MY TOP 3 CAMPAIGNS

WWW.BLAKESTEPHENSON.UK

TACKLING THE BACKDOORS TO BRITAIN

The British immigration system is not working. That's the message I have heard loud and clear from constituents since my election. It's time to deliver actions rather than slogans, so I have conducted extensive research and written a report called Backdoors to Britain, which is available to read on my website. I have recommended to government how they can close some of the loopholes in our legal immigration system, and to stop some of the loopholes they're creating, such as remote only English language testing. We all want Britain to be a welcoming nation, benefitting from the best and brightest talent that the world has to offer, but the system must work for the great British people.

STEP FREE ACCESS AT OUR STATIONS

In 2026 the lack of step-free access at Flitwick and Harlington stations is not acceptable.

Campaigners in Flitwick have been fighting for many years, long before I became an MP. And I share the frustrations of many in Harlington that step-free access wasn't delivered alongside the new footbridge.

I am delighted that Network Rail have now informed me that funding has been secured to deliver step free access at Flitwick. They say work on the site is expected to begin in Autumn 2026, with the new bridge and lifts planned to be in use before the end of 2027. I will continue to monitor developments closely and try to ensure Network Rail sticks to this new timeframe.

BETTER CONNECTIVITY FOR ALL

This year I have continued to hold Thameslink to account for the last-minute delays and cancellations on services to and from Harlington, Flitwick, Arlesey and Bedford. Improvements are being reported, but progress has been slow.

We also need to take HGVs off the country roads to the north of Luton and throughout our villages, particularly those close to M1 junctions. I am continuing to campaign for the long-promised M1 -A6 Link Road, and for more action to enforce weight restrictions.

Mid Beds also need better digital connectivity, and I am pushing for upgrades to mobile service and long-promised gigabit broadband in every corner of our constituency.

If you would like a work experience placement or a free tour of Parliament please do email in and my team will be in touch.

SURGERY APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE—EMAIL TO BOOK

Blake Stephenson.

MP for Mid Bedfordshire

Blake answering questions about democracy and local priorities such as road safety from pupils at Wilstead Lower School.

REPORTING BACK

ON TWO YEARS AS YOUR MP

I stood to be your MP two years ago so we had an MP who lives in our constituency, is visible, listens, and will fight for our area. That's why I continue to prioritise getting out and meeting local people. I have held hundreds of advice surgeries, coffee mornings and community meetings. And there are many more planned for the coming months.

You have raised lots of issues with me such as the reliability and accessibility of our train services, the impacts from flooding and problems accessing local healthcare. I have raised these and many other issues in Parliament, and in doing so I made the 7th most contributions in Parliament out of all 650 MPs.

My current local campaigns are the delivery of step free access at both Harlington and Flitwick stations, and to secure improvements to Junction 13 of the M1.

GET IN TOUCH

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Have your say on local and national issues in my 60 Second Survey

Hear from me every month, not just once a year, by signing up to my newsletter

WORKING HARD ON LOCAL PRIORITIES

IMPROVING HEALTHCARE

With the introduction of a new integrated care board covering 3.5m people I was concerned that our rural communities would be de-prioritised.

So, over the past year, I have been working behind the scenes to influence the new ICB leadership, who have listened, with their first decision to give a long-overdue GP surgery in Wixams the go-ahead.

I have spoken in many debates and made the case for better local healthcare in Mid Beds, and I will continue to do so.

My new priority is to secure a rural Neighbourhood Health Centre, either in Flitwick or Ampthill.

This would reduce the need to travel to Milton Keynes, Luton, or Bedford for some treatment and checks.

SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE

Supporting the next generation is a key priority for me. Young people are the future of our country and they need the opportunities and skills to thrive in a competitive world.

That's why I'm arguing for more apprenticeships and making the case for government to create the right economic conditions to improve youth employment.

Following efforts to secure a new local Technical Excellence College, I am delighted that one will be established at Bedford College.

This is great news for local young people who will now have better access to high-level technical and construction skills and education as an alternative to University.

It has also been fantastic to have more than 30 work experience students join me in Westminster and in the constituency.

I would like to thank the parents and teachers who attended my SEND roundtables on the Government's plans for SEND provision. You have helped me to develop my response to Government, and I will continue to scrutinise these as they come forward.

BACKING LOCAL BUSINESS

During the course of the year I've been engaging with local businesses across the constituency and it's clear that there is a tough economic environment in all sectors—and this is having an impact on jobs.

I was pleased to bring our local pubs together for a roundtable this year to discuss what more can be done to support our locals in such challenging times, with many of the ideas relevant to the entire hospitality industry.

I have also spent time with businesses such as Sabert in Flitwick, to understand how we could improve apprenticeships, skills, and reduce regulation.

And I have been feeding the issues raised to colleagues and questioning Ministers.

FIGHTING TO KEEP US SAFE

I was delighted to work with campaigner, Tracey Hanson, to support her long-standing call for Josh's Law. Following her campaign and our work in Parliament, changes to the Unduly Lenient Sentence scheme were secured which strengthen victims' rights to appeal sentences. Tracey has been inspirational in her campaigning since her son was murdered in 2015, and these changes in legislation would not have been possible without her.

I have also supported calls for a ban on social media for under 16s and contributed to pressuring the Government to commit to a ban on phones in schools.

Road safety is a top priority, and I am continuing to press our councils and the police to do more. And I am pushing for better funding for Bedfordshire Police.

MAKING UNIVERSAL WORK

Universal Studios choosing Mid Bedfordshire as the home of its first European theme park is a gamechanger for our local economy.

But Universal is not the sole project in the area, sitting as it will alongside thousands of homes in the Marston Vale and East-West Rail. The cumulative impacts of these need to be considered holistically and the right infrastructure needs to be delivered.

Junction 13 of the M1 has long needed remodelling, and I have been campaigning for government to prioritise it. They have now confirmed plans are in place for improvement works in the 2030s, but this is not quick enough and I will continue to push for that timeframe to be brought forward.

Universal and East-West Rail do have fantastic potential, but the local infrastructure must be good enough to deal with the impacts. That's why I secured a debate in Parliament to call on the Government to deliver a proper transport plan for the Marston Vale and the towns and villages to the south. We need this to be a joined-up approach, taking into account all proposed developments.

OUR COUNTRYSIDE MATTERS

Mid Bedfordshire is home to some really beautiful countryside and I know so many of you are worried that it is at risk.

In Parliament, I have tabled a Private Members Bill to end development on floodplains, I have campaigned for the extension of the Chilterns National Landscape area and I am supporting the campaign to expand the Forest of Marston Vale, as it bids to become a new National Forest.

My work on the Planning and Infrastructure Bill has delivered promising results, including an assurance that housing from new towns such as Tempsford will count towards our local authority's housing targets, which in the new local plan should alleviate pressures on our Mid Bedfordshire villages.

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Blake Stephenson MP—Member of Parliament for Mid Bedfordshire

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