



Seema Malhotra MP

Working hard for Feltham and Heston

Shadow Business and Consumers Minister



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OCT - DEC 2021 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Welcome to my October to December 2021 Newsletter!

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

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

BOOSTER JABS

The COVID Booster Jab is now available to all over the age of 18, who had their 2nd jab three months ago. I would encourage everyone to book your appointment online and keep yourself and your community safe <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>



You can also find your closest walk in centres on the council website: <https://www.hounslow.gov.uk/info/20210/coronavirus/2348/covid-booster-jabs>

COP 26

I attended COP26 in Glasgow to meet businesses and delegations to discuss how we can achieve net zero targets. I was proud to formally present the **amazing letters from Feltham and Heston school pupils** with their hopes and ambitions for COP26 to the U.K. negotiating team.

During my visit, I met up with international delegates and businesses and talked with them about Labour's plans to invest £28bn a year in climate measures to help with a green industrial revolution through the decarbonisation of steel and commitment to a "net zero and nature test" for every policy.

I also met with delegates such as Åsa Regnér, Assistant Secretary General of the UN, and discussed how Gender Justice, Climate Justice and Economic Justice must go hand in hand.

I spoke at a fantastic fringe event hosted by UKHospitality on the importance of sustainability initiatives in the hospitality sector, where I shared Labour's plans for Government and how we will support the economic transition to net zero, and hosted a small business roundtable with Scottish Labour leader Anas Sarwar.

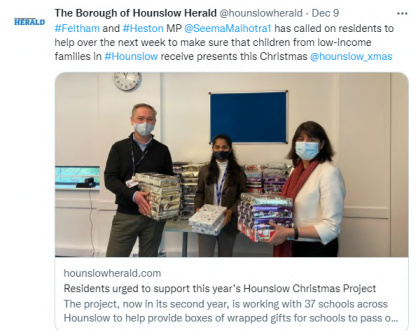


HOUNSLOW CHRISTMAS PROJECT

For a second year, I have been working with Hounslow Education Partnership and The Reach Foundation to deliver the Hounslow Christmas Project. After another tough year for families and children, we want to make sure every child has a present at Christmas.

We have been working with 37 schools across Hounslow to help provide boxes of wrapped gifts for schools to pass on to families who need some extra help this year and will be delivering over 2500 gifts!

THANK YOU to the businesses and individuals who have made donations to the project and DPD who have spent 3 days delivering the gifts to schools.



PARLIAMENTARY UPDATE

As Shadow Minister for Business and Consumers, I led for Labour on the Subsidy Control Bill, which creates a new subsidy regime in Britain following our departure from the EU. We want to ensure there is transparency over public funds and how subsidies are awarded by public authorities. Subsidies should also support our climate goals.

I also worked on the Commercial Rents Bill, which deals with the rent debt built up by businesses during the lockdown periods. The Bill is important legislation dealing with rent debt, which Labour has called for.

I was proud to support further important Bills, including the Menopause Bill which would exempt hormone replacement therapy from NHS prescription charges, and the Employment and Trade Union Rights Bill to reform the damaging practice of fire and rehire. I also spoke in a recent debate on Palestine.

I spoke in the Westminster Hall Debate on pensions equality for British Gurkhas, in which I recognised the campaigning by the Mayor of Hounslow, Cllr Bishnu Gurung. Gurkhas should never have to go on hunger strike over this issue again.

I spoke in Parliament on behalf of musicians who want a fairer deal for how they are paid for their music, in the debate led by my colleague Kevin Brennan MP. Britain should be the best place in the world to be a musician and they should get fair rewards for their work.



HANWORTH PARK HOUSE AGM

I joined Friends of Hanworth Park House for their Annual General Meeting. It was a great opportunity for us to discuss what we can do as a community to raise awareness on the incredible heritage of Hanworth Park House. We also discussed the park and local area and how we can work together to improve our local park.

Cllr Samia Chaudhary and Cllr Hanif Khan also contributed to the event, with Cllr Samia Chaudhary leading on the Park's Improvement Action Plan with the council. I want to pay tribute to the commitment shown by so many people to work for the restoration of Hanworth Park House and much progress we have made as a group in the last few months. We need to make sure that all agencies deliver and there are no further delays.



CHAMPIONING SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

On Small Business Saturday, I toured local businesses with councillors on to help spread the Small Business Saturday message. We visited businesses including Flowers by Eva and Cash and Carry business owners in Feltham and Hounslow, and popped into the incredibly delicious Dessert Café Paradise in Feltham.

There are over 5000 small businesses in Feltham and Heston, many of which have been at the frontline serving their community. I grew up above the family shop in Osterley and having that experience means that I know more needs to be done to recognise the contribution of small businesses in our high streets and our communities.

To further promote Small Business Saturday, I visited their Roadshow in Southampton with the local MP Alan Whitehead. We discussed the costs that businesses are facing as they start to recover from the pandemic, encouraging consumers to shop local and celebrating the successes of our small businesses. We also visited Southampton Port, one of the country's busiest deep water ports, to see first hand how supply chain issues are impacting.

Small businesses are the lifeblood of communities. Labour will reform business rates to restore our high streets and level the playing field between bricks and mortar businesses and online giants. I was also proud last month to join the Hounslow Chamber business awards with Hounslow's business support lead Cllr Shantanu Rajawat.



SUPPORT A LOCAL BUSINESS!

Hounslow Council's e-vouchers are valid to spend on products or services until 24 December 2021 in participating businesses, which you can find here: <https://retailers.evouchers.com/hounslow?industry=&postcode=&list=false>

Get in touch with me! [f](#) [i](#) [t](#)

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REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

On Remembrance Sunday, I joined many across the community for Remembrance Day services in the constituency. I was proud to lay a wreath in honour of the great servicemen and women who gave their lives for our freedom. I also visited the Royal British Legion in Heston.

May we also continue to remember the brave women and men who defend and make sacrifices for our country every day.



OPEN KITCHEN 3RD ANNIVERSARY

I was proud to congratulate Ehsan Choudhry, Muslim Hands, and all the Heston based Open Kitchen team on their 3rd anniversary. They have persevered through the pandemic against all the odds, served over 215,000 meals including home deliveries and supported those in need with wellbeing services and dental checks.

VIGIL FOR NAZANIN ZAGHARI-RATCLIFFE

We recently marked 2000 days since Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe was detained in Iran.

I joined the rally to support her husband Richard, her daughter Gabriella and Amnesty International calling on the PM to do more to #freenazanin and get her back home in time for the holidays.



NATIONALITY AND BORDERS BILL

The proposal which could potentially deprive UK nationals of their citizenship without notice has caused shockwaves across communities. I am grateful to all who have written to me and signed the [petition](#), which has almost 150,000 signatures. I gave a speech in Parliament, voting against the controversial bill.

I cannot support the Home Secretary's clause, which has breathed huge distrust and insecurity into the lives of millions of peaceful, law-abiding people. Having this power, without needing to give explanation, could affect not just those people but their children and grandchildren.

You can watch the full speech I gave in Parliament here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fSiVtmY15LS>



SEEMA IN THE MEDIA:

['Victory for farmers': Punjabi MPs in UK, Canada hail repealing of three farm laws](#)

['Everyone is on edge': mortgage prisoners fear UK interest rate rise](#)

[UK set to face winter of discontent without urgent action to tackle supply chain crisis](#)

[Climate of change at COP26](#)

[Seema Malhotra on energy prices and supplies](#)

[UK set to face winter of discontent without urgent action to tackle supply chain crisis](#)

[Shadow Business Minister hits out at government amid energy crisis](#)



552ND BIRTHDAY OF GURU NANAK

I had the great honour of visiting the Hounslow Sri Guru Singh Saba Gurdwara and later visited Martindale Road Gurdwara with Deputy Mayor, Cllr Hina Mir, to celebrate the 552nd Birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji. Happy Gurmurb to all. Guru Nanak Dev Ji stood for the values of fighting injustice and equality between men and women. These values continue to matter in our politics and society today.

During my visit, I spoke with trustees of the Gurdwara about their campaign to save the neighbouring carpark. Please back their campaign by signing the petition by [following this link](#).



HOUNSLOW WEST CYCLE LANE

I joined Councillors Hanif Khan, Katherine Dunne, Bandna Chopra and Jagdish Sharma in officially opening the Hounslow West cycle lane. It was incredible to be joined by the CycleSisters and other keen cyclists. This lane is by Hounslow West tube station and Henley roundabout and is yet another exciting step in doing our part to save the environment in Hounslow.

We need to provide safe spaces for pedestrians and cyclists. I know that this cycling lane will lead to better opportunities for people to improve their health and the quality of our environment! I look forward to working with local residents to encourage more cycling in our local area.



HOUNSLOW WORLD CAFE EVENT

I joined an exceptional World Cafe event at Cranford Community School where around 100 local residents and groups – and many of them young people – came together in small workshops to address three basic questions around what they think could be better in the local community and ideas to change things. This event was based on participatory budgeting and working together to come up with ideas as a community. Groups pitched ideas for funds to help make the small change happen from which big things can come in order to make our community better.

Keeping our communities safe and prioritising our wellbeing takes action and I look forward to working with our local community and residents to make Hounslow a better place to live for all.

A big thank you to the Mutual Gain team for making it go so smoothly. We need to build on this brilliant event and the progress we have made.



PASSING OF CLLR JAVED AKHUNZADA

I was devastated to hear about the sudden passing of councillor Javed Akhonzada. He was a wonderful and hard working councillor with whom I campaigned recently. He always helped anyone who needed it and who was always active in the community. He is sorely missed as a much admired member of our Bedfont and Labour community. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Zahra, daughters Ishaal and Zoya and all the family.



HAVE YOU BEEN HIT BY UC CUTS OR RISING FUEL PRICES?

If you need help or advice with your energy bills or with Universal Credit you can contact:

Hounslow Council Community Solutions Team on 0207 084 9697 or communitysolutions@hounslow.gov.uk or on the website at www.hounslow.gov.uk

Citizens Advice Hounslow at www.hounslowcabs.org.uk or by calling 0800 278 7830 (freephone)

You can also find useful information at:

www.moneysavingexpert.com/utilities/cheap-gas-and-electricity

Research by Turn2us shows that the end of governmental support schemes brought in at the start of the pandemic may have far reaching consequences. It could lead to one in two Universal Credit claimants struggling to pay bills.

Here are some other useful tools you can use to ensure you have a strong social security safety net:

[Benefits Calculator](#) - so that you can work out what support you are eligible for.

[Grants Search](#) - containing over 1,500 charitable grants – searchable by profession, health condition, location, and age.