



# Mark Hendrick MP

Labour & Co-operative Member of Parliament



## Newsletter

### CONSTITUENCY NEWS



April 2014

Dear Constituent

The announcements made in the recent budget once again confirmed that the Government stands up for the privileged few, rather than the vast majority of hard-working British people.

Wages are down, energy bills are up and we are experiencing the slowest UK economic recovery in the last hundred years.

After 2015, I will work with my colleagues who plan to freeze energy bills until 2017, put young people back to work - paid for by a tax on bank bonuses, increase free childcare for working parents, cut taxes for people on middle and low incomes, cut business rates for small firms and plan to get 200,000 homes built a year by 2020.

Best wishes

## Top College



Mark with Nick Burnham, Principal, Cardinal Newman College

Mark toured the new educational facilities at Cardinal Newman College following his meeting with Principal Nick Burnham.

Mark discussed the future plans for the college— which is rated as being in the top 1% of schools and colleges nationally.

## New Surgery in St Matthew's



Mark with Roy Leeming (left) and Cllr Javed Iqbal (Fishwick)

Mark held his latest surgery on 22nd March 2014 at a new venue in St Matthew's, the Acregate Labour Club.

Roy Leeming, local resident said: 'We're delighted to welcome Mark to the ward. He has been very active addressing problems for local residents and we are glad to see that he's continuing the good work in St Matthews'

Mark said: 'I'm delighted that we were able to find a suitable venue in St Matthew's as I always try to ensure that all of my surgeries are accessible.'

## Mark encourages local business to take on Apprentices

Mark is calling for more local businesses to take on an apprentice after new research revealed the extent of the benefits involved. Every time a local company hires an apprentice, their bottom line gets an average boost of £1,941. This happens immediately, while the apprentice is being trained. Mark said: 'If they don't have one already, local businesses in Preston should consider employing an apprentice. Apprenticeship starts increased massively after the creation of the National Apprenticeship Service in 2009, but there is a danger that progress could stall unless more companies hear the message. We can do better for our young people and adult learners. This is a chance for firms to give back to the community by giving local people a chance.'

## Civil Nuclear Talks

Mark organised a parliamentary event with Albert Owen MP and Rolls Royce on Wednesday 5th March to discuss the civil nuclear energy industry.

Speaking at the event were Michael Fallon, Minister of State for Energy and Tom Greatrex, Shadow Minister for Energy and Climate Change, amongst other industry leaders.

One of the major discussion points focused on the need for parliamentarians of all political leanings to get behind new nuclear build, which would create thousands of jobs and train many high skilled employees, as well as contributing to the growing need for energy security and renewable energy.

Mark said: 'The event was very successful and we saw a constructive engagement between the Minister and Shadow Minister as well as representatives from the industry. The Minister went away with a great understanding of the industry and also MP's concerns. I will be following this event up with a discussion document to circulate to both my parliamentary colleagues and industry representatives.'

## Mark supports British Sign Language

Mark met with his constituents, Colin Singh and Lesley Davidson in Parliament on Monday 17th March 2014.



Mark with Colin Singh and Lesley Davidson on the House of Commons Terrace

The pair were visiting Westminster to lobby Mark about achieving legal status for British Sign Language as a Minority Language in the UK. The lobby was organised by the British Deaf Association as part of Sign Language Week 2014 'Strengthening Our Rights'. Mr Singh lobbied Mark about the facilities for deaf people in the public services and his raised his concerns about Access to Work, hospitals and barriers to communication and interpreters.

For the full text of speeches and written questions and answers on Hansard go to: [http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cmfiles/mps/commons\\_hansard\\_926\\_home.html](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cmfiles/mps/commons_hansard_926_home.html)

## Aerospace Event

Mark hosted an event in the House of Commons on Tuesday 4th March 2014 to discuss the future of the aerospace industry. It brought together industry representatives with parliamentarians and was jointly hosted with BAE Systems.



Shadow Defence Secretary Vernon Coaker MP with Mark

The event was the second in a series that Mark has organised to highlight the importance of the industry for jobs and training in the North West, as well as the rest of the country. Attendees discussed the impact of recent events on the UK's defence capability, the importance of greater investment in infrastructure for suppliers, the link between civil and military aerospace and the wider concern about future jobs in the industry.

Mark said: 'We discussed the development of new aircraft at BAE such as the F35 Joint Strike Fighter and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles or 'drones'. My aim was to bring all parties together to get a consensus across parliament and a commitment to these long term projects.'

## Teaching Assistants

Mark spoke at the Westminster Hall debate on 18th March 2014 about Teaching Assistants:

**Teaching assistants make up something like a quarter of the schools work force and carry out a huge range of responsibilities, supporting teachers and forming a crucial part of the modern education system. Any Member of Parliament who visits schools in his or her constituency will see the excellent work that teaching assistants do and the tremendous support they give to teaching staff. I have seen many schools in my constituency where they are doing a fantastic job in backing up and supporting the work of teachers. Behavioural levels, for example, have improved significantly as a result. Teaching assistants, however, feel that their work is poorly understood and undervalued. They are among the lowest paid in public services, and they are overwhelmingly women and part-time workers. They work hard for little reward, often dealing with the most challenging and difficult children in school.**

