



PHILIP HOLLOBONE MP ...



KETTERING AT WESTMINSTER



... MAKING SURE THE CONCERNS OF LOCAL PEOPLE ARE HEARD AT THE HEART OF GOVERNMENT

More Police on the Streets



Newly released figures show that 114 police officers have been recruited in Northamptonshire as part of the Government's pledge to put 20,000 more officers on the streets by March 2023. This takes Northamptonshire's police numbers up 8% to 1,456.

Since the recruitment drive was launched in 2019, the 43 police forces across England and Wales have seen an additional 13,576 police officers recruited, putting the Government on track to deliver on its manifesto commitment with 68% of the target now met.

The 13,576 extra officers will support the Government's crackdown on crime, which has seen the launch of the Beating Crime Plan and the passing of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill through Parliament.

Meanwhile, Northamptonshire Police's Operation Crooked, which involves sending a police officer to the scene of every burglary has slashed domestic break-ins across the county by 48% in two years, down from 5,500 burglaries in 2019 to 2,850 in the 12 months to December 2021.

Queen's Speech

Philip Hollobone MP writes: The legislation outlined by Prince Charles in the Queen's Speech is aimed at getting our country back on track after the Covid pandemic and ensuring that we deliver on the promises made at the 2019 General Election. The priorities are growing the economy to address the cost of living squeeze and create more jobs, making our streets safer by cracking down on anti-social behaviour and crime and supporting the NHS to clear the treatment backlogs created by Covid19.

A new Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill will help spread opportunities by driving local growth and regeneration, creating more of the jobs, homes and high streets that people want. The Schools Bill will better prepare young people to take up these opportunities by levelling up education, raising standards. The Public Order Bill will give the police new powers to deal with highly disruptive protests. The Brexit Freedoms Bill will enable outdated law we have inherited from the EU to be changed to suit Britain's needs.



BBC NEWS BREAKING
State Opening of Parliament
Prince Charles delivering Queen's Speech for the first time

Photo: Kettering MP Philip Hollobone attends the House of Lords for the Queen's Speech. (Source: BBC)

Kettering in £17m full fibre internet boost

Digital infrastructure firm CityFibre has named Kettering as the next town in the UK which will receive a multi-million-pound investment in its digital infrastructure and see full fibre-enabled internet within reach of nearly every home and business.

Full fibre networks, unlike copper-based fibre broadband, use 100% fibre optic technology to carry data at light speed from the home to the point of connection. This gives users speeds of up to 1,000 Mbps and near limitless bandwidth.

Construction work on the £17m project starts in the north of the town this month and is expected to reach completion by 2024. It will bring a step change in connectivity for Kettering. Cllr David Howes, NNC's executive member for digital infrastructure says: "I'm delighted that full fibre connectivity is now available to almost 30% of properties in North Northamptonshire, up from less than 10% two years ago. These plans will boost this coverage and progress toward our targets of 40% full fibre by the end of 2023 and then 80% by 2028."

IN THE HOUSE *Standing Up and Speaking Out for Kettering*

Just a sample of the issues Kettering MP Philip Hollobone raised in the Commons recently

Prime Minister's Questions 20 April: Philip Hollobone MP, Kettering: If he will ensure that the NHS new hospital programme team (a) provide feedback to the local NHS trust on the strategic outline case for the redevelopment of Kettering General Hospital so that the subsequent outline business case can be submitted in July 2022 and (b) enable the drawdown of the £46 million of funding awarded in October 2019?

Rt. Hon. Boris Johnson MP, Prime Minister: I thank my hon. Friend, who is an excellent champion for Kettering. We are fully committed to the delivery of the new hospital for Kettering. The release of funding will be subject to the usual business case assessment process.

Philip Hollobone MP, Kettering: The redevelopment of Kettering General Hospital is the No. 1 local priority for residents in Kettering and across north Northamptonshire. Will my right hon. Friend please be kind enough to facilitate a meeting with the Health Secretary for the three local Members - myself and my hon. Friends the Members for Wellingborough and for Corby - together with the hospital chief executive so that we can trigger the start of the drawdown of the initial £46 million of funding?

Rt. Hon. Boris Johnson MP, Prime Minister: Yes; my right hon. Friend the Health Secretary has told me that he has met those individuals before and he is happy to meet them again.

Defence Questions 28 March: Philip Hollobone MP, Kettering: The Secretary of State's decision to send lethal defensive military aid to Ukraine before Russia's invasion was inspired, and it is probably one of the best decisions he has ever taken. What is the initial assessment of the Minister for the Armed Forces of the operational effectiveness in theatre of the next generation light anti-tank weapons we have sent to Ukraine?

James Heapey MP, Minister for the Armed Forces: One pauses because these weapon systems, every time they are effective, kill the entire crew of an armoured vehicle. My hon. Friend will take no pleasure from it, but he will be interested to note that these weapon systems have been prolific in their success. The Ukrainian armed forces value them enormously. They are accurate, reliable and deadly.

Work and Pensions Questions 21 March: Philip Hollobone MP, Kettering: How many and what proportion of state pension claimants in Kettering constituency claim pension credit?

Guy Opperman MP, Minister for Pensions: This Government provide more than £5 billion of pension credit. In August 2021, there were 1,864 people receiving pension credit in the Kettering constituency. That accounts for approximately 10% of those in receipt of the state pension in the Kettering constituency in broad terms.

Philip Hollobone MP, Kettering: Pension credit is largely unclaimed across the country; there could be 4,500 people in north Northamptonshire who are eligible but not claiming. Those who do claim it get extra help with council tax, heating bills, dental treatment and TV licences. Would the Minister be kind enough to join me in Kettering at an older persons fair that I am organising in the summer so that we can encourage the take-up of pension credit in the Kettering constituency?

Guy Opperman MP, Minister for Pensions: Rumours had reached me of the Kettering older persons fair, which I believe is taking place on Friday 1 July. All roads lead to Kettering on that occasion. I would be honoured and privileged to attend to support my hon. Friend, who is a doughty champion of his constituency, and all the good charities, such as Age UK and Citizens Advice, that are working hard to get those numbers up, which is what we all want to do.

Visits to the Houses of Parliament have Re-started

Anyone can keep a track of what Philip is trying to do at Westminster on behalf of local residents via the independent website www.theyworkforyou.com. As always, if any member feels that Philip may be able to help with a particular issue, please do let Philip know via 01536 414715 or 020 7219 8373 or philip.hollobone.mp@parliament.uk or at House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. Philip is also very happy to arrange visits to Westminster for those who haven't been before or for those who would like to come again for a tour and/or to watch Prime Minister's Questions.

