



Seema Malhotra MP

Working hard for Feltham and Heston

Shadow Business and Consumers Minister

FEB - APR 2022 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to my February to April 2022 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

PARLIAMENTARY UPDATE

It has been an incredibly busy couple of months in Parliament. In my capacity of Shadow Minister for Business and Consumers we have taken the challenge to the government on the rising costs of business and the increase in national insurance which we believe was the wrong tax at the wrong time. I've been **holding roundtables with small businesses** across the country, supported by the British Chamber of Commerce and covering the challenges facing them with labour shortages supply chain costs, energy costs, and the need for a clear industrial strategy for business investment. I have also led on legislation including **Economic Crime Bill** transparency and ownership of business and make it easier to sanction oligarchs particularly in light of the situation in the crane Ukraine. I also spoke of the need for reform and stronger enforcement of consumer rights.

Many of our residents also suffer from long Covid. I spoke in a **debate on Long Covid** raising their concerns and continue to work with them on support they need.

I also attended an event to support the UK Steel Charter vital for our steel industry and our economy.

For more debates I have attended and on what I have been doing in Parliament working for Feltham and Heston you can read my **'This Week in Westminster Reviews'** on my website www.seemamalhotra.com



COMMUNITY NETWORK RECEPTION

I am so pleased to have hosted another annual community network reception. This event brought together local community organisations, residents, schools, businesses, faith groups, and charities for a reception to celebrate everyone's involvement and work in the community.

We had approximately 150 attendants and raised funds for local charitable organisations. **No Shame in Running** and **Project Turnover** are two fantastic organisations based in Hanworth/Feltham who work with vulnerable young people across Hounslow at risk of criminal activity and permanent exclusion.



QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY

I had a fantastic morning when I joined Heston Action Group, our Deputy Lieutenant, Paul Kennerley and Hounslow Mayor Cllr Bishnu Bdr Gurung to start the planting of up to 300 trees in Sutton Playing Fields for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Canopy project. Thank you to all the amazing volunteers and congratulations to the Heston Action Group.



HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

I attended an event hosted by Commons Speaker Sir Lindsay Hoyle to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. Candles were lit at the service in Portcullis House to reflect upon the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust.



COST OF LIVING CRISIS

Working families are already feeling the crunch. But the triple whammy of an imminent rise in the energy price cap, real wages falling and Tory tax rises coming down the tracks are going to make this crisis even worse.

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

Get in touch with me!

Email: seema.malhotra.mp@parliament.uk

Online: www.seemamalhotra.com

Tweet: @SeemaMalhotra1

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

I am proud to back Labour's calls for more professional mental health support in every school and for community mental health hubs that can help parents, teachers and community leaders work together to help children more quickly. Children were in need of better mental health services before the pandemic. Now it's even more necessary. I also spoke in a debate on Children's mental health. In North-West London, a **staggering 71% of children are not seen within four weeks** of being referred to children's mental health services.

I will continue to work with my colleague Rosena Allin Khan to back Labour's plans to ensure that support will be available in less than a month for those who need it. We'll make sure children and young people get early help, putting specialist support in every school and a mental health hub in every community. This is prevention in action.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2022

This year's theme for IWD was #BreakTheBias. I joined a number of events in Parliament and around our local community to mark the day.

WOMEN IN BUSINESS RECEPTION

I had the privilege to co-host the Women in Business Reception evening with my colleague Rachel Reeves MP. It was a fantastic, packed and energised evening, and I was surrounded by brilliant and talented women business leaders.

Women-led SMEs contribute around £85 billion to the UK economy. That's why Labour wants to put women at the heart of our economic recovery – to lift women up, not hold them back. I would like to thank Bloomberg for hosting this evening and all the inspiring women who attended and helped us mark this day.



POTHOHAR ASSOCIATION IWD EVENT

I also took part in an event hosted by the Pothohar Association UK. I was joined by an incredible panel of women who talked about their work in the fields of poetry, journalism, the military and more. You can watch the event [here](#).



BREAK THE BIAS COLLAGE

I am proud to have been included in this collage marking International Women's Day by leading human rights and women's rights barrister Dr Charlotte Proudman #BreakTheBias

HOW CAN YOU HELP UKRAINE?

I know that people in Feltham and Heston will be shocked and appalled at the human cost of Putin's war of aggression in Ukraine and will want to help support the Ukrainian people during this difficult time.

The UK Government recommends that those in the UK seeking to help in Ukraine consider:

Donating money to the Disasters Emergency Committee Ukraine appeal

Donating essential supplies: Organisations across the UK are gathering essential supplies, such as clothes, first aid and sanitary products. Many charities and community groups will have lists of items they need.

Applying to be a sponsor: The government has launched a new sponsorship scheme, Homes for Ukraine, to make sure that Ukrainians who have been forced to flee their homes have a route to safety. You can register your interest in the scheme as a business or as an individual at <https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk>

I also joined the rally in Trafalgar Square led by Mayor Sadiq Khan, as London stood with Ukraine I have been working with the All Saints Church in Hanworth and the St John's Mar Thoma Church in Hounslow West, delivering donations for Ukraine from where lorry loads of donations are being sent to the front line. We are working with Ukrainian priest Rev Sergiy Diduk and the local Ukrainian community. If you want to get involved please email me at malhotras@parliament.uk



HOUNSLOW COUNCIL ELECTIONS

VOTE ON THE 5TH OF MAY FOR YOUR WARD COUNCILLORS.

Register to vote here: <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>

Voting by post:

A postal vote is a quick, easy and secure alternative to voting at a polling station.

You will receive your vote pack a week before polling day. Just mark the ballot papers(s), and return it in the pre-paid envelope provided.



SEEMA IN THE MEDIA:

POLITICS LIVE:

https://twitter.com/SeemaMalhotra1/status/1506318952464625664?s=20&t=c7T6tf12PgUzNFTPXZgR_w

I joined Politics Live to discuss the cost of living crisis in the UK.



[6 ways Russian oligarchs can 'get away with it' with loopholes in new crackdown](#)

I spoke in Parliament about Economic Crime Bill. The Bill will introduce a "public register of beneficial owners of overseas entities owning land in the UK". But the government refused to accept Labour's plans for a 28 day grace period to declare assets. Six months still provides ample time for criminals to sell properties and find other assets to invest in.



I also joined a panel of speakers on Westminster Hour to discuss the war in Ukraine and children's mental health in the UK.

My role as Co-Chair of the APPG on Mortgage Prisoners
[APPG challenges Co-operative Bank over treatment of mortgage prisoners](#)
[Vulnerable mortgage customers are facing 'devastating increases' in standard variable rates, MPs warn](#)

LABOUR FRIENDS OF PALESTINE RECEPTION

It was fantastic to see a brilliant turnout to the Labour Friends of Palestine and the Middle East's Reception. We heard some incredibly powerful speeches reaffirming Labour's commitment to the immediate recognition of Palestine and for the upholding of the rule of law.

The event at which Labour leader Keir Starmer spoke at was attended by many Labour colleagues, campaigning organisations and the head of the Palestinian Mission to the United Kingdom Husam Zomlot. The Labour Party wants to see an end to the forcible evictions of Palestinians in East Jerusalem and an end to Israeli settlements. Our goal must be a two state solution - with a sovereign Palestine alongside a safe and secure Israel.



BACKING HANWORTH PARK HOUSE

I continue to back Hanworth Park House and have written in support of the project as it goes through its next stage of planning. Thank you to the London Borough of Hounslow for all their work on this. We need to make sure that all agencies involved including the Greater London Assembly and English Heritage work quickly to ensure that progress can be made before the House deteriorates further. We cannot take the risk with this huge national asset in our community

Here is my letter of support for Hanworth Park House



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

I met London's Deputy Mayor for Crime and Policing Sophie Linden to discuss the need for more stability and resource for our neighbourhood policing teams and the Mayor's new Violence against Women and Girls strategy.



WORKS ON WHITEHALL VISIT

I had a tour of the works on Whitehall as Cadent worked to repair a gas leak caused by a cracked pipe. We discussed the way the team evacuated local buildings next to Parliament to keep people safe, as well as the role high tech robots played in conducting repairs from a control room. We also had a chance to discuss how jobs have changed over time. The workforce was adapting and growing as technology developed and it is important to see how we can work to support apprenticeships in the industry.



HOUNSLOW CHRISTMAS PROJECT

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



DEFIBRILLATORS IN SPORTS

I visited Feltham Rugby Club and spoke to Kevin about their work, improvements at Hanworth Park. Following his request to Hounslow Council I'm really pleased he also received a defibrillator for the club which will help save lives.

In the UK there are more than 30,000 out of hospital cardiac arrests each year. Survival, with no defibrillator on site, is a one in ten chance. It is incredibly important for defibrillators to be in all sports facilities, to ensure that athletes remain safe.



IFTAR AT THE OPEN KITCHEN

I had a very special evening where I joined volunteers from Open Kitchen in Heston for Iftar. We heard a wonderful description of Ramadan and then shared stories about each other's lives. A huge thank you to Ehsan Shahid Choudhry for hosting us and looking after us so wonderfully and with such care and generosity. Wishing all celebrating a very Happy Ramadan. Ramadan Mubarak!



HOUNSLOW FESTIVAL OF BUSINESS

It was great to join the Hounslow Chamber of Commerce for their third annual festival. Hounslow is the borough of business – our economy is strong, made up of nearly a third of a million people, over 18,000 businesses. It is an economy of nearly £20bn. The Hounslow Festival of Business was a brilliant opportunity to showcase and promote our diverse business community, with our 40 stalls and businesses present.



RAM NAVAMI AT JALARAM MANDIR

Great to have visited the Hounslow Jalaram Mandir to join them in celebrating Ram Navami - the birth of Lord Ram. I wish love, peace and prosperity to the Hindu community and all others celebrating. Happy Ram Navami!



GG2 PRIDE OF BRITAIN

I was so proud to present the GG2 Pride of Britain Award to anti-racism campaigner and former professional cricketer Azeem Rafiq tonight. His dream of playing cricket at the highest level didn't happen because of racism. His courage in speaking out is now changing the world.



VISIT TO PARLIAMENT

It was great to welcome Brian from Feltham who visited Parliament and watched a debate from the public gallery. If you would like to visit Parliament, please email me.



EASTER BONNET COMPETITION

St Michael's and St Martin's School held their annual Easter Bonnet Parade. Children brought in an Easter Bonnet that they made at home. It was wonderful to be presenting the prizes to the winners!



PARENTZONE ART COMPETITION

I was delighted to present a special award of his framed artwork to Alexander from St Martin's and Martin School. He was highly commended in the Parent Zone and Google's 'Find Your Balance: A day in my digital life' art competition, this was a fantastic achievement.



The winning entries were also displayed in the Houses of Parliament in February.

GOOD FRIDAY

I was very honoured to attend the St Lawrence's Church in Feltham alongside Mayor Cllr Bishnu Gurung for a very powerful and moving Good Friday service. We wished all those celebrating a very happy Easter.



VAISAKHI CELEBRATIONS

I joined Sangat at Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara in Hounslow to mark Vaisakhi and to witness the raising of Nishan Sahib outside the Gurdwara. Thank you to all the Trustees and Committee members for a very special day with so many gathered together for first time since Covid. We also discussed our work on the campaign against the planning application, next to the Gurdwara amid concerns it will affect the day to day activities. Thank you also to all at Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha Gurdwara where I visited in the evening.



NAZANIN ZAGHARI-RATCLIFFE

It felt brilliant to celebrate with Tulip Siddiq MP on the news that Nazanin was coming home. Over the last 6 years, I had met with Richard Ratcliffe several times to support him in his campaign to secure the release of his wife Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe. It is incredible to have her back home.

