

Alan Campbell MP

Community News

April 2025



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.

You can also find useful information on my website at www.alancampbellmp.co.uk or on Facebook at;

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 at [News Guardian Articles - Alan Campbell MP for Tynemouth](#)

Best wishes

Alan Campbell MP

Tynemouth

Mayoral Election this Thursday 1 May



On Thursday we have a vital election taking place to decide our next Mayor of North Tyneside. It's important that you have your say, to keep the progress we're making across North Tyneside.

Here's 5 things to remember:

You need photo ID to vote

Polls are open 7am until 10pm

You don't need your polling card to vote

You can apply for an emergency proxy and appoint someone to vote on your behalf up to 5pm on polling day.

If you have a postal vote and you haven't sent it back, you can drop it off at your polling station on the day. Find your polling station at iwillvote.org.uk

Good Friday March in North Shields



I was proud to attend this years North Shields Good Friday Procession of Witness. Thank you to Churches Together for organising the service and I hope all my constituents had a very Happy Easter.

There is a long tradition of Good Friday Procession of Witness in North Shields, which was organised by local churches and involved up to 2000 school children.

You can find out more at: <https://www.rememberingthepast.co.uk/projects/good-friday-marching/>

Breakfast Clubs come to Langley First School



From this week free breakfast clubs will open at 750 schools across England, with thousands of parents getting access to 30 minutes of morning childcare as part of a pilot scheme running until July, ahead of an expected national rollout.

I'm pleased that Langley Primary School has been included as part of the pilot and look forward to the scheme being rolled out to all schools. The move will save families an estimated £450 per year.

Meeting with Chief Constable Vanessa Jardine



Last week I met Northumbria Police Chief Constable Vanessa Jardine and PCC Susan Dungworth to discuss a range of issues about policing in our area. We discussed Coast Watch which sees the police presence at the Coast significantly increased particularly on weekends and Bank Holidays when the sun is shining. I also raised questions about keeping women safe around hospitality venues and how the Government's additional money to tackle violent crime is being spent. The Government is committed to increasing the number of police officers and to having specialist officers in every neighbourhood and town centre, so it was also interesting to hear about recruitment and retention of officers.

National Grid Tyne Crossing



Plans

I met with National Grid Project Managers and also had a briefing from the Tyne Taskforce Group to hear about plans for the electricity cables on either side of the Tyne.

Currently, overhead electricity cables which cross the Tyne stand in the way of development on either bank of the river.

The plans by National Grid to possibly tunnel the cables to unlock significant regeneration and development opportunities for the Tyne, support offshore wind and importantly, could bring lots of green jobs to our area. I will continue to raise this matter with Government Ministers to move this project forward.

Action on off-road Bikes



Residents have been in touch with me regarding the dangerous use of off-road bikes across the constituency but particularly around the waggon-ways.

Whilst the regenerated waggon-ways are a great asset for our area and are well used by cyclists and walkers, too often it is spoilt by groups of youths using off-road bikes dangerously.

The Government are giving police new powers to immediately seize vehicles that cause havoc in our communities, allowing them to deal with the scourge of off-road bikes in public parks and dangerous e-scooters on pavements.

I can assure residents that I will work alongside the police to make sure the new powers are fully used.

Tackling sewage pollution



As a coastal constituency, I know many of my constituents share my concerns and are angry about sewage pollution in our seas and rivers.

The unacceptable and unforgivable destruction of our waterways should never have been allowed, but change has now begun so it cannot happen again.

I support the Water (Special Measures) Bill which is nearing the end of its parliamentary journey. This legislation's core provisions will strengthen the powers of the regulator, Ofwat, so it can better hold water companies to account for poor performance. It also introduces mandatory monitoring of emergency overflows and pollution incidents.

I support the legislation's extended powers for environmental regulators to recover costs for a wider range of enforcement measures, meaning the polluter – not the public – will pay.

Change will take time, but I assure you that the cleaning up of our rivers, lakes and seas is one of this new Government's top environmental priorities.

Visit to North Shields Jobcentre



I recently visited North Shields Jobcentre to meet the new Service Leader for Northumberland and Tyne and Wear.

It was good to get an update on regional priorities for the team which includes developing relationships with key employers and partners.

The government has committed to transforming jobcentres from a one-size-fits-all service that overwhelmingly focuses on administering benefits, to a genuine public employment service that provides personalised support for all. North Shields is a pilot for a new more personal service and I look forward to seeing the results.



2 million more NHS appointments

The extra 2 million appointments - delivered in part by extra evening and weekend working - are underpinned by the government's ambitious wider reform agenda, including our plan to expand opening hours at Community Diagnostic Centres across the country, 12 hours a day, seven days a week.

Environment Agency Funding



I am pleased that North Tyneside Council has successfully received funding from the Environment Agency for flooding and coastal erosion risk management.

Tynemouth Longsands back sea wall will benefit from a coastal protection scheme and parts of Chirton including Balkwell Avenue and Langley Road will benefit from a flooding alleviation scheme.

Nationwide Branch Promise



Access to personal banking is an important matter for many people. Following the closure of a number of banks in our area I have welcomed Nationwide's recent reconfirmation of their branch promise – which is that everywhere they have a branch they will be there until at least 2028. Thank you Nationwide!

Post Office Refurbishment



Good news that the Grange Post Office on Blandford Road is being refurbished. It does mean however that the branch will be closed for 5 weeks. The nearest branch is the New York Post Office on Brookland Terrace.

Covid Spring Booster Campaign

COVID-19 vaccination programme for Spring 2025 is now live.

The eligibility criteria includes:

Those aged 75 and over - this includes those who turn 75 years old by 30 June 2025.
People who are admitted to an older adult care home or become immunosuppressed by 30 June are also eligible.

All residents in care homes for older adults
People aged 6 months and over who are immunosuppressed

Vaccinations will be available from local NHS services, GP surgeries or pharmacies. Care home residents will be offered vaccinations within the care home and housebound patients will be contacted by their GP to arrange a home visit. Other eligible patients will be contacted by the clinical team treating them or signposted to an alternative service.

You can book online at: <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/vaccination-and-booking-services/book-covid-19-vaccination/>

Banking Hub Opens in Whitley Bay

In a similar vein, due to the bank branch closures in Whitley Bay, a new Banking Hub opened last week at Whitley Bay Big Local.

Open Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm, the banking hub has a counter operated by the Post Office where you can access cash services whenever the hub is open and whoever you bank with:

pay in cash (notes and coin) and cheques
withdraw cash (notes and coin)
check your balance
pay utility bills
top up your gas and electricity
access change-giving services (for registered businesses)

You can also talk to a community banker from your bank on the day your bank is in the hub.

Monday - Lloyds
Tuesday - HSBC
Wednesday - NatWest
Thursday - Barclays
Friday – Halifax

There is a private space where you can talk face-to-face about more complicated banking enquiries like payments and transfers, managing your account, and how to use online banking.

For more information visit: <https://www.cashaccess.co.uk/hubs/whitley-bay-tyne-and-wear/>



St George's Day

St George's Day is usually celebrated on 23 April every year, but the Church of England changed the date this year because no saint's day can take place in the week before or after Easter.

Any saint's day falling in Holy or Easter week moves to the week after the Easter fortnight, usually to the first Monday, according to the Church of England.

So, to all my constituent's – Happy St George's Day.
