

Labour Today

Parishes: the building blocks of today's society

Winter 2023 Issue 3

Your support will help us deliver our 'Ambitions'

Dear reader,

Here at Bolsover District Labour Group we share your fighting spirit, your entrepreneurialism and your ability to get the job done.

These are values that have and continue to run through our communities and make us what we are today.

Despite being continually knocked back by the Government for Levelling Up funding, we are continuing to fight for our local communities to regenerate our towns and villages.

We have shown entrepreneurialism by establishing a council owned company in Dragonfly Development Ltd that will

help develop the District, bring in much-needed income and help us to minimise any potential Council tax increases.

We get the job done. Just look at the major projects that are currently underway such as the Bolsover Homes council house building scheme, a new crematorium being built for the area and the improvements we are making to our sheltered accommodation.

And these are just the start of our ambitions. The past four years have been very productive, but the next four could be even better.

We want to improve the public transport network. We want to create



Pictured: Bridget Phillipson and Natalie Fleet



Pictured: Natalie Fleet, Yvette Cooper and Claire Ward

opportunities for people to gain new skills and improve their job prospects. We want to become a thriving tourist destination that attracts visitors to the area. We want to provide a diverse range of leisure pursuits for families and visitors to enjoy. We want to build upon the creative community spirit that exists in every pocket of the area.

But we can't do this on our own. That's why next year is one of the most important in our recent history.

We are likely to see three elections:

1. Mayoral elections for the East Midlands Combined County Authority
2. Police and Crime Commissioner
3. Parliamentary

These elections will shape not just our future but the futures of our children and our children's children.

Our ambitions are supported by

the Labour front bench and the three Labour candidates. With more strategic decisions being made remotely about our area, returning three Labour victories will give us a louder voice at the table where the decisions are made. It will give us a fighting chance of being awarded the money we deserve. And it will provide a consistent and fair approach to any regeneration and investment.

We are therefore, asking for your support in voting for a Labour Mayor, Claire Ward, a Labour Police and Crime Commissioner, Nicolle Ndiweni, and a Labour Member of Parliament, Natalie Fleet, to ensure that we get a fair share of the funding available, and we can all work together for the benefit of you and the District as a whole.

Steve Fritchley
Leader, Bolsover District Labour Group

Thank you

In May 2023, Labour strengthened its grip on Bolsover District Council as we increased our majority from 18 and no overall control, to 31 seats.

You recognised the achievements

and work we had done over the past four years and thanks to your votes, it means we can now continue full steam ahead with our ambitions to create a vibrant and thriving economy, with skilled jobs

and improved education and good quality housing surrounded by leisure opportunities for everyone to enjoy and, of course, to continue to provide good services.

This was a good set of results for Bolsover District with Labour winning most wards, and we would like to thank everyone who voted

Labour and put your faith in us. What we are doing now, is putting this faith and our words and election pledges into action.

 **Labour**
In Bolsover District

Your Labour East Midlands Mayoral candidate

In May 2024, the people of Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire will have the chance to elect a mayor for the East Midlands.

Someone who can use new powers and funding from Westminster to deliver on the issues that matter most to local people.

Labour's candidate is Claire Ward who has lived and worked around here for over a decade, raising her family here and working at Mansfield's Kings Mill and Community Hospitals.

Claire tells us why she is the best person for the job.

What are your pledges?

I have seven main pledges. They are:

1. Build more affordable housing
 2. Deliver a transport system that works for everyone
 3. Improve wages, working conditions and skills
 4. Create more jobs through a Green Growth Fund
 5. Give young people a real voice on key issues
 6. Improve health and wellbeing
 7. Support communities to thrive
- But the important factors that will

run through all of these pledges are that I will listen to local people to hear what they want. I will collaborate with partners to ensure the area gets the best out of the deal. I will build a better future for our young people. And I will stand up and fight for our local communities.

What experience do you have?

As well as running my own business, I was an MP and a Minister in the last Labour government. I live and have brought up my family up in the area, so I know first-hand what problems there are and the issues local people are faced with, and know how decisions made by politicians have an impact on people's lives.

I understand the needs and issues local communities in Bolsover District are faced with. Whether this is a shortage of skills, lack of employment opportunities, poor public transport links or dearth of social housing.

What you will get is a person who is dedicated, who will use all her frontline political experience, all the local leadership skills I have gained and my business acumen to get the best possible deals for the communities of Bolsover District.

If elected, what would you do for Bolsover District?

As your East Midlands Mayor, I will bring my combined experience of politics, business, and public sector service to champion our region, making it a better place to live, work, and learn.

I want to build upon the Council's excellent work to date by providing more affordable homes for local people. Built in the right places, these will help reduce the social inequality some of our families and young people are faced with daily.

Despite numerous promises of funding, the towns and villages in Bolsover District are being left behind by this Tory Government.

I will create vibrant and thriving high streets, re-invigorate our communities by providing new skills opportunities through partnership working, and targeted employment and health and well-being initiatives.



Pictured: Duncan McGregor, Claire Ward and Steve Fritchley

I will create a Green Growth Fund to create thousands of new jobs to support our environmental ambitions. And I will provide an integrated transport system that is affordable, reliable and helps to connect our people and communities.

The choice is clear.

A vote for me, your Labour candidate, will offer new hope, a fresh vision, innovative thinking, better housing, more investment, and better opportunities for young people to succeed in Bolsover District.

You can find out more about Claire and what she stands for at www.claireward.co.uk



Public transport in Bolsover



New council homes

Getting ready to get the best possible deals

For the past few years, Bolsover District Council Leader, Steve Fritchley has been outspoken in his disdain for the East Midlands County Combined Authority (EMCCA) deal as he felt areas like Bolsover District would be forgotten in favour of the big cities and towns.

But as the proposal has now been

granted Royal Assent after completing its passage through Parliament, Steve has been working behind the scenes, building up a team of key officers who will help provide guidance and a strategic approach, so the area gets the best possible deal from the EMCCA.

Steve said, "I have made no secret that I am not a fan of the Combined

Authority, but as it has now been passed, I must make sure we are ready to take advantage and get the best deals possible out of it.

"We need to be at the table, be prepared and have 'shovel ready' projects to go. That's why I have been pulling together a team of officers who have the skill, knowledge and

determination to make sure Bolsover District gets the funding it needs and deserves."

Steve and the team have been working on projects that will help regenerate our towns, improve public transport and create jobs and skills opportunities that will directly benefit our residents and businesses.

Your Labour Council is Levelling Up

Your local Labour council is continuing to deliver for you - despite years of failed Tory promises, years of Tory cuts and years of Tory propaganda.

We do not have millions of pounds to throw around as the Council's revenue support grant (received from the Tory Government) has been cut by over 35% since 2010. But rather than keep going to the government with begging bowl in hand we want to be in control of our own destiny.

We have the ambition and drive to get things done for the benefit of you, our local communities. That's why we took the bold step to set up a Council owned company, Dragonfly Development Ltd who will build new developments, with any profits going back to the authority to re-invest in services or help minimise any increases in Council Tax.

It is with thinking like this that we can:

- **invest in housing** - The £36million Bolsover Homes scheme has already seen many properties built in Langwith/Whaley Thorns, Shirebrook and Whitwell to provide local people with good quality affordable homes. More properties are in the pipeline for Blackwell and Pinxton as we continue to build in areas of high demand and need. And with over 2,000 people on the housing register, it is clear our plans to build more properties are welcomed and desperately needed.
- **invest in tackling anti-social behaviour** - £250k has been committed to develop a new CCTV system complete with central monitoring suite to help keep our communities safe and secure. We have also purchased a new £60k CCTV van that will provide both overt and covert

surveillance to help reduce anti-social behaviour. And we found a new home for the police in Bolsover, so they have a presence in the town as they move into the council's contact centre. And we were the first in Derbyshire to introduce a district-wide Nuisance Vehicle PSPO to tackle problems associated with car cruising, performing stunts or playing loud music.

- **invest in town centres and businesses** - We are progressing our Shirebrook and Creswell Growth Plans, together with ideas to help regenerate Bolsover, Clowne and South Normanton town centres that will provide a boost to local businesses, increase footfall and provide places for local people to enjoy cultural activities. We have set up two business grant schemes to help new and existing businesses grow, create jobs or purchase much-needed equipment. We continue to help local businesses by offering free advertising support in council publications, Bolsover TV and digital display screens.
- **invest in communities** - The new £9.6m Roseland Park & Crematorium is being built in Shirebrook to provide a more local facility that will cut down on travel times as family and friends celebrate the lives of their loved ones. We are also providing grants to local community groups through individual councillor grants as well as through the Bolsover District Community Lottery scheme. And we have agreed a ten year lease with West Notts College to create a training and assessment centre at Pleasley Mills Business Park that will enhance

the post 16 provision in the District and concentrate on the growing area of renewable energy and green skills.

- **invest in our environment** - We have made good progress on our ambition to plant one million trees across Bolsover District as part of our efforts to address climate change. Over 30,000 trees have been planted in Creswell, Langwith, Bolsover, Whitwell, South Normanton and Pinxton. We are constantly looking at new materials that can be recycled as part of the burgundy bin recycling scheme and are looking at introducing new weekly food waste collections. And we have improved our grass verge maintenance to encourage wildlife and the growth of flora and fauna, where it is safe to do so.

All of this costs money.

Money, we have to find as a Labour Council because the government deem Bolsover District not worthy of receiving any grant funding to boost our local towns, or don't want to invest in providing our communities with jobs and skills opportunities they deserve or don't want to provide good, decent homes for local people to live in.

So, it begs the question that if the Tory MP who boasts in his latest annual report:

"I am proud to be the Chancellor's Parliamentary Private Secretary in

Westminster, and I know how hard he and the Government are working to support the most vulnerable at this difficult time."

At the time of going to press our Tory MP has also been appointed as an Assistant Government Whip.

Why have we not received a penny of Levelling Up funding? Why have we not even been considered for the next round of Towns Fund? And why are we constantly being overlooked in favour of other areas? If he is in such a lofty position and has 'the ear' of the Chancellor, then why are our communities and town centres not worthy of investing in and being left behind?

But don't worry. Your Labour council will continue to look at ways to boost the local economy, provide affordable homes for our residents, tackle the issues surrounding climate change and invest in new skills and job opportunities.

Your Labour council is delivering.



Nicolle sets out her plan for a safer Bolsover District

Nicolle Ndiweni is your Labour candidate to become the next Police and Crime Commissioner. Elections for this post will be held in May 2024 and Nicolle believes that our communities need change.

"It is time for change. Time for a new way of thinking and working that is not just about ticking boxes and manipulating figures, but about providing real measures to make our communities safer and more prosperous.

As the daughter of hardworking parents, I understand the importance of community and the need for stability, safety, and security.

I live in Derby and like many of you, I believe it is essential for everyone to feel safe in their workplaces, homes, and communities no matter where in the county they live.

I have experience in both the public and private sectors. I was a district councillor and cabinet member for community safety and engagement, I have a background in Criminology and International Relations and I will use this experience to bring new ideas and a

unique perspective to the position.

What I have learnt whilst I have been out and about across Bolsover District is that it is a tight knit and hard-working community where local people look out for each other.

Labour believes British policing is at its best when it is rooted in local communities, proactively preventing crime, rather than simply reacting to emergencies. The police are increasingly stretched in fulfilling their basic functions and as a result of the Conservatives' extreme cuts planned for the next Parliament, 'neighbourhood policing' is facing destruction.

So, as part of our plan, we are committed to protecting and safeguarding neighbourhood policing. Securing a Labour Police and Crime Commissioner in Derbyshire is a step toward achieving this. Combined with the election of a Labour government, we can get to work on the pledge of introducing 13,000 more police officers and police community support officers across the country.

Our Labour Police and Crime plan

will deliver for you and your home, whilst ensuring we elevate the District, leaving no one behind and do what any party should do, protect and secure safer communities.

I will work closely with residents, the police force, partner organisations, businesses, community leaders, and the wider criminal justice system to build a safer and stronger environment. I am committed to translating our ambitions into concrete actions and am confident that if we stand united in our efforts to strive for better, we will deliver for Bolsover District and Derbyshire.

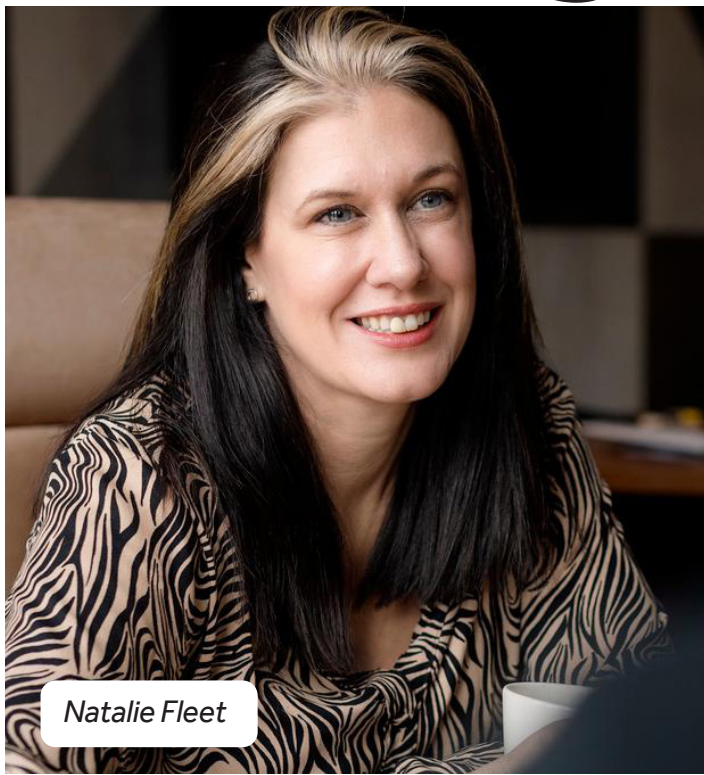
I am keen to hear your priorities and concerns, to ensure we understand the issues, tackle the challenges, and together build a brighter future for us all."

By voting for Nicolle Ndiweni we can once again make our streets safer.

You can contact Nicolle on nn@nicollendiweni.com



Building Bolsover District



Natalie Fleet

In true local tradition, Natalie Fleet says it as it is.

In 2019, the Bolsover constituency voted in a Conservative MP. This resonated around the world as long standing MP Dennis Skinner lost his seat. I feel this was the kick up the backside the national Labour party needed and got!

It was argued that at a national level, we had become complacent and took voters for granted. But I feel over the last four years we have taken stock of where we are and are ready to fight to win back your vote with actions and not words.

As your Labour Parliamentary candidate, I will work with your Labour District Council to:

- continue to fight for monies to help regenerate the towns of Bolsover, Clowne, Shirebrook and South Normanton along with the outlying villages,
- support schemes that create highly skilled jobs for local people in the Bolsover constituency,
- look to improve the poor transport network that sees areas cut off from public transport for hours at a time,
- support the construction of more new, good quality, affordable and modern council homes across the constituency,

- invest in making our communities safer be it through more and better CCTV systems, an increased police presence and a fairer judicial system,
- support our local communities in dealing with the 'cost of living' crisis, ensuring they receive the allowances and benefits they are entitled to and increasing educational opportunities for all ages.

The policies that Keir Starmer, Rachel Reeves and the Shadow Cabinet made quite clear at the recent Labour Conference will support these ambitions. But we desperately need a Labour government to achieve them.

A Labour Government that is determined to:

- ✓ Get Britain building again.
- ✓ Switch on Great British energy.
- ✓ Get the NHS back on its feet.
- ✓ Take back our streets.
- ✓ Break down the barriers to opportunity.

So, whatever date the next General Election is, it is time to make a change. A vote for Natalie will be a vote for prosperity, for you and your family, and for a brighter future.

Green Labour providing for residents and businesses

Investing in skills and jobs was one of our key election pledges and we are backing this up through two recently agreed partnerships.

The first is a £500k investment that will see Vision West Notts College lease a unit at Pleasley Vale Business Park to help create a green skills training and assessment centre.

We successfully bid to D2N2 (the Local Enterprise Partnership) for the grant which will see the creation of a training and assessment centre at the Business Park and include investment in heat pump training equipment and associated technology.

To help facilitate on-site training a mobile construction skills centre will also be developed to include the installation of heat pumps and other renewable energy technologies that will enhance students' skills and provide them with practical experience.

The college will work with the Council to secure retro fit and new build sites to put their skills into practice.

Through this innovative partnership approach, the sites which are not economically viable under normal construction contracts will become available so we can provide additional homes for affordable/social housing which are highly energy efficient.

The second project is Nottingham Trent University have been appointed as the contractor to deliver a Hyper-Local Net Zero Innovation Programme (NZIP) to create a programme of support for Bolsover District based businesses.

The academic partner will provide activities such as workshops, support, research and advice to local businesses on their decarbonisation plans, test new technologies and develop green skills and talent within their businesses.

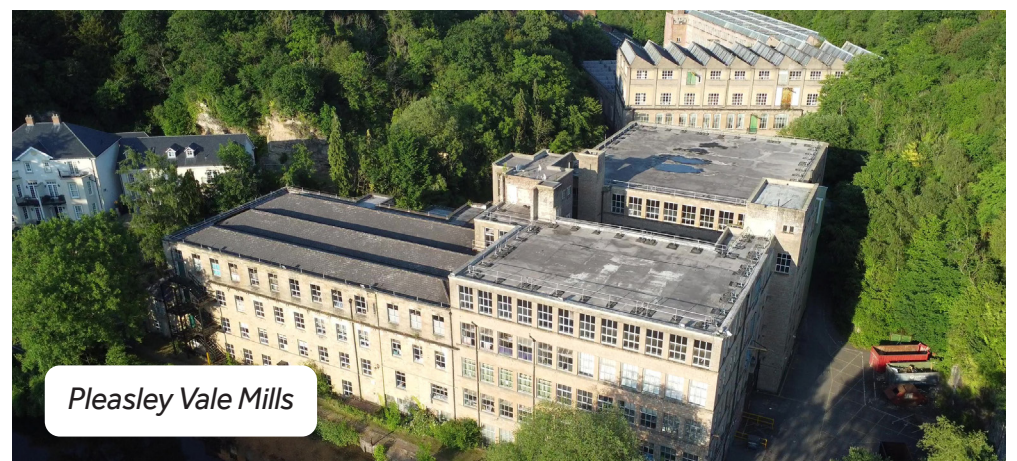
John Ritchie said, "We know how

important it is to provide local people with a chance to improve their knowledge and skills and also provide local job opportunities.

"As a Labour party, we want to create projects in our District that benefit our local residents and businesses.

"We all know that green energy and

the technology associated with it is big business, and we need to be at the front of the queue in its development and use. That's why these two projects are just the start as we look to provide opportunities so our communities can take advantage of what they offer."



Pleasley Vale Mills

News in brief

Keeping you informed

We know we need to keep you better informed of what we are doing.

So, in addition to these regular magazines, leaflets and our website (www.labourtoday.uk) we are looking to introduce a new e-newsletter where we can send you updates on what we are doing on your behalf.

These e-newsletters will be sent every two-three week's starting in the New Year and will contain information on campaigns, issues affecting the area and what we are doing on your behalf. If you would like to sign up, then please email steve.fritchley@gmail.com with the subject title E-Newsletter.

Staff Development

We have joined together with Unison leaders to launch a new Learning Charter.

This is an agreement between the Council, Dragonfly Development Limited staff and Unison to support employee development and has a number of commitments including:

- Fully supporting the role of the Unison Learning Rep and work with Trade Unions to help recruit and support them.
- Providing paid time-off to attend training during normal working hours.
- A close partnership with the Trade Unions to support the learning and development of the workforce.

Dealing with complaints effectively

Your Labour council has received a clean bill of health from the Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO).

The LGSCO sent their annual letter for 2022/23 which contained an annual summary of statistics on the complaints made against the authority for the financial year ending 31 March 2023.

The letter highlighted that the LGSCO received:

- three enquiries and complaints during 2022/23,
- two of which were closed after initial enquiries, and
- one case was not upheld with no fault found.

Mary Dooley said, "We were delighted to receive such a positive report that once again, showed what a good council we are and that we deal with any complaints we receive effectively in the first instance."

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.

Membership fees vary from £1 to £5.25 per month and if you wish to join then please visit: <https://jdr.labour.org.uk/join-journey>