility, not pass the buck to businesses. Businesses I have spoken to have been looking forward to this time, when the economy fully reopens, restrictions ease and business as usual can resume. That's why it's so disappointing to hear businesses now say that this is the worst handled announcement from the government in a year, leaving them unprotected and forced to make public health decisions they do not feel equipped to make.

You can read my full article for PoliticsHome here: <https://www.politicshome.com/thehouse/article/government-must-take-responsibility-for-mask-guidance-not-pass-the-buck-to-businesses>

As Shadow Minister for Business and Consumers, I have been working with businesses to listen to their needs and call for economic support to go hand in hand with public health measures. We are only at the start of the recovery. It's vital that the Government now introduce a flexible plan to deal with debt and help businesses pay back their loans when they are generating profit. From my recent speeches in Parliament on a plan for more affordability of electric vehicles to reducing fraud, 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](http://www.seemamalhotra.com)

Last week I also was a keynote Speaker at the Hounslow Chamber of Commerce Regeneration and Recovery conference where I spoke about the 2021/22 economic situation and how we need to work together to support the recovery of jobs and businesses in our local economy. The event focused on education and employment with local colleges plus major local employers all presenting.



### HANWORTH BACKSTREET DOJO VISIT

I had a fantastic visit to the Hanworth Backstreet Dojo with the #NoShameInRunning project that works with young people at risk of crime to help them get back on track with their lives. This much needed community based project that also runs fitness classes for all ages through the week. The team is dedicated to wellness for the whole community and are passionate about what they do. If you fancy a gym session early morning, you'll not just get fit but you'll be backing a great cause!



### MEDIA APPERANCES

I was recently interviewed on Radio Jackie to discuss my latest work in Parliament and locally. From the Santander bank closure, to support for businesses and racism in football, we discussed many issues which affect our local communities. You can listen to the full interview here: <https://audioboom.com/posts/7907755-seema-malhotra-mp>

### PLANTING WILDFLOWERS IN HESTON PARK

Locally, I've been in Heston Park for our Wildflower planting session with Hounslow Council, Lampton Leisure and local residents. It was such a pleasure to join residents with this initiative. Wildflowers don't just look beautiful but they play an important role to support pollination, biodiversity and our environment. In Feltham and Heston, our green spaces are rich with local history and I want them to be great community spaces for everyone to enjoy.

Thank you to Heston Action Group team for all their fantastic work on the day. I am looking forward to seeing all the amazing wildflowers this summer!



### PUNJABI THEATRE ACADEMY

I recently visited Questor's Theatre where the fantastic team at the Punjabi Theatre Academy performed India Gate. It was an incredibly insightful and enjoyable perspective on British and Indian History in the period that led up to the independence. It is very exciting to see theatres opening back up and to see West London as part of that transition. **I look forward to seeing and supporting local playwrights, theatre companies and drama students represent our local community in the Arts industry.**



### UNITE LEARNING HUB

I have been continuing 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. **The industry is so critical to the UK's national interest, and we must ensure that there is an economic package to give the aviation industry the best possible chance to survive and contribute towards our economic recovery.**

Sign up to take an online course to retrain or just learn new skills. Find out more here:

<https://www.learnwithunite.org/heathrow/>

