



Seema Malhotra MP

Working hard for Feltham and Heston

Shadow Business and Consumers Minister



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AUGUST/ SEPTEMBER 2021 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Welcome to my August/ September 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

AFGHANISTAN

The world must not forget as the situation in Afghanistan continues to see many at risk. We know social progress is being rolled back and the rights of women and minorities pushed aside amid increasing destabilisation in Afghanistan and the region. With over 400 constituents having contacted us with family and friends at risk, we continue to work day and night to help get constituents and their families home safely from Afghanistan. As the Government updates its guidance and new schemes open, we continue to support and to raise issues in Parliament.

You can watch my full speech in the urgent debate on Afghanistan here:

<https://www.facebook.com/100007809189998/posts/2976839742586303/?d=n>



STATEMENT ON UNIVERSAL CREDIT UPLIFT CUT

On Wednesday 15th September, Parliament voted against the cut to Universal Credit after the Labour Party used one of its Opposition Day Debate slots to fight the Government's plan to end the Universal Credit uplift. The vote was not binding on the Government. But it was a clear view from Parliamentarians that to remove the £20 uplift in Universal Credit and Working Tax Credit at the end of September, was unfair, would hit local economies hard and push families into poverty. Almost 18,000 households which include 14,500 children across Feltham and Heston are set to lose £1040 next year, taking £18.5m from our local economy. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has suggested that the withdrawal of the uplift risks bringing 700,000 more people into poverty, including 300,000 children. With the effects of the pandemic still being felt, pulling the rug out from underneath the feet of working people and pushing so many families into poverty is a choice which is wrong, and we will continue to call for an urgent change of course.

Sign my petition to stop the Universal Credit uplift cut:

<https://seemamalhotra.laboursites.org/stop-the-universal-credit-uplift-cut-petition/>

On the 15th of September 2021, Labour voted to stop the Tory Universal Credit Cut.

**17,870 families in Feltham and Heston are
set to lose £1040 next year, taking £18.5m
from our local economy.**

THE OPEN KITCHEN VISIT

I recently had an incredibly inspiring visit to the Open Kitchen in Hounslow with the Chief Executive of the Hounslow Council, Niall Bolger, Cllr Daanish Saeed and Cllr Raghwinder Siddhu. The Open Kitchen is a fantastic community kitchen based run by Mr Ehsan Choudhry and his team, which provides free hot and healthy meals and care packages to the most vulnerable in our community. I spent some time meeting some of the beneficiaries of the Open Kitchen and listened to their concerns and feedback about Hounslow.

You can help the Open Kitchen by donating here:

<https://muslimhands.org.uk/donate/the-open-kitchen/the-open-kitchen> or by volunteering your time to help hand out meals.



Mentors Needed

Want to help young people in Hounslow seeking work and to develop their leadership skills?

Could YOU become a mentor?

Volunteer and join our **Connected Futures: Young Leaders Programme** and become a Hounslow's Promise mentor today!

Just an hour a month of our time could make the difference to the life of a young person seeking work.

For more information, click on the link below.

<http://www.hounslowspromise.org/connected-futures-mentor-sign-up.html>



Supported by London Borough of Hounslow

Get in touch with me!

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Online: www.seemamalhotra.com

Tweet: [@SeemaMalhotra1](https://twitter.com/SeemaMalhotra1)

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BRITISH GURKHA PROTEST

I have been deeply concerned about the pension inequalities faced by British Gurkhas and their repeated ignored request for a channel of dialogue to be opened between themselves and the British Government. I was made aware of the Gurkhas' current protest at Whitehall by the Mayor of Hounslow, Mayor Bishnu Bahadur Gurung. Our constituency has a large Gurkha Nepalese community, and I am aware of the struggles they face and the indignity of being ignored by the government of the country they fought for. I am shocked and concerned by the Government's lack of communication on this issue. In August, I wrote to the Prime Minister to call on him to respond to the concerns of the British Gurkha committee and reminded him of the contributions and sacrifices the Gurkhas have made to Britain. I will continue to follow up the situation closely and will keep in communication with British Gurkha leaders.

Read the full letter here: <https://seemamalhotra.laboursites.org/2021/08/12/letter-on-pension-inequalities-of-british-gurkhas/>

As Shadow Minister for Business and Consumers, I recently led on the Ratings Rating (Coronavirus) and Directors Disqualification (Dissolved Companies) Bill which is now in the House of Lords. I will shortly also be taking forward our work on the Subsidies Control Bill which has its second reading in the House of Commons.

I helped launch Labour's five point plan to help tackle the supply chain crisis, calling on the Government to appoint a designated Minister to tackle the issues that go across departments including on driver and skills shortages, before the situation of supply of raw materials and goods hit our local businesses further.



Seema Malhotra | Monday September 06 2021, 12:01pm, The Times

FOOTBALL IN THE COMMUNITY

I was so pleased to have attended the first game of the season in August and see CB Hounslow United play in home grounds after a long time. This is a young team with huge talent. I also had the wonderful opportunity to see Brentford FC play in their new stadium! Football is so much more than just a sport, and it begins at grassroots level. Grassroots football is about every park and every playing field across the UK. It is about giving every club and every individual of all ages and genders who has the desire to be involved in the game the opportunity to do so. I want to thank Hounslow Council and Lampton Leisure for empowering and supporting young people in our community as they take part in grassroots football.

We must celebrate the contribution of grassroots football for millions across our country as the base from which national players are first given the opportunity to play. I look forward to supporting CB Hounslow United, Brentford FC and all our other local football clubs in all future games as they go up the league!



WHAT I HAVE BEEN UP TO LATELY!

I visited Oldham and campaigned for the local elections next with Andy Burnham MP and Cllr Arooj Shah, leader of the

I attended the Brentford Creative Mile, and was able to witness some fantastic art, particularly through pottery, sculptures and paintings and met with the brilliant Feltham based artist Amelia Lucy Wood! You can find out more about Amelia's work at:

<https://www.amelialucywood.com/>

I attended 2 Teeyan Melas with some brilliant women from our local community! The Punjabi festival of Teeyan is celebrated during the monsoon season and focuses on daughters and sisters getting together to enjoy folk songs, dance and music.



WELLINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL ROAD SAFETY

I was contacted by a constituent following a road traffic accident outside Wellington Primary School on 31st March 2021, which involved a pupil being struck by a motorbike whilst crossing the road. I was deeply concerned about the incident and visited the accident site in front of Wellington Primary School to meet teachers, parents and governors. After hearing the perspectives of the community, I contacted Hounslow Council to communicate the need for a review of the entrances by the school. The consultation process is now complete and based on the rate of progress so far, the crossing should be in place by the end of this year.

I will continue to work with local schools and liaise with Hounslow Council to implement more safety measures so that we can all as a community, ensure that our children remain safe on their way to school.



SEEMA IN THE MEDIA:

[Labour tells govt to 'get a grip' on supply chain crisis - and says 'incompetence' is behind flu jab shortage](#)

[Comment: 'We have a responsibility to help Afghans in need'](#)

[UK's lorry driver shortage 'could push food prices up', as supply chain crisis hits confidence](#)

[Labour knows what it takes to solve supply chain crisis](#)

[BBC Westminster Hour](#)

[Seema Malhotra - Labour 'is united' Conference](#)

FELTHAM NORTH SURVEY COMMUNITY SURVEY

I want to thank all the residents of Feltham North who filled out the community service survey. Based on the findings, I will continue to work with the local community to widen engagement with residents in Feltham North and gauge their views in how best to regenerate the area and present ideas to the council. I will also keep in touch with residents, to discuss ways to alleviate the negative impact residents have suffered from Covid-19. I look forward to working with residents to make Feltham North and the rest of Feltham and Heston a safer, and happier place to live.

HESTON WEST BIG LOCAL

I also recently attended the Heston West Big Local Community Volunteer Awards alongside The Mayor of Hounslow Cllr Bishnu Gurung. It was an excellent day, recognising and celebrating the outstanding community leadership and work from the volunteers and young leaders at Heston West.

