

Forward Together

Latest news from David Baines MP

Your Member of Parliament for St Helens North

May 2026 Edition



Back to Carr Mill Primary School!

Putting children and young people first

Inside:



**Play is Learning!
Seeing how it's done
at Queen's Park**



**Rugby League's
Service of
Remembrance**



**Remembering
our local heritage**

And more...

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On social media: @DavidBainesMP



Dear Residents,

Welcome to my May newsletter which you can now encourage your friends and family to subscribe to [via this sign-up form on my website](#).

I hope you find it interesting and please do feel free to contact me anytime using the details on the back page if you need my support.

St Helens Borough Council Election Results

I want to start this month's newsletter by congratulating all those elected in the local elections, and especially well done to the new Council Leader and his Cabinet. I am willing to work constructively with them in the interests of the whole borough but I will always put the interests of people here first, and I will hold the council to account as I always have.

I am pleased that Labour Councillor Keith Laird retained his seat and that he will be joined by Cllr Ian Mills. I know they will both do an outstanding job for Newton-le-Willows East.

Across the borough though, Labour lost too many dedicated, hardworking public representatives. I pay tribute and give thanks to all those who have served as Labour councillors, those who stood as candidates, and all their families, for their service to our community over many years. Our leader Anthony Burns and his team are all local residents who love this borough and always did their best for people here. I am proud of him and all our local Labour team.

I am also immensely grateful to all those who voted Labour. We have never taken any vote for granted and we never will. People can be assured we are going nowhere and we are ready to continue the fight, beginning with the postponed election in Town Centre ward and in Haydock where there will now be a by-election – both take place on Thursday 25th June.

The results locally are clearly a reflection of people's dissatisfaction with what is happening nationally. Two years in to a Labour government, the public are impatient for the change they voted for in July 2024. I am too. But it isn't just about a lack of pace – it is clear that people feel let down by some of the decisions the government has made and this election was their chance to show their feelings.

Despite real progress – on employment rights, renters' rights, breakfast clubs giving children the best start to the day and action to tackle child poverty – we haven't done enough since July 2024 to win the argument about what this Labour government stands for, whose side we're on, and the kind of future we are trying to build.

It is clear that Labour needs to be better locally and nationally, and I am determined to listen to people's concerns and do what it takes to earn your trust next time round.

Labour in St Helens hands over a council in strong shape. Our adults and children's social care services are rated Good to Outstanding, we have incredible staff and excellent frontline services, we have financial stability, and the delivery of significant regeneration in both our town centres is already underway.

Reform and others made a lot of promises to the people of St Helens that they now have to deliver. I am worried for all those residents who need and rely on council services because Reform are a Party that supports yet more huge cuts to public services, and we've seen from elsewhere some of the shocking decisions Reform councils have made and the chaos they have brought.

I am concerned about the way the new council leadership have started, as I report later in this newsletter, but I want to assure residents that however you voted I will be continuing in my job to represent us in Westminster and I'll also be continuing to fight for more funding for our council, whoever is in control. But make no mistake, myself and our local Labour team will hold the Reform councillors to account at every turn in the interests of everyone in our communities.



The Future of SEND in St Helens

Thank you so much to those who came to my latest SEND forum, and thank you to Deafness Resource Centre in Windle for hosting. I am also grateful for everybody that took the time to get in touch with me and share their views.

Following the long awaited reform proposals published by the government earlier this year in the [Schools White Paper](#), a consultation was set up for people to share their views which has now closed. I've fed back the thoughts of people in St Helens North to Ministers and you can read my submissions [here](#).

Since the election here in St Helens, I have received lots of messages from people concerned about Reform UK's views regarding SEND. Now that cabinet positions have been confirmed I have written to the lead member for Children and Young People Cllr Michael Chesworth asking for clarification about their views and plans. You can read my letter [here](#).



Makerfield, Haydock, and Town Centre elections

Later this month, people in our neighbouring constituency of Makerfield will go to the polls to elect their next Member of Parliament. Firstly, I would like to thank Josh Simons MP who worked incredibly hard for Makerfield and it was fantastic to work with. I wish him all the best.

I am delighted that Andy Burnham has been selected as the Labour candidate in this election. His record as Mayor of Greater Manchester alongside his strengths as both a political operator and communicator are assets that we as a government need in Westminster. We need all of our best players on the pitch if we are to turn things around following the local elections, and if elected, I know Andy can help shape that. The election will take place on the 18th June.

Here in St Helens we have Michelle Sweeney and Michael Fisher standing in the postponed Town Centre ward elections and Owen Farnworth standing in the Haydock by-election, both on June 25th. **I strongly urge people to vote Labour so we can give the new Reform council leadership the scrutiny they need.**



In St Helens North

[It was absolutely fantastic to visit Carr Mill Primary School to see their free breakfast club in action!](#) It was a special visit for me because I used to teach there, and it was a treat to step into my old classroom again! Thank you so much to Mr Maley, Mrs Alexander, Mrs Kennedy and all the incredible staff for their dedication and outstanding work. Carr Mill is one of the first schools in St Helens North to benefit from Labour's free breakfast clubs, but every school will be getting one. Every child deserves the best start in life, and that's what I'm determined to help deliver

[I had the pleasure of attending a special VE Day tea dance at Haydock Conservative Club to commemorate the 81st anniversary of VE Day.](#) The event was extremely well attended, great fun, and also raised money for the Standing Tall Foundation. We remember and give thanks to all those who served, and especially to those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

[Thank you to 26th St Helens Brownies in Haydock for inviting me to come and say hello.](#) It was great to hear about the work the children have done to learn about politics and community action, and to answer their questions about my job as MP. Thank you Carole and Meg for all their work and to the children for a warm welcome.

[A huge congratulations to Bleak Hill Rovers U11 Athletic who have won the Warrington League Europa Cup Final!](#) Congratulations to all the players, to their coaches Robin Gibson and Michelle McPhail who I know give so much time and effort to support the team, and to club Chairman Tom Lee and everyone involved.

[I visited Haydock Library where they were holding a special event to discuss our mining heritage.](#) It was great to catch up with ex-mineworkers Colin, Stephen and Dave to hear about their experiences. We chatted about the dangers of their work and how important health and safety laws are - they are rights we should never take for granted.

[Thank you so much to Lansbury Bridge for inviting me to see their amazing school.](#) And a huge thank you also to Deputy Head Ruth Clarkson and Chair of Governors John Waszek for taking the time to sit down with me and discuss the government's proposals for SEND



More in St Helens North

[Thank you to Queen's Park Primary School for inviting me to see their OPAL Outdoor Play and Learning CIC provision.](#) It's about high quality, free play that happens every lunchtime - letting children be children, exploring outside in almost every weather, building their own things to play with and building relationships and resilience too.

[The Smallest Things Charity - for Premature Babies & Their Families is a charity working to raise awareness and improve support for premature babies and their families.](#)

As part of the charity's work, they run a Prem Aware Award to support and recognise schools and early years settings in helping children who were born prematurely with their social, emotional and academic needs.



St Helens Borough Council Concerns

I'm willing to work with our new council leadership constructively in the best interests of people in St Helens North.

I congratulate all those elected from every party on their elections and appointments, and in particular new Leader Cllr George Woodward who now has the huge privilege and responsibility of leading the council and delivering for the borough. I wish them well in their roles - their success is our success.

I am concerned though that just two weeks in the job and already with one of their councillors resigned, as their first order of business Reform have decided to use £200k of public money over the next four year term to employ a political adviser to help them come up with ideas for what to do and how to do it. Frankly, that's the councillors' job - which they are meant to do supported by the excellent council officers who are already there.

I hope this isn't a sign of questionable decision making to come.

A council report estimates the cost of the post at around £52,000 per year, to be funded from the existing 2026-27 budget.

The St Helens Star have reported on this, and the quote above is from their [story here.](#)

In Westminster

For too long, private renters in St Helens North have faced insecurity, unfair rent rises and the threat of no-fault evictions. That has changed this month. [Labour's Renters' Rights Act is the biggest shake-up in renters' rights for 40 years](#) – giving nearly 6,000 households in our constituency more security, stronger protections and fairer treatment. No more Section 21 evictions. Fairer rent rules. An end to bidding wars. Stronger rights for families, pet owners and those on benefits. This is Labour delivering for working people in St Helens North and across the country.

May has also been a huge month with significant announcements to help people in St Helens North. Labour has launched the British Summer Savings scheme, with free bus travel for children in August and VAT cuts on attractions, cinemas, and children's meals, to help families with the cost of living.

Net migration has been cut by almost three quarters in the first 18 months of Labour being in office, hotel numbers have fallen, deportations are up, and asylum applications are down

Labour has extended the fuel duty freeze, and we are cutting red diesel rates and giving hauliers a 12-month road tax holiday as well as a new International SEND Alliance as part of its once-in-a-generation reforms to improve support for children with special educational needs

Labour is introducing a new Neighbourhood Guarantee to deliver cleaner streets, get more potholes filled and strengthen local services and has secured the first G7 trade deal with the Gulf Cooperation Council, expected to boost the UK economy by £3.7 billion a year and increase wages by £1.9 billion a year

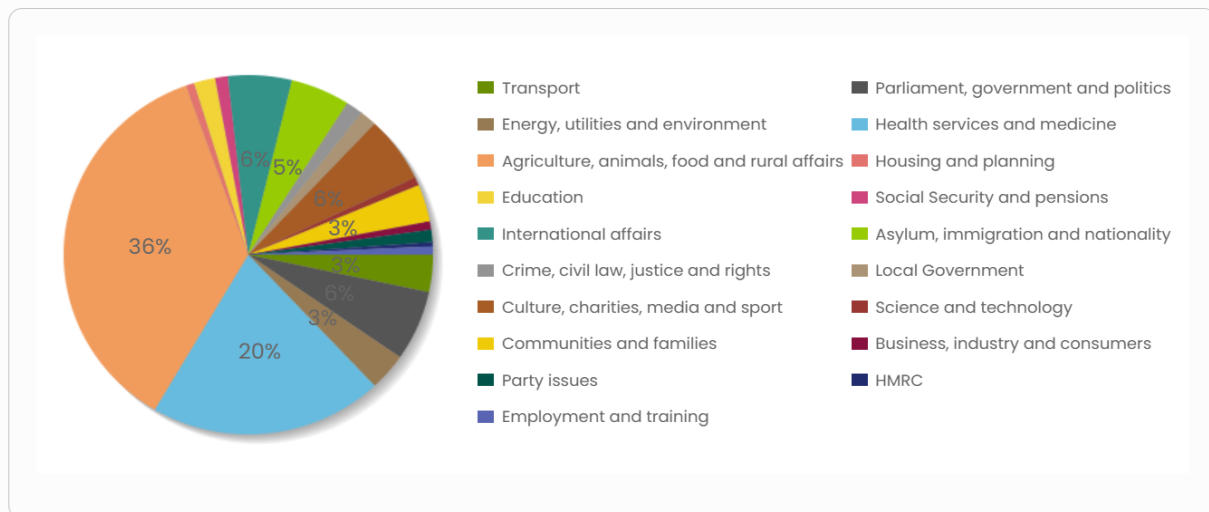
Labour is investing £96 million to create tens of thousands of construction placements and tackle skills shortages and get people into skilled jobs and is supporting local business by introducing a tough new late payment regime, with new powers to fine persistent late payers

Labour is cracking down on waste crime with stricter checks on waste operators and prison sentences of up to five years for waste criminals



Casework update

Breakdown of Cases by Type



This month we dealt with almost 300 cases ranging from animal welfare, to planning, to assisted dying, to immigration, and SEND.

Medical Support

Assisted a constituent in raising the urgent need of a constituent to the NHS thus securing a specialist appointment for their child when they had struggled to do so.

DVLA Assistance

Helped secure a response from the DVLA in relation to a license renewal which had taken longer than expected, enabling the constituent to once again have access to driving.

Visa Update

Supported a constituent in acquiring an update from the Home Office in relation to their relatives visa for a visit to the UK, securing a response and updating them on the Home Office's progress.

Social Care Help

Assisted a parent in raising their child's needs to the council to ensure that they received the necessary support that they require to have their needs met.

Rugby League at The Cenotaph

Every year before the Challenge Cup Finals the rugby league [family come together at the Cenotaph in London](#) to remember those who have served and those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

We're the only sport that does this. Rugby league and the communities that love it has a long and proud connection to the armed forces, and as Chair of the RL group in parliament I was proud to take part in the event alongside representatives from the RFL and the clubs taking part including St Helens Women.

Remember, if I can help with any issue or if you have any questions or comments, please do get in touch, and follow me on social media to stay up to date – details below.

Best wishes,
David



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