

# Alan Campbell MP

## Community News

May 2023



Welcome to the latest edition of my Community News.

In this edition of my Community News, you will find details of recent events I have attended as well as details of the work of local and national organisations I am supportive of.

I have also included some information about help and support available for local people. I do hope you find it informative and useful.

You can also find useful information on my website at [www.alancampbellmp.co.uk](http://www.alancampbellmp.co.uk) or on Facebook at;

[https://www.facebook.com/AlanCampbellForTynemouth/?eid=ARct\\_uybFykBHP9Ze74JblWM5zGUiDhFgl8FizrUZK7Zmr1vijlCM68TFI\\_cGhOnsm\\_TvNnVuiYMhiLm](https://www.facebook.com/AlanCampbellForTynemouth/?eid=ARct_uybFykBHP9Ze74JblWM5zGUiDhFgl8FizrUZK7Zmr1vijlCM68TFI_cGhOnsm_TvNnVuiYMhiLm)

I continue to write my fortnightly column for the News Guardian, you can access these on my website.

Best wishes

Alan Campbell MP

Tynemouth

### **Local Elections**



There are important local elections this Thursday 4th May. Polls are open between 7am and 10pm. If you have a postal vote but haven't sent it back you can drop it into any polling station on the day.

However you vote, don't lose your vote.

### **Let's talk about sewage**



Allowing the dumping of raw sewage into our rivers and along the Coast of England is one of the scandals of our time. Here's my recent column which gives my thoughts on this and how we could take action to stop it.

*In 1858 the hot summer weather mixed with the human effluent in the River Thames caused the Great Stink, making the work of Parliament almost impossible. Then an active Government, in a confident nation, built a sewage infrastructure much of which survives today. But if you are waiting for similar from the current Government, don't hold your breath.*

*A recent report showed that last year raw sewage was discharged into England's rivers and coast every three minutes and according to Surfers Against Sewage means there are 83 beaches which people should avoid. Water companies blame all sorts of causes including recent rain – as if our country has been a stranger to heavy rain. In fact, weak regulation has allowed some companies to discharge sewage directly into bathing and fishing waters preferring to risk fines rather than lose profits.*

*Our recently regenerated coast is a huge attraction for visitors and when they come, businesses flourish. But fresh air, clean beaches and safe waters are also a great attraction for those of us fortunate to live here.*

*Urgent action is needed around the country and that needs the Environment Agency, facing Government cuts, to take a tough line on regulation. We should enforce mandatory monitoring of outlets, cut discharges and hold water bosses to account through sanctions and fines, without making customers pay. The Government's Environment Bill could have sorted*

*this but their MP's were whipped to stop tougher legislation. When we left the EU we were promised at least as good environmental protection. It hasn't happened and frankly, it stinks.*

### **Buy the Kilo**



I am grateful for Buy The Kilo a business on Tynemouth Station for organising a new exhibition at the station on an environmental theme. It was good to visit on opening night to see the exhibition which has drawn national as well as local artists. Buy The Kilo is, by the way, also a great shop to visit.

### **10K Road Race**



I started the North Tyneside 10K Road Race on Easter Sunday. Despite the cold day it attracted a large field of runners and lots of people watching and encouraging the runners. Congratulations to Jacqueline Penn and Carl Smith who were first home. This is a great event which shows off the best of our newly regenerated coast

### **Sewage Vote in Parliament**



We used one of our Opposition Days in Parliament to debate the sewage scandal which concerns so many people. We had a Bill ready which would have addressed the problem including the water companies to account. The Government instructed their MP's to vote to stop our Bill which means the much waited clean up will have to wait.

## **Churches Acting Together**



I am pleased the traditional Good Friday Procession of Witness was back in the newly regenerated Northumberland Square in North Shields. The square is at the heart of one of the best retained Georgian Squares in the North of England and is a central part of the exciting plans for the regeneration of the town. Thanks to Churches Acting Together for the invitation and for the opportunity to say a few words.

## **Fishermen's Mission**



North Shields Fishermen's Mission does some excellent work with the fishing community and indeed the wider community. Thanks to Supt. Peter Dade and his wife Sue for organising the recent event and congratulations to retired fisherman and local artist Mick Smith for receiving the national Friendship Award from the Mission for all the work he does.

## **Thanks to Macmillan**



Macmillan does a fantastic job supporting people and families struggling to cope with illness and long term conditions. They do some really important work with hard to reach communities and it was good to catch up to find out their important work with the fishing community.

### Street Pastors



Our Street Pastors are a really important part of helping to keep people safe particularly around the night time economy. I caught up with them recently to get an update on their work including being part of the team tackling antisocial behaviour on the metro and keeping people safe. Thank you to each and everyone of them.

### Tackling retail crime



Retail crime costs not just the shops which are hit but costs the rest of us more when businesses have to cover their costs. I recently met a major business in the constituency to talk about shoplifting and threats to retail staff. I will be raising those concerns with the police to see what more can be done to tackle this persistent problem.

### Save Our Ferry

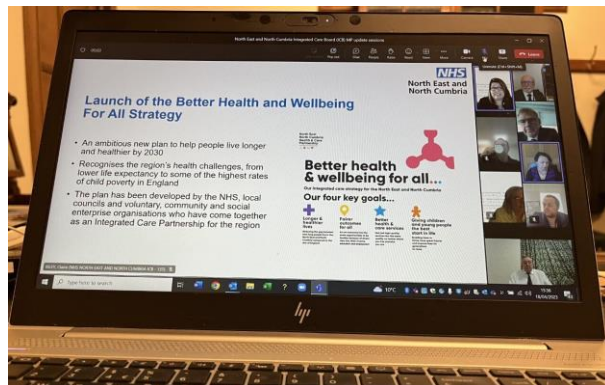


The Shields Ferry is not just an iconic part of our local maritime history it provides an important economic link between South and North Shields. The North terminal is in need of major repair and therefore there are plans to move the terminal to the West Quay which would align it with the soon to be regenerated town centre. It came as a shock then to find that the Government had rejected the bid for funding and potentially putting the North Shields regeneration at risk. So much for levelling up!

Every avenue is being explored to find the money but in the meantime you can show your support by signing the Save Our Ferry petition at:

[Save our Ferry](#)

### NHS Meeting



I met with the Integrated Care Board which bring NHS and care organisations together across the North to establish strategic priorities and improve people's health. We discussed the problems of a lack of workforce planning which lies behind the current NHS crisis which



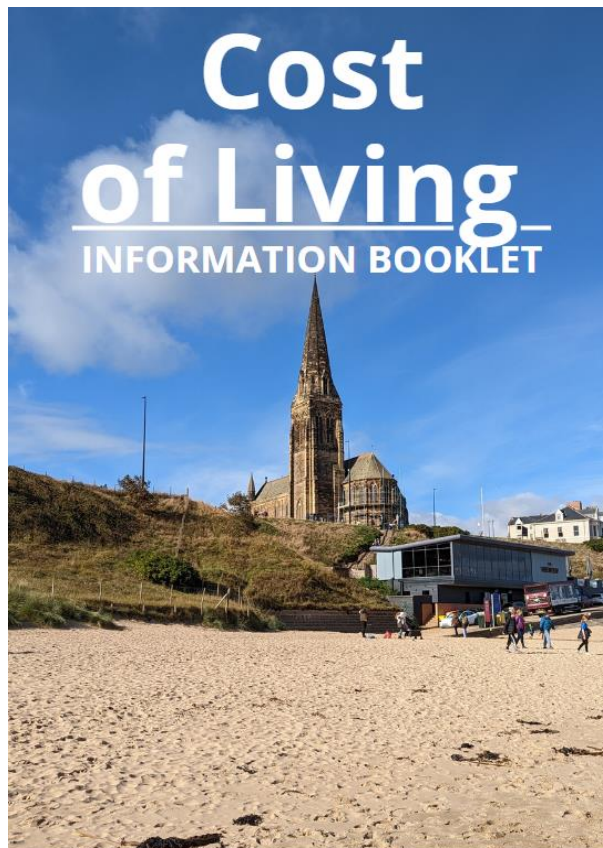
shockingly will not be helped by a cut of £100 million in the region in a kind of perverse levelling up with other regions in London and the south.

### **Whitley Bay High Visit**



It is always a pleasure to meet the annual A Level Economics trip for Whitley Bay High School to visit Parliament. This year they were able to meet and question Wes Streeting MP our Shadow Health Secretary and former member of the Treasury Select Committee

### **Cost of Living Booklet**



**ALAN CAMPBELL MP**

I continue to update my cost of living booklet.

Please find the latest edition at [Alan Campbell MP Cost of Living Resource Magazine](#)

### **Don't Lose Your Vote**



This year Government changes mean those voting in the local elections will have to show photo ID.

To make sure you don't lose your vote, remember to take photo ID to the polling station this year.

Also, if you have a postal vote - remember, you can drop it into any polling station on the day.

### **Welfare and Benefits Advice Drop-in**



A member of my staff Amy Anderson holds regular welfare benefits and advice drop-ins. Amy holds 2 drop-ins per week, on Tuesday between 10am and 12pm at the Cedarwood Centre in North Shields and on Fridays between 10am and 1pm at the Whitley Bay Big Local in Whitley Bay. If you are unable to get along to a session, Amy can be contacted on 07598 106 421.

### **Ukraine 1 year on**



Our area has stepped up to the plate to do our bit to support families from Ukraine. One year on local families and the refugees they offer home to met to mark the anniversary.

### **Become an NHS Governor**



## **Northumbria Healthcare** **NHS Foundation Trust**

People in North Tyneside are being encouraged to become an integral and crucial part of their local NHS and put themselves forward to be a public governor of Northumbria Healthcare.

There are vacancies in North Shields, Wallsend and Whitley Bay.

You can apply online at [www.cesvotes.com/northumbria2023](http://www.cesvotes.com/northumbria2023)

Nomination are open now and must be returned no later than 5pm on Friday 12 May 2023.

### **Age UK Energy Advice**



Age UK has produced a guide for older people who may have missed out on the Energy Bill Support Scheme and is encouraging eligible households to apply for the EBSS Alternative Funding scheme before the deadline on 31st May.

The Alternative Funding scheme will provide a payment of £400, which is equivalent to support provided by the EBSS. The guide includes information on who is eligible for the support, including:

- Care home residents and others in care facilities/sheltered accommodation
  - Park home residents, houseboats and caravans
- Social and private tenants who pay for energy through a landlord on a commercial supply
  - Homes on a heat network/private wire
    - Off-grid homes

### **HSBC Pop-Up**

It's really disappointing that many of the major banks are closing their high street branches citing changing banking habits as the cause of the change. I am keen that there are local outlets where people can access banking services and to highlight where banks are able to offer temporary access to services during the transition.

9th and 30th June 9.30-1pm at Whitley Bay Big Local, 158 Whitley Road, Whitley Bay, NE26 2LY

### **International Workers Memorial Day**



Last Friday was International Workers Memorial Day when we remember those who have lost their lives or been injured at work. Everyone deserves to work in safety, with respect and have decent employment rights. We remember the dead and fight for the living.

### **Emergency Numbers**

On my website I have a list of useful and emergency contact numbers.

[You can find the list here](#)

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