

News Report

from Meg Munn MP for Sheffield Heeley



Respect for Shop Workers at the Co-op

I visited a number of Co-operative Stores as part of the Usdaw union's campaign to protect shop workers from violence and abuse. I also discussed with managers and staff the work they are doing to ensure that they only sell alcohol to people over 18. As a responsible retailer the Co-op will not hesitate to challenge those who appear too young to buy these items.



Decent Homes



The government has invested £700 million across Sheffield to bring all social housing up to a 'decent standard' by 2010. Windows, doors, kitchens and bathrooms are being replaced to resident's needs and specifications.

Having a warm and secure home is vital and the work is clearly appreciated by residents.

Meersbrook Bike Park opening

I opened the new diamond skate bowl at Meersbrook Park. It provides for all wheeled sports including skateboarders, rollerbladers and bikers, and adds to the existing facilities in the park, giving the older young people more to do. Barclays Bank provided £50,000 for the project, Groundwork Research and Development designed it and local people and Sheffield City Council helped.



Anns Grove School

I visited Anns Grove School in their impressive new building. It is kitted out with interactive whiteboards and IT equipment, needed for 21st century education. Whilst there I discussed with a Year 6 class my job as the local Member of Parliament. The pupils asked a variety of questions; including about the environment and whether 'Tony Blair is nice or nasty?' I was delighted to meet pupils and hard-working teachers and wish them all well in their new and improved surroundings.

Woodseats Allotment Project

The Woodseats Allotment Project, off Abbey Lane, is unique as it offers a wide range of activities for adults with learning disabilities. It is in a wonderful setting, where people can learn about plants by planting seeds, nurturing their growth and then reap the rewards by selling the produce or taking their flowers and vegetables home.



Gleadless Valley • Meersbrook • Graves Park

More news from around our area

Energy centre in Heeley

Climate change has hit Sheffield particularly hard this year, bringing floods to the city. A Climate Change Bill will be introduced into Parliament to help reduce emissions, but we can all do our bit to help. The new Energy Centre at Heeley City Farm is helping to show local people how they can provide cleaner heat and light. It shows how green energy is generated and how you can save money by moving in a 'greener' direction.

If you would like practical advice and assistance on saving energy for your home or other green issues, or would like more information on the farm visit www.heeleyfarm.org.uk



Contact Meg

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Meg holds regular local advice surgeries around the constituency

- Batemoor
- Gleadless
- Heeley
- Manor Top
- Woodseats

To make an appointment please ring the office on 0114 263 4004

Gordon Brown visits the kids

The Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, visited Bankwood Surestart Children's Centre to see for himself the positive benefits that investment in children brings. Sure Start projects help ensure that children are given the best possible start in life by bringing together early education, childcare, health and family support in one place.

The Prime Minister was impressed and I know the school appreciated him taking time out of his busy schedule to visit the centre.



Raising awareness of body piercing

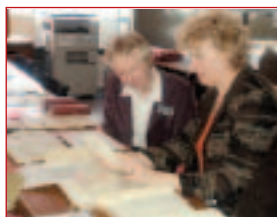
I helped launch a new information leaflet aimed at teenagers considering



having their body pierced. This initiative is led by constituent Christina Anderson, whose son Daniel died 4 years ago from septicaemia after having his lip pierced. Since Daniel's death I have campaigned on this issue. I was successful in getting the law changed to give councils the power to regulate body piercers. Sheffield is one of the first councils to take this up. For more information visit www.danaid.com

Abolition of the Slave Trade

In my previous Ministerial job I was part of the government team that organised the commemoration of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act of 1807. To 'gen up' on what happened in the city I visited Sheffield Archives and discovered the role local people took in the anti-slavery movement. It was interesting and inspiring to learn that so many Sheffielders got



involved to campaign for the emancipation of slaves.

A new Jamaican Prime Minister and the Panama Canal

Having become a Foreign Office Minister in the re-shuffle in July, I was very pleased to meet the new Prime Minister of Jamaica, Bruce Golding, following his country's general election. I then went to Panama where the expansion of the canal is creating lots of opportunities for British companies.



New Deal for Carers

Carers are people who work incredibly hard looking after relatives or friends no longer able to do so themselves. I visited the Sheffield Carers Centre to get views on how government could help more. Their priorities included more and better information, especially when they first become a carer; more financial support and increased breaks, with better day centre provision and respite care placements. I passed on this information to the relevant Minister, who will consider it as part of the widespread consultation currently taking place.

Meg Munn – your local MP for Sheffield Heeley