

From: Alicia alicia.kearns.mp@parliament.uk
Subject: Reporting Back - Alicia Kearns MP's Newsletter
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To: mark.bush3@btinternet.com

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As ever, it's been a busy month getting out and about in Rutland and Melton, including visiting Welly's in Melton, planting a Sakura Cherry Blossom, visiting C.S. Ellis, opening Hambleton Bakery's new artisan bakery, pulling a pint at the Bell Inn, visiting the Rutland Nursey, touring Harington School and Brooksby Melton, welcoming Catmose College students to Parliament, meeting the community group working to save the Red Lion, visting Tuxford and Tebbett, meeting staff from Pepper's, visiting Versatile, touring Samworth Brothers, Meeting Greetham-Stretton footpath campaigners, visiting PacWolf and opening The Stockyard



Good afternoon

GOOD AFTERNOON,

It's been a pleasure to be able to get out and about in Rutland, Melton, the Vale and Harborough villages as Parliament hasn't been sitting, as we await the Government's new agenda being laid out in the Queen's Speech.

In this newsletter, I'm delighted to be able to update you on just some of the work I'm doing on behalf of our communities.

In today's newsletter:

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Sending you all my very best wishes,



Alicia

MMDR

For forty years, Melton has wanted a new bypass – and when I was elected, I promised that I would do everything in my power to make the MMDR a reality.

Last year, after many many hurdles, it was confirmed that the MMDR would be built in full – and in April, the first works on the road began – with an opening date in 2025 announced for the opening.

I'm so grateful to everyone at Melton Borough Council, especially Cllr Joe Orson and Edd de Coverly, for getting this over the line. This road will have an incredible impact on Melton, with a proposed £160 million of investment in our town.



More Police for Rutland and Melton

Communities can only thrive when they are safe – and that means we need a well-resourced local police force – with more officers on our streets, with equipment appropriate for the job of a rural police force.

I've been working with our police to make sure our brilliant rural crime team have the clothing and vehicles they need – as well as proper training for 999 operatives to deal with rural crime better.

I'm also delighted that, working with the Government to increase funding for new officers, Leicestershire and Rutland Police now has an extra 269 officers since the last election in 2019.

TOUGH ON CRIME

Alice Keen

269
NEW
POLICE OFFICERS
FOR LEICESTERSHIRE AND
RUTLAND SINCE 2019

It was such a pleasure to join our police on the beat recently – the job they do keeping us safe is nothing short of astounding – and I will continue to do everything I can to make sure our police have the police and manpower they need to keep us safe.

Ministerial Visits to Rutland and Melton

Last week, it was my pleasure to welcome my good friend, the Education Secretary Nadhim Zahawi, to Rutland and Melton.





It was wonderful to show him around the fantastic Catmose College and Harington School, where we were treated to music from the

fabulous jazz band, looked at amazing art, watched the national champions gymnastic team and listened to the hustings for Head Boy and Girl.

Students from Catmose also came to visit me in Parliament earlier in April – and it was my pleasure to answer some of their questions after their tour. If your school would like to visit Parliament, please contact my office.



Nadhim and I also visited Brooksby Melton to learn about the amazing agricultural education offer they provide.

We met students working on building tractors and engineering, show jumping and equine education, sheep shearing and livestock care, ornamental gardening and horticulture and more!

Nadhim shares Brooksby's passion in agr-education and skills, and we were both delighted to see just how impressive Brooksby is at

providing skills for a career in agriculture and so much more!

It was also great to see the site for the new, Government-funded building that will only serve to enhance Brooksby's incredible offer.



Our final stop was an utterly joyous hour spent with Welly's Work Place at Melton Country Park. SEN education is an absolute priority of mine – and Welly's provide incredible care for young people and adults in our area.





Well done to Zoe and Pippa for providing great opportunities to children – and I know that Nadhim wants to transform SEN for our young people (as well as those over 25) so that parents know the system is on our side. Indeed, I asked him about this in Parliament only a few weeks ago.



The Government is introducing a national SEN system with specific standards and expectations so parents know what their rights are and

standards and expectations, so parents know what their rights are and what support their children should get, ending what is too often a post code lottery, and putting in place £2.6bn additional funding. As part of this, he's looking at how we ensure children don't need an EHCP to get what they need.

We discussed tribunals, and I'm please Nadhim is proposing mandatory mediation to limit parents having to go to court, and the recognition of how difficult it is to access care in rural areas.

[The Government is currently consulting on this policy – and you can have your say here.](#)

It was also my pleasure to welcome Maggie Throup, the Vaccines Minister, to our vaccination clinic in Oakham.

It was amazing to talk to the clinical staff, and the volunteers, about the work that they have done to make us safe from COVID-19. I can't thank everyone involved in the vaccination drive enough – and I know Minister Throup was shown an absolutely first-class clinic here in Oakham.





Levelling Up

Local communities know best our to improve our towns and villages – and I'm thrilled that the Government is making its commitment to levelling up our communities clear.

In April, it was announced that the Government is providing over £4.5 million for Harborough District Council, Melton Borough Council and Rutland County Council to pay for measures such as rejuvenating high streets, fighting anti-social behaviour and crime or helping people find good jobs locally.

Most importantly, this is for our councils to decide how the money will be spent – and I can't wait to see how our councils spend this money.

Since my election I've been working hard to increase funding for our local councils. Over the last few weeks, I've met with Kemi Badenoch and separately Stuart Andrew, both local communities and government ministers, as well as discussing the issue with Michael Gove. I have a debate on the issue in Parliament this week - tune in on Wednesday!

Japanese Cherry Blossom in Rutland and Melton

Last year, the Japanese Embassy got in touch to offer a cherry blossom tree for Rutland and Melton as a sign of the friendship between the UK and Japan as part of their [Sakura Tree Project](#).

I was delighted that they offered us 20 trees (a very cheeky request!) – and on Friday, I was thrilled to help plant just one of the trees at Melton Country Park.

They're being planned all across Rutland, Melton, the Vale and

Harborough Villages – with blossoms given to schools, Kendrew Barracks, Parish Councils and community groups across our communities.

I can't wait to see them in bloom next year!



Mallard Pass

We all want to play our part in the UK achieving Net Zero as we boost our domestic energy production.

But the proposed 2,175-acre Mallard Pass solar plant in Eastern Rutland isn't the answer – not only would it cover our green and pleasant land

and the answer – not only would it cover our green and pleasant lands, but the developer is a company reportedly with a [track record of using slave labour to produce the panels.](#)

Last month, I hosted a meeting for residents to have their say on the development. I invited the developers to come to make their case – but they declined to come and hear why residents do not want our fields covered in their solar panels with dubious supply chains.

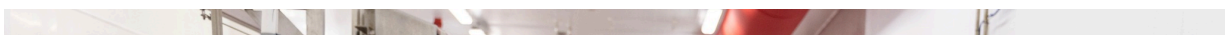
Soon, another consultation will open. It's vital that residents have their say. We can stop this solar plant if we continue to work together.



The Rural Capital of Food and Drink

Melton is the rural capital of food and drink – and it's been a pleasure to visit some incredible businesses which show just how important our town is to the country.

I was delighted to make my first visit to Samworth Brothers in Melton last week and it's quite something to see 1,000 people working hard to make the sandwiches, wraps and toasties enjoyed by millions across our country every day!





Tuxford and Tebbett Arla Creamery is the oldest dairy in the world making our world-renowned Stilton.

It's an incredible dairy, right in the heart of Melton, and I can't wait to visit again!





I've long wanted our town to be a real destination for foodies, and to have a central point for tourists coming to the home of Stilton and the Melton Mowbray Pork Pie – so they can see the other incredible business we have here.

The Stockyard is just that – showcasing the best food and drink Melton has to offer, with event spaces and stalls from some of our biggest names, including Long Clawson, Dickinson and Morris, the award-winning Round Corner Brewing, Simply Chocolate and Samosa Wallah.





Brentingby Gin, one of the best gins I've ever tasted, and distilled right here in Melton. I'm so pleased that they have opened a gin and cocktail bar in the Livestock Market. It was a pleasure to visit them – such amazing cocktails, and I'm really excited to see how this very welcome addition to Melton evolves over the coming years!



Community Pubs

Pubs are the hearts of our communities – and we're lucky to have one

of the largest numbers of them across Rutland, Melton, the Vale and Harborough villages.

When a village loses a pub, it really is a loss to everyone in the community – and I've been proud to support community buy-outs of two pubs recently.

The Bell Inn, Frisby has just re-opened after the Frisby Community Group achieved their funding goal – and I was thrilled to secure £150,000 from the Government to help this wonderful pub re-open.

It was a joy to be at the Bell for the re-opening – and to pull a pint! Everyone in Frisby is behind this, and I know it will be a great success!



Up the road in Stathern, the community is fundraising to bring the Red Lion, once a wonderful pub at the heart of the village, back to life as a pub.

I met with them recently to discuss their hopes, and I'm completely behind this effort.

If you would like to support the Red Lion campaign group, [you can do so here](#).



Out and About in Rutland, Melton, the Vale and Harborough Villages

Many people don't realise that Rutland and Melton is the home of so many serious and important businesses. I've been lucky enough to visit some of them over the past few weeks, as well as community groups and much more besides!



C.S. Ellis has been a major Rutland employer since 1933 – and are now helping the next generation by employing ten apprenticeships each year. It's a wonderful, friendly haulage company, and a brilliant part of the fabric of Rutland.





Did you know that Rutland is at the forefront of our nation's cement production, with Hanson's Quarry in Ketton?

It was a pleasure to meet them, and to learn more about how Hanson's is moving its production process forward – including the use of non-fossil fuels in one of the kilns.





While we have these large and important national businesses, there are also the smaller, local ones that have just as much impact on the local community. Places like the Rutland Nursery which has big plans to provide an even better experience, with a new café and shop.

And it was a pleasure to open Rutland institution Hambleton Bakery's new artisan bakery workshop. Tim and Julian are just so invested in our community, and opening this second site really does show that commitment to all of us.

I don't think I have a career in fishing loaves ahead of me!





The company that built the exact lab where the AZ vaccine was created was also built by Versatile Venues in Luffenham – a mobile events company that pivoted to support the fight against COVID-19, and creating mobile vaccination centres as well. A truly brilliant company.





I also visited PacWolf – a warehouse and packaging facility which is investing heavily in high-tech solutions to fulfilment. PacWolf has a commitment to sustainability that is staggering – one that I look forward to raising with colleagues in the Government.



There aren't many events quite like the Hallaton Bottle Kicking – and it was a thrill to go for the first time this year! Aside from the fact that it was such a fun spectacle from start to finish, it was truly a community event that brought everyone together – and has for over a thousand years.

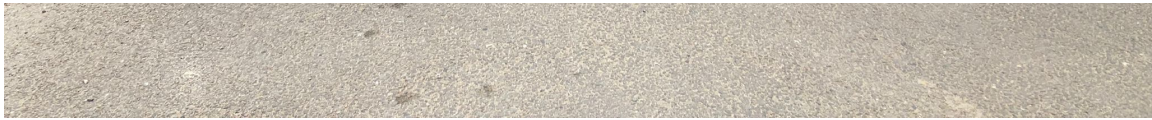
Words can't really do justice to this amazing event – so I made this video to give a flavour of a wonderful day!





Earlier this year, I ran a competition to find Rutland and Melton's Favourite Independent Shop – and it's been wonderful to visit many of the winners and nominees – each of which having been nominated by customers. One of those was Hilltop Farm Shop and Café just outside Melton. If you're keen on amazing produce at impossible prices, with great service, you should go to Hilltop just outside Melton – Rutland and Melton's Favourite Independent Farm Shop.



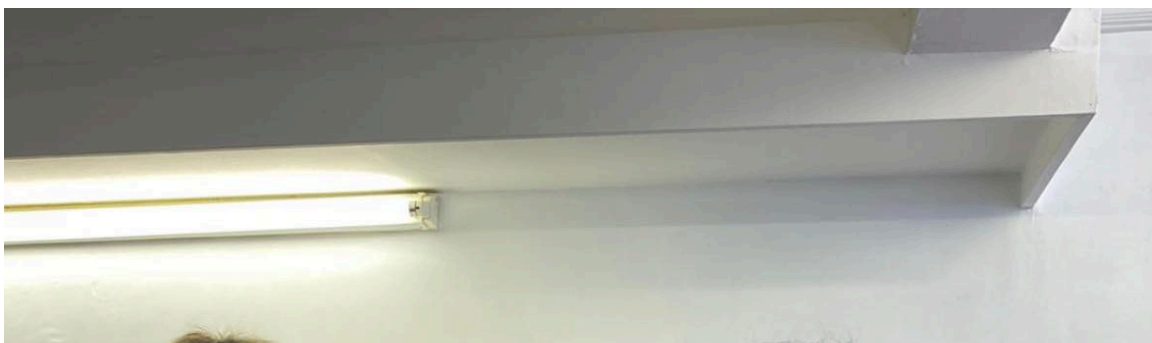


Where we live is the most wonderful, and one of the most rural, parts of the country. I love the fact that there are almost 200 villages dotted around our fields and rolling hills – but that makes it important that our villages are connected.

That's why I met with residents of Greetham and Stretton who want a proper footpath between their villages. While I don't have the power to create footpaths, I'm keen to work with our councils to see what can be done in terms of a wider foot and cycle path strategy.



It was a thrill to drop the flag on Britain's first elite cycle race since the Pandemic – the Rutland-Melton CiCLE Classic. It was such a privilege to open this amazing race, which brought some of the world's best riders to our beautiful countryside!





It was wonderful to get the chance to visit [Pepper's](#), the amazing community group providing a space space for adults with mental health challenges to socialise and make friends in a safe environment.

Pepper's was recently awarded a £10,000 grant from the National Lottery to fund new premises, and it was amazing to visit and here about how they plan to do even more good in both Melton and Oakham!

I am very keen to help any constituent who may require my

assistance. If there is something you feel I could assist you with,
please use the link below.

Contact Me



[view this email in your browser](#)

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My mailing address is:

alicia.kearns.mp@parliament.uk

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