



**David
Baines**

Member of Parliament for
St Helens North



Newsletter **September 2024**

Representing Billinge and Seneley Green, Blackbrook, Haydock, Moss Bank, Newton-le-Willows, Parr, Rainford and Windle

Dear Residents,

Welcome to my September newsletter with an update on the latest news and my work in Westminster and St Helens North in recent weeks.

Councillor Linda Maloney MBE



This month's report begins with the extremely sad news that Councillor Linda Maloney MBE has passed away.

Linda was my friend, a mentor, and a constant source of encouragement and support. She was one of the first people I met in the local Labour Party over 20 years ago and she has been there for me every step of the way ever since. I will miss her immensely.

She served the people of St Helens for over 30 years as a councillor and through her entire life she was devoted to other people – her family, her colleagues, her community. She always put others first, without fail.

She was a formidable woman with a wicked sense of humour, unending kindness, and strong Labour values. She inspired me and all who were lucky to know her.

I know this has been a huge shock and it will be an immeasurable loss to so many people. Our community, our Council, and the Labour Party will not be the same without her.

My love and thoughts go to her husband Mike and all her family, and all those who knew and loved her.

Parliamentary Update

In parliament, I [asked](#) Ministers about the curriculum review and stressed the importance of oracy, learning through play and multi-sensory learning – not just for children with SEND but for all pupils. I have also written an article for Schools Week on this issue which you can read [here](#).

I was also pleased to be able to congratulate the Turks Head on being in the running for national CAMRA Pub of the Year. I have also written to Ministers about the WASPI campaign, the take up of Pension Credit, and more.

I have taken the opportunity to join various Labour and All Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs). These groups bring together experts to advocate for specific interests, industries and campaigns. I attended the first meeting of the Horseracing APPG, and the first meeting of the Labour Group on [Coalfield Communities](#).

I will attend further meetings with interests in Rugby League, Glass, Dyslexia, Liverpool City Region, Growth, Horse Racing and others which serve the interests of people and businesses in St Helens North.

Labour Party Conference

As the month came to an end, I was pleased to be in Liverpool for the Labour Party Conference where I had the opportunity to meet with some great campaigning organisations. I was proud to hear the first Labour Prime Minister in 14 years speak and to hear his commitment to introduce the new Hillsborough Law before the next anniversary in April, and I was also pleased to be in the hall to hear Ed Miliband commit to action on the Mineworkers' Pension Scheme scandal.

I met with leaders from the TUC, WASPI women and the Coalfields Regeneration Trust about how we can deliver for people in St Helens North. I met with Lumo who are hoping to deliver a new railway line connecting Newton-le-Willows with London. I was also honoured to be invited by Speech and Language UK to take part in their [panel](#) discussion on the importance of oracy in the early years and the challenges facing the SEND system and schools.



Winter Fuel Allowance

The government has taken the decision to only give the Winter Fuel Allowance to those most in need who claim Pension Credit. This was without doubt an extremely difficult choice and not one I or anyone else expected to have to make in our first few months in office. But the reality of the mess we've inherited means we can't do everything we'd like to do and some very difficult decisions are needed.

I have signed a [motion](#) in Parliament calling on the government to review the threshold for Pension Credit, and I will be continuing to press Ministers to do more for those who are not currently eligible. Labour is committed to continue to protect the pension triple lock, guaranteeing the state pension rises every year, and we are doing all we can to encourage everyone to apply for Pension Credit so that nobody eligible misses out.

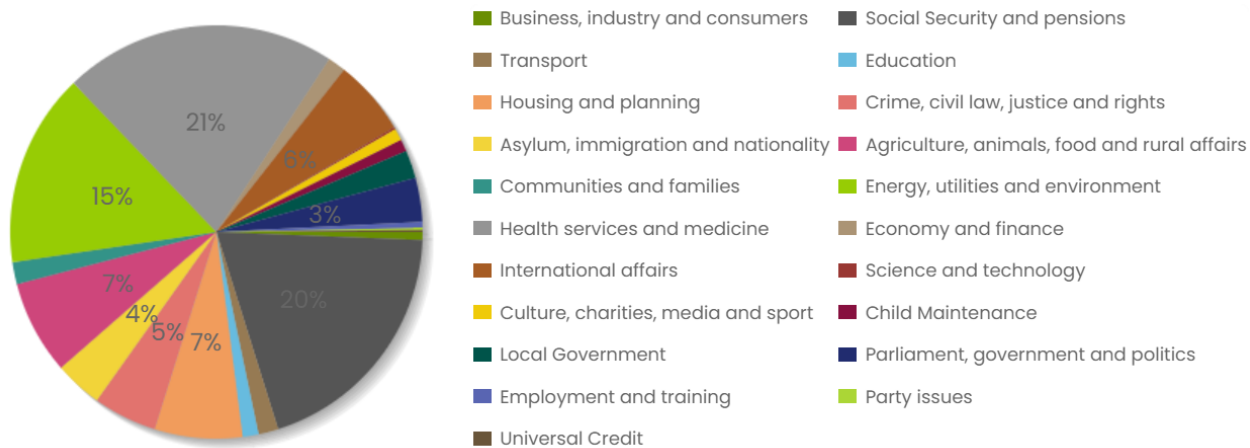


We need to make sure that everyone entitled to Pension Credit is claiming it. Please check if you are eligible by visiting the following link: www.gov.uk/pension-credit/eligibility or by calling the Pension Credit claim line at 0800 99 1234.

Casework Update

Since becoming our MP in July my small office team and I have helped more than 900 constituents across St Helens North with various problems and have answered hundreds more emails, calls and letters asking questions about policy.

As the chart below shows, the most frequent casework issue I've helped people with has been health services followed by a wide range of issues from energy and utilities to employment and training.



In St Helens North

I was delighted to hold my first advice surgery in Rainford at the beautiful village hall, meeting Junction Inn owner Paul Draper among others. I fully support Paul's efforts to keep the marquee and I'm pressing the council to find a sensible solution.

I have had numerous meetings and visits in the past month. It was my pleasure to be invited to Burrows Court in Parr where I listened to residents speak about the issues that are important to them such as the winter fuel allowance, crime and local bus services.

I met with Merseyside Police Supt Dawn McNally to discuss issues raised with me by residents including antisocial behaviour, rural crime, knife crime and more. Our police have my backing in making sure our communities get resources and support.

I visited Billinge Plantation with the Woodland Trust to learn about their important work here and across the country, and I visited Garswood Medical Centre to hear about the numerous services on offer and the challenges facing our health services. I also visited Satis Education to help celebrate their 7th anniversary and find out more about their work supporting schools.

As part of Back British Farmers week, I took the chance to visit the fantastic Mossborough Hall Farm in Rainford to find out more about their work and the challenges facing farming and agriculture.

I was delighted to help present Haydock Reading Rooms with their certificate to celebrate their winning Regional Club of the year, and it was a pleasure to visit Horizon Shutters in Haydock to talk about the challenges they and other small businesses face. Family-run businesses like these play a vital role in our economy and I want to see them thrive in St Helens North.



On 24th September I put on one of my favourite Saints shirts to mark [Rugby League Shirt Day](#). Another highlight of the month was my visit to the Newton-le-Willows Family Hub to meet with parents, staff and children. It was fantastic to hear how much they enjoy the sessions and the positive impact the hub is having in bringing partners together to support families.

Last week I [addressed](#) the AGM of the Industrial Communities Alliance which was taking place in St Helens, talking about the challenges and opportunities for communities like ours, and I attended my first meeting of the St Helens Town Deal Board as our MP.

The coming weeks promise to be just as busy. In Parliament, the month will likely be dominated by the Budget which will be announced on 30th October while here in St Helens North I am looking forward to more advice surgeries, meetings and community visits.

Please remember you can stay up to date with my work on social media at [@DavidBainesMP](#), and please do get in touch with me using the details below if I can be of any help.

Best wishes,

David



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