



PHILIP HOLLOBONE MP



# KETTERING AT WESTMINSTER



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

## MP Welcomes Roads Minister to Kettering



Kettering MP Philip Hollobone MP welcomed Roads Minister Richard Holden MP to Kettering bus depot in December to help promote the Government's new £2 bus fare scheme.

Under the scheme anyone can travel anywhere on a local bus for just £2. This is especially attractive for journeys to places as far away as Peterborough or Milton Keynes.

With bus travel still below pre-Covid levels the Government is keen to get people back on local transport. Local bus operator Stagecoach is an enthusiastic participant.

117 bus drivers are based at the Kettering depot.

## Five Pledges to Tackle the People's Priorities

Our new Prime Minister hit the ground running in the New Year with the launch of his 5 priorities for the year ahead. These five pledges chime with the concerns of local residents and if the Conservative Government can deliver on these then the political landscape will markedly improve by the end of the year. The promises are to:

- ◆ HALVE INFLATION ◆ GROW THE ECONOMY
- ◆ REDUCE DEBT ◆ CUT WAITING LISTS ◆ STOP THE BOATS

**Halve inflation** to ease the cost of living and enhance financial security.

**Grow the economy** to create better-paid jobs and promote opportunity.

**Reduce debt** to secure the nation's finances.

**Cut NHS waiting lists** so people get the care they need more quickly.

**Stop the boats** to detain and remove those who come here illegally.

These are not the limits of our ambitions, but delivering these five promises will give people peace of mind today and provide the foundation for a better future.

## PM Backs Conservative By Election Candidate

PM Rishi Sunak has taken time out of his busy schedule to back Lesley Thurland as the Conservative candidate in the Northall council by election on 2 February. The PM is always keen to keep up to date with what's going on in Kettering and was happy to meet Lesley and back her campaign.



Photo: Lesley Thurland, PM, Cllr Anup Pandey, Philip Hollobone

# 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.**

**Monday 9 January Philip Hollobone MP, Kettering:** The biggest flu outbreak in 10 years has seen Kettering General Hospital become the 28th busiest hospital in the country, with a bed occupancy rate of 96.5% in the week leading up to the New Year. The Secretary of State was kind enough to visit Kettering General Hospital last year and stood in the busy and overcrowded A&E. He was also good enough to visit Thorndale care home, where he was briefed on the fact that the rate of increase in the number of over-80s in Northamptonshire gives it one of the fastest-growing elderly populations in the country. In thanking the Secretary of State for the measures that he has outlined today and the extra funding, I ask whether he will ensure that North Northamptonshire Council, the Northamptonshire ICB and, crucially, Kettering General Hospital get their fair share of the funding that he has announced, so that we can tackle these winter pressures quickly and successfully?

**Rt. Hon. Steve Barclay MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care:** My hon. Friend is right to point to the real pressures at Kettering which, as he says, I have visited. Not only am I keen to see it get its fair share, but I know that he will absolutely champion it through his good offices to ensure that that is the case, as he always does. He also raises an important point that the pressure of an ageing population is not universally distributed but is more intense in certain areas than others.

**Monday 9 January Philip Hollobone MP, Kettering:** I welcome the extension of energy price support for non-domestic users. However, may I give my hon. Friend a real-world example of what is happening in the non-domestic sector? A popular local pub in the Kettering constituency emailed me this week. Up to 2 January, it was paying £2,000 a month for electricity. At the end of the contract, its supplier switched it to an out-of-contract tariff of £9,700 a month. The pub went out to the market and, reluctantly, had to agree to a cost of £5,700 a month with another supplier. Surely that is blatant profiteering when one company can offer a price £4,000 a month less than a competitor's quote. I therefore welcome what he said about getting Ofgem involved as quickly as possible to sort out these rogue suppliers.

**James Cartlidge MP, Exchequer Secretary to HM Treasury:** I pay tribute to my hon. Friend for being an absolute champion for his constituency. I know that he had a question on hospitals earlier and now he is championing his pubs. We all know how important pubs are to all of our constituencies. The Chancellor of the Exchequer is sending today a letter to Ofgem, urging it to update him urgently on its review of the non-commercial market, which will look at the factors around how contracts operate, whether there are abuses and what can be done about it.

**Monday 16 January Philip Hollobone MP, Kettering:** Can the Secretary of State confirm that the Government intend to raise starting salaries for teachers to £30,000 a year and that the pension entitlement that teachers enjoy is far higher than those earning the same wage in the private sector?

**Rt. Hon. Gillian Keegan MP, Secretary of State for Education:** My hon. Friend makes a good point. In line with our manifesto commitment to raise the starting salary, it is £28,000 this year and it will be £30,000 from September next year. I can confirm that the employer contribution to teachers' pensions is 23.6%, which is considerably higher than for many in the private sector.

**Thursday 19 January Philip Hollobone MP, Kettering:** On average, how much do train drivers get paid and how many contracted hours are they required to do each week?

**Rt. Hon. Mark Harper MP, Secretary of State for Transport:** My hon. Friend makes a very good point. I think that about £60,000 is the average salary and the contracted hours are about 35 per week.

## Visits to the Houses of Parliament

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](http://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](mailto: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.

