

Labour Today

Parishes: the building blocks of today's society

January/February 2023 Issue 1

Investing **£90 million** in your district

As a Labour party, one of our priorities is to protect and maintain services and people's jobs.

And we not only have an excellent track record of this, but we invest in them as well.

Over the past few years we have been:

- Refurbishing our independent living centres - **£10m**
- Investing in CCTV - **£250k**
- Rescuing the burgundy bin service and saving eight jobs by bringing the service under the control of the council - **£500k**
- Building more new council properties - **£36m**
- Investing in leisure - **£3.7m**
- Creating community woodlands - **£270k**
- Distributing Covid grants to businesses - **£20m**
- Building a new crematorium for the District - **£9m**
- Refurbishing and renovating New Bolsover Model Village - **£10m**
- Helping local businesses through the Business Growth Fund - **£200k**
- Assisting parish and town councils put on community initiatives - **£80k**
- Introducing a councillors community group grant scheme - **£37k**
- Promoting and supporting local community groups and businesses - **priceless**

This money, some £90m, is on top of the day to day money we spend on services like waste collection, processing benefit claims and keeping our district clean and tidy. But it is proof that we put our money where our mouth is.

Council Leader, Steve Fritchley said, "Bolsover has always punched above its weight. We have ambitious plans that are not only centred around providing good quality services, but focus on looking after and providing homes for people to live. We are creating a better environment and new cultural facilities for people to enjoy and regenerating town and village centres so our communities can be proud of where they live.

"We believe we can influence the local economy by ensuring we invest in the District, use local labour, local contractors and encourage others to spend local.

"When the Council spends money on goods and services locally, that money becomes someone else's income, they save some of it and then spend some, which in turn becomes someone else's income. This happens multiple times giving the multiplier effect. So let's get the multiplier effect working for the



people of Bolsover District!

"Our ethos as a Labour Group is to invest in our future. Invest in facilities and buildings that regenerate our district and that our children, and their children can enjoy for years to come."

Labour locally is delivering. Labour in government will also deliver.

 **Labour**
In Bolsover District

Labour delivering for you

By Bolsover District Council Labour Group Leader, Steve Fritchley

One thing I have learnt in politics is that we will never please everyone all the time. But everything we do is for the good of the entire district.

I know some of the decisions we make are not popular but they are done with the interests of the entire district and its population at heart. We cannot be parochial, we have to think of the 80,000 plus residents as a whole and not in silos.

I am proud of the Council and its workforce as we have achieved a lot over the past four years. We have had to deal with the pandemic, we have invested heavily in new Council housing, we have rescued jobs and brought the burgundy bin recycling scheme in-house and expanded what you can recycle. We are supporting local businesses and community groups by providing free advertising opportunities, we have set up Dragonfly

Development to help revitalise the District. And, we believe we are the only Council in the country to offer a dedicated TV channel that promotes all the good things about our district.

These are just a few of the things that have kept us busy over the past four years - but this is just the start. We have ambitious ideas to help regenerate the District, build more council properties for those areas in need, help our high streets flourish, promote

local community groups, enhance our environment through tree planting and more recycling and extend the provision of leisure opportunities across the District.

We are not afraid to put our money where our mouth is and rather than cut or outsource our services (unlike nearby Tory council's) we invest in them and you, our communities.

As you read through this publication you will see that your Labour Council is delivering and will continue to deliver and help local communities flourish.

For more information visit
www.labourtoday.uk

A country on the edge of oblivion

- **Cost of living crisis.**
- **Increases in food and fuel prices not seen for over a decade.**
- **Energy prices predicted to increase another 20% by spring.**
- **Strikes continuing across the country.**
- **Deceiving the electorate.**

I know, shocking isn't it! Apparently the former, former Prime Minister (Boris Johnson) lied to us on more than one occasion – what next a Prime Minister who supported these lies and more of the same – oh yes, that's what we seem to have got!

Whilst we are on our second PM since then, the country continues to be in a state of near-paralysis with virtually every sector on strike due to lack of investment and poor pay conditions. We are continuing to decline as a nation and after 12-years of empty promises and sticking plaster politics it is about time we had a change of government.

What we need is stability as a country, a government that actually helps people and businesses rather than just empty promises. A government that will actually deliver on its promises and provides investment where it is really needed rather than just beauty pageant tick box exercises where constituencies like Bolsover are continually looked over for leafy suburbs in the south.

As part of Labour's plans we will cut VAT on home energy bills, save on energy bills now and in the longer term by insulating millions of homes, cut small business rates and support businesses through the cost of living storm and buy, make and sell more in Britain to create well-paid, secure jobs in every community.

The elderly and vulnerable in our society need looking after by providing them with suitable accommodation and the means to pay for their fuel and food.

Businesses and companies who face closure due to increasing costs need immediate support. Workers need to be paid a decent wage that reflects the cost of living.

Britain is bracing for a long recession as energy prices surge to unprecedented levels, leaving millions of people at risk of economic hardship. With energy prices forecast to stay high, the Bank of England have said Britain is facing its biggest slump in living standards since records began in the 1960s.

We are facing an economic time bomb and what we have is a government that is lighting the fuse, standing back and watching as the country burns.

Devolution or Desecration of local government

On 30 August 2022 the government announced a proposed agreement for a devolution deal between the government and leaders of the four local authorities in the East Midlands (Derby City, Derbyshire County, Nottingham City, and Nottinghamshire County).

These 'four kings' want to rule the East Midlands, with Ben Bradley, Nottinghamshire CC Leader playing a central role as the Sheriff of Nottingham and Derbyshire CC Leader, Barry Lewis, his trusty sidekick Sir Guy of Gisborne, with areas like Bolsover, South Normanton, Clowne and Shirebrook forced to bow down to the rich and famous. Well we all know how that tale ended up.

The deal is said to be worth £1.14 billion, some £38 million per year over a 30-year period. On the face of it a headline like £1.14 billion is something everyone would welcome and if it benefits the residents and businesses of Bolsover District then we will be all for it!

However, it works out at £17 per head of population and it's not index linked, so after a few years of inflation it will be worthless.

Within the proposed agreement for the Devolution deal it has a number of proposals as below:

PROPOSAL: Work towards Net Zero and cleaner air with new low carbon homes

BOLSOVER is already building homes that offer a reduction of carbon emissions by utilising timber frame and low carbon heat sources in line with the Future Homes Standard.

PROPOSAL: Enhance the region's economy by developing new commercial space to maximise opportunities

BOLSOVER is already developing sites with developers such as the Horizon 29 site, Castlewood near South Normanton and Pleasley Vale.

PROPOSAL: Work with Homes England to build more affordable homes

BOLSOVER is already purchasing affordable homes from private developers and working with Keepmoat Homes as a pilot for the First Homes scheme.

PROPOSAL: Take advantage of economies of scale by using combined and devolved budgets to deliver more value for taxpayers and more cost-efficient services

BOLSOVER is already delivering this through our Bolsover Homes scheme where we spend locally, sourcing 80% of local contractors and trades within 20 miles of sites.

As you can see from the proposals being put forward, Bolsover District is already delivering them on your behalf.

What is also concerning is the drift away from local democracy. Creating these large combined authorities in an attempt to share costs and save money will make those authorities more remote and less relevant to local communities – something which we will fight against.



The deal involves electing a Mayor by May 2024. They would govern the two counties covering a population of 2.2million and could ultimately have the final say on where the money is spent and on what. Is this fair and democratic?

And if a Mayor (who could have no knowledge of Bolsover District or the needs of our communities) is making decisions which are currently undertaken by local authorities on major issues such as housing, transport and skills, will they really know how best to spend it in our District?

And let's face it, the county council cannot do what they are paid to do now. The social care system is failing, there are pot holes everywhere you go, the transport infrastructure is failing and there has been little or no inward investment in Bolsover District for years.

So what hope have we got of getting any investment with more hands in the pot?

Green Labour tackling climate change



The most pressing thing at the moment is the cost of living crisis, but we must not forget the other important things that need tackling as well, such as looking after our planet.

We all know how important the environment is and that tackling climate change is a global issue. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has said we need to cut global emissions in half by 2030 to have a chance of keeping global heating within safe limits – that means acting now and acting decisively.

And here at Bolsover District we are delivering.

- Five years ahead of the Conservative government target we are leading the way in recycling and giving you the opportunity to recycle more including flexible plastics.
- We have identified council properties where the insulation needs upgrading to provide better insulation and reduce energy bills.
- We have an ambition to plant one million trees to help tackle climate change, starting with a £270k

investment that will create a community woodland on the former Creswell colliery site that people can enjoy, a tree lined avenue in Bolsover, 400 new trees on Hilltop in Pinxton and we are part of the Queen's Green Canopy as trees have been planted at The Arc in Clowne as well as several other tree planting projects across the District.

- We are continuing to look at funding options so we can expand on the electric charging points we already have in Clowne and Bolsover.
- We are currently investigating the possibility of changing our vehicle fleet to a combination of electric and hybrid vehicles.
- Properties in Whaley Common have been fitted with Air Source Heat Pumps to help reduce their energy bills and give them the benefit of a greener heating system.

Labour locally is delivering. Labour in government will also deliver.

Decisions are for the benefit of all

We understand that not everyone is a Labour supporter, but what we need people to understand is that the decisions we make at Bolsover District Council are not done in isolation. They are not done to benefit one town or village over another. And they are all taken with our local residents interests at heart.

When decisions are made, we have to take into account the big picture. Like how does this fit in with the infrastructure? Is there a need or a demand for it and how will it benefit the local community?

Decisions are made within the framework of council policy and national legislation and they are made in a

democratic way, involving all political parties.

The ambitions we have will benefit the entire District and include regenerating our towns and villages, providing more leisure and recreational opportunities, continuing to provide good quality services, enhancing our environment, providing good quality

housing for those in need and to provide opportunities for people to further their education, increase their skills and access to higher paid jobs.

Council officers are currently working on Vision Bolsover II which will highlight these ambitions and copies will be delivered to every household in the District.

Labour providing homes for all

Housing is a real issue. There is simply not enough homes to meet demand.

The population is continuing to rise, leaving many young people unable to get on the housing ladder or our elderly faced with the prospect of having to move away from the place they were born due to inadequate housing.

But as the government and other areas just keep talking about it and setting target after target, Bolsover District Labour Group is actually doing something about it and we have been well-ahead of the game for a number of years.

After the initial B@Home scheme saw 103 Council properties built from 2015-2019, a £36 million investment was agreed for the Bolsover Homes scheme with the

potential to see up to 400 new council properties built over a four-year period.

Whitwell has already benefitted after 37 new Council properties for families and the elderly have been built and are now fully occupied.

An additional 28 bungalows are being built in Shirebrook on Market Close for the elderly and 19 new homes are currently under construction in Whaley Thorns that will meet a local need.

Plans are also in place to build on Briar Close in Shirebrook and redevelop the Woburn Close area in Blackwell.

And with more sites being identified in other areas such as Clowne and Bolsover we are meeting the needs of our local towns and villages.

Labour councillor, Sandra Peake said, "We recognised the need for additional

council housing years ago and that is why we set up our house-building schemes. We are a growing district and it's very important that we continue to build the right accommodation, in the right place for people who need this type of property."

Unlike many other authorities, Bolsover District Labour Group has always fought to keep hold of its housing stock and not farm it out to arms-length companies who just want to get rid of a problem.

Sandra added, "It is essential that we keep hold of our housing as people can trust the Council not to rip them off, do a good job and keep their property in a good state of repair."

On top of this we continue to invest and help protect the elderly and vulnerable as we are ploughing millions of pounds into upgrading our sheltered accommodation (or independent living centres as they are known).

- £1.15m Victoria House, Creswell (completed)
- £1.5m for Parkfields, Clowne (completed)
- £1.5m for Valley View, Hillstown (complete March 2023)
- £2.5m for Ashbourne Court, Shirebrook (complete February 2023)

It has seen the flats refurbished with full wet rooms and new multi-sensor alarm systems installed to improve fire safety.

The communal heating in the complexes has also been replaced with individual systems that provide the tenants with independent control of their heating and will improve the efficiency of their heating and hot water systems.

Valley View in Hillstown will also see the construction of two new bungalows and Ashbourne Court has seen 14 new flats constructed as part of a brand new extension. Plans for the replacement of Woburn House and nearby bungalows in Blackwell are being put forward and the refurbishment of Jubilee Court in Pinxton has been agreed.

Labour councillor Duncan McGregor said, "We have proven that you can refurbish and modernise these type of premises without the need for closing them or moving people out. It just takes a bit of foresight and planning.

"We take our responsibilities very seriously when it comes to protecting and supporting our elderly and vulnerable and you can see from the end product what can be achieved."

And this is all whilst the Conservative controlled Derbyshire County Council have decided to close seven care homes in Derbyshire (two of which are in Bolsover District – East Clune in Clowne and Holmlea in Tibshelf).

Proving once again that Labour's philosophy is to invest in our residents and services.



£250k for new CCTV system

We are investing £250,000 into providing a new and updated CCTV system across the District to help you feel safe and secure whilst going about your everyday business.

The initial 12-month trial will see a central CCTV monitoring suite established, with three fixed cameras, six re-deployable cameras and additional camera's installed at the six Independent Living Schemes in Creswell, Shirebrook, Hillstown, Blackwell, Pinxton and Clowne.

Labour councillor, Mary Dooley said, "As a Labour group and society in

general, we need to make sure people feel safe walking down their street or going into their local park. That's why we are investing heavily in this new CCTV system."

One of the key aspects of the system is the new CCTV suite that will provide 24 hour monitoring of the cameras so if anything does happen the relevant emergency services can be alerted.

Labour locally is delivering. Labour in government will also deliver.

New £9m facility for district mourners

The Roseland Park and Crematorium will be located next to Shirebrook cemetery but will serve the whole of Bolsover District.

Labour councillor, Liz Smyth said, "It will be sympathetically designed to blend into the surroundings and will provide a pleasant, peaceful place for people to visit and reflect.

"We have consulted with local funeral directors who have given us their support for a more local facility rather than people having to travel to Chesterfield or Mansfield. It will be a modern, fit-for-purpose facility that meets the growing needs of our population so they can celebrate the lives of their loved ones."

It is a joint venture between the Labour councils of Bolsover District and Shirebrook Town and will also create up to eight jobs.



You deserve better

We believe the residents of Bolsover District are some of the hardest working, innovative and creative people in the UK.

This has shone through over the years, and especially during the pandemic, as hundreds of you formed new groups and organisations to help those in need. It is this type of community spirit and caring nature that we aim to build upon.

For far too long our district has been

'left behind' and lacked government investment in new skills and highly paid jobs. So, we are working with our partners to invest in our local talent, provide you with the opportunities to develop your skills and enable access to higher paid employment and learning opportunities.

To do this we aim to:

- Develop a skills centre that can produce the next breed of entrepreneurs or the next big

invention. The centre would provide both educational and practical learning in a range of fields such as electronics, medicine and communications. It will provide students and work placements access to the latest technology and help fill any skills gaps required by businesses.

- Continue providing apprenticeships to young people in a variety of different roles and businesses to help them get a step onto the employment ladder and get that all important 'on the job' experience.
- Use the results from the recent skills

survey to bid for funding and enable the development of skills needed for local work, new employees and a better future for all.

- Work with education providers to provide post 16 education in at least one of our secondary schools giving our children the chance to further their education at a local venue rather than having to travel miles. Quality education is a fundamental element to young people starting their adult life as they will need the skills, qualities and attributes associated with education to make a success of their lives.

Bolsover District open for business

Throughout the past four years businesses up and down the country have faced everything.

A global pandemic. Loss of trade. Rising energy bills. And now they are hit with a possible recession.

They have received little or no help from the government and what help they have received they have either got to pay it back or it is being reduced once again.

Under the Conservatives, the UK economy has ground to a halt. We are set for the lowest growth and highest inflation of any major advanced economy. And people are working harder and earning less. But we can help.

And as the old saying goes 'charity begins at home', Labour Group Leader, Steve Fritchley was insistent that local businesses, community groups and organisations received help and support from the Council. This included:

- Advice – Our experienced economic development officers have been providing advice and assistance to local businesses ranging from how to bounce back from Covid-19 to what funding streams are available.
- Free advertising – Marketing and

advertising can amount to thousands of pounds each year. To help reduce these costs we offer any business located in Bolsover District the opportunity to advertise for free on the digital screens in the town centres, on Bolsover TV and in the various council publications and platforms.

- Shop Local – Spend Local Campaign – During the pandemic we started this campaign to encourage people to use their local corner shop, visit their high street or support their butcher, grocer, baker, etc

Labour Group Leader, Steve Fritchley said, "Local businesses are the lifeblood of our local economy. We are seeing businesses closing down all the time due to rising costs, so we must give them as much help and support as possible, because once they are gone, they are gone."

"We do not have the resources the government does, but what we have is local knowledge and the platforms to be able to promote them, advertise what they are offering and encourage people to use their shop and the high streets."



"This is just the start. As a Labour group we have ambitions to create cultural hubs in our town centres that will fit hand in glove with our local businesses and increase footfall."

Here are just some of the positive comments received about the schemes.

South Normanton business owner – "What a great idea. It makes a change for any Council to give something away and Bolsover should be credited for this. Well done."

Bolsover charity – "I was amazed and could not believe it when I received the

information. Free adverts. I don't know anyone else who is doing this so we are very lucky."

Barlborough community group – "We really struggle with advertising our group, so the help we have received from the Council has been enormous and cannot be underestimated. Thank you so much."

To take advantage of the offer contact the Council on 01246 242323 or email scott.chambers@bolsover.gov.uk

Labour locally is delivering. Labour in government will also deliver.

News in brief

Keeping you informed

One area we know we have to improve on is keeping you informed of what your local Labour group is doing and what it stands for.

So, we are regularly updating our website (www.labourtoday.uk) with the latest news and information from across Bolsover District, we are targeting our leaflets to specific areas and we are producing regular videos on what we are doing. Visit www.labourtoday.uk

Continuing to provide value for money

We have once again been praised for our financial management of Bolsover District Council as we were one of only 9% of local authorities who had our accounts signed off as complete before the statutory deadline.

Labour councillor Clive Moesby said,

"We work closely with Council officers and pride ourselves on providing good sound financial management that includes investing in the right places and implementing schemes that are not vanity projects but have real tangible benefits for our local communities and provide income, wherever possible."

Vision Bolsover II

In order to keep receiving good quality services, whilst investment is still being put into the District we need your continued support!

We have big ambitions and ideas to develop Bolsover District and our 'Vision Bolsover' prospectus puts them into one document. The document



highlights major schemes that will bring new jobs, skills opportunities, increase opportunities for our residents and improve our tourism offer.

Vision Bolsover II is currently being written and will be delivered to every household across Bolsover District over the coming months to inform you of the ambitions to help Bolsover District, its businesses and its communities flourish.

BILD

We are working with a number of Parish and Town Council's helping to develop leisure and recreational facilities in the area.

The BILD (Buildings, Infrastructure, Leisure, Developments) programme could see developments like new village halls, leisure complexes or recreation grounds built within local towns and villages.

Labour councillor David Downes said, "We know how hard it is to get upfront costs

or the resources to start projects, so we want to make use of the experience we have in this field to get projects moving and developments taking place in our towns and villages for the benefit of our communities.

Join the Labour Party

Labour is made up of hundreds of thousands of members determined to build a better Britain. It's simple and affordable to become a member and it unlocks a range of opportunities.

With membership fees from as little as £2.33 per month, if you wish to join then please scan the QR code.

