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Barrow's town
centre.



BARROW & FURNESS

MATTERS

SIMON FELL MP - ANNUAL REPORT

£49.4 million secured to level up Barrow and Furness in 12 months

our progress

In December 2019, I was honoured to be elected as the MP for Barrow and Furness.

You were generous enough to put your faith in me and, through the past year, I've been working to earn your trust while doing the best job in the world.

No one could have foreseen what an extraordinary year 2020 would be for everyone, but at least now the rollout of a vaccine offers us real hope for 2021.

Even against the backdrop of the virus, Barrow and Furness has shown that it is an amazing place with so many people working tirelessly for the community. I want to keep it that way, and my team and I are grateful to be working with you, both residents and those in business, to make our area the best it can be. I'm fighting every day for Furness to gain the recognition and



Simon Fell MP chats with local campaigners about the need for the bypass to be delivered at Dove Ford, Grizebeck.

support it deserves from the Government, to secure our proud shipbuilding industry, back our public services, and ensure that we have a bright future.

I was elected to 'Level Up' areas like ours. Working across Government and

together with members of our community, we've seen more than £49 million of extra funding coming into Furness. This is on top of any additional funding to help during the pandemic.

Of note was the successful £25 million Town Deal

fund bid which will be transformational for us, and the new bypass at Dove Ford will make commutes to and from High Furness safer, smoother and faster for motorists – significant investments to level up our region.

This leaflet sets out just some of the progress we have made together during the last year.

Working together for Barrow and Furness

Promoted by Ben Shirley on behalf of Simon Fell MP, both of Barrow and Furness Conservative Association, 93 Market Street, Dalton in Furness, LA15 8DL. Printed by Finger Prints, Unit 3, Andrew's Court, Andrew's Way, Barrow in Furness, LA14 2UE.

Saving Askam's GP Surgery

Patients contacted me in dismay when the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) announced in February that Askam's Parklands Surgery would close when the current GP retired in June. For a community like Askam, a local GP is a must. In May, I presented a petition to the Health Secretary in Parliament, calling for the service to be saved. In response, and working together with Parish, County and Borough Councillors, we set up a 'Save Our Surgery' working group. Together with the CCG, we managed to secure a new GP and, in December, the purchase of the practice building was complete. The new GP will begin delivering services from January. Thank you to everyone who supported our campaign.



Askam's Save our Surgery group of (L-R) Cllr Harry Barker, Cllr Mike Cumming, Cllr Daniel Edwards, Simon Fell MP, Cllr Ben Shirley and Cllr Sam Ronson.

'Game-changing' local NHS debt write-off

Over the summer, we received the welcome news that University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust (the trust which manages Furness General Hospital and lots of other local NHS services) had their historic debt totalling over **£290 million** written off.

The decision by the Health Secretary to write off historic debt is game-changing and will enable the Trust to plan for the future and invest in vital services.

I'm very pleased the Health Secretary has listened to both me and local healthcare leaders on this and delivered for our local NHS trust because it now means that every penny can be spent on the front line, helping patients to get better, rather than on servicing historic PFI debts.

Combined with the seed funding which has been provided by the Government for Furness to develop plans for a new hospital, we are seeing welcome investment in our local NHS services.



Simon Fell MP at the site of the proposed route for the new bypass

Victory for A595 campaign

our progress

The end is finally in sight for the 'infamous farmyard bottleneck' on the A595 at Grizebeck.

I took the Chancellor there last year to see the bottleneck for himself. He was staggered, and I am delighted that his promises have been translated into action. In October, we secured £12.7 million of funding from the Department of Transport to build a bypass, with

the rest coming from the Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership. This is a huge step forward and is a real demonstration of the Government's promise to 'level up' communities like ours. I hope to see the road in full use by 2025, and I won't let the issue drop until it is delivered.

A YEAR IN NUMBERS

6,991

cases opened



2,448

people helped



286

Advice surgeries



Transformational investment of £25 million coming to Barrow



our progress

At the end of October we received the welcome news that Barrow would be one of the first towns to be awarded a Town Deal – receiving £25 million in funding from the Government.

This funding will help to transform Barrow by delivering, among other things, a university campus, a skills hub for sixth

formers, renewal of housing stock, community hubs, and improved walking and cycling infrastructure. This is the first step to reversing an unfortunate trend that Furness and Cumbria is facing – with young people leaving our area. Being able to train and retain local people in our region will turn this tide and will tackle some of the long-term inequalities we have in our community.

This funding comes on the back of £1.1 million in Historic High Streets funding for Duke Street. Altogether, the projects will play a huge part in levelling up Barrow, and making it an even more amazing place to live, work and raise a family.

our progress

On the road - Summer Surgery Tour



In August, my team and I took to the road, holding surgeries in 20 different venues over five days. It was great to meet so many people, in sunshine and rain, some with a warm welcome, some with problems, and some with challenges. All of it was useful, not least to find out more about the unique issues faced in the different districts across the constituency. There were recurrent topics, like speeding, broadband problems and mobile phone coverage. Others were more varied – from high hedges, through to community tensions, and gulls. Through the week I spoke to over a hundred people. We also carried out some community litter picks in High Furness, on Walney Island, and in Dalton. I would again like to thank everyone who hosted us, talked to us, shared their views, or even just waved to say hello. I look forward to doing it all again next year.



Protecting Walney

our progress

Several residents approached me with their fears about coastal erosion and tidal flooding on

Walney Island. I raised this direct with the Minister for Defence Procurement and with the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. I've also held meetings with the Minister for Tourism.

Given all that Walney has to offer, I'm doing all that I can to protect this amazing place. Clearly we'll need more evidence to spark action, so I am gathering this to convince Government that non-intervention will threaten homes, transport, tourism, defence, culture, and the natural environment. Getting one department onside won't be enough, but with two or three, we stand a fighting chance of getting the funding needed to build robust flood defences.



Simon taking part in a community beach clean at Sandy Gap, South Walney

Debates spoken in **30+**



Public Meetings Held **12**



Community events attended **100+**



£49.4m secured for Furness



Bringing better walking and cycling routes to Furness



Coronavirus has only highlighted just how important cycling and walking is for many local people.

The Barrow area recently received £890,000 in additional funding to begin implementing its own local cycling and walking infrastructure plan, to help more people choose active travel. The strength of feeling about the need for improved cycling and walking infrastructure in Barrow and Furness also sparked our campaign for a new route from Ulverston and Greenodd. To get the ball rolling, we held a meeting in September with key players including the Minister for Cycling (Chris Heaton-Harris MP), the Department for Transport, Network Rail, Highways England and Cumbria County Council. This went well, and I'll continue to work with interested parties on these ambitious plans so that more people can cycle and walk with confidence throughout Furness, be it for commuting or pleasure.

I was also pleased to support High Furness Councillor Matt Brereton's campaign to help cyclists and walkers avoid the A595 by reinstating the old cycle path between Broughton, Kirkby and Foxfield. We're working together with the local area committee for South Lakeland, and the local Parish Councils,

to bring this much-loved route back into use. We hosted the campaign petition on my website during July and this was presented to Cumbria County Council in the autumn.

We're awaiting their formal response. In the meantime, we'll continue to lead the campaign to bring back more cycling and walking routes to connect High Furness with other areas of our community.



Simon meets Cllr Brereton at the site of the former cycling and walking path in Foxfield

Working together to make Dalton safer

Dalton residents have become increasingly worried this year about antisocial behaviour in certain local hotspots. I've been in regular dialogue with them, local community groups, councillors and the policing team. As a result of our joint campaign, Cumbria Police has committed to providing a new community police officer in Dalton by the end of 2021. We're also working hard to secure an increase in foot patrols, CCTV and additional lighting around Chapel Street, the leisure centre and play park. We'll keep pressing for these

improvements and, meanwhile, ask residents to report any incidents to the police by phoning 101 or 999 in the case of an emergency.



Supporting our national defences and securing Furness' future

I am a firm supporter of our Armed Forces: that's why I am delighted that we are providing them with the largest financial boost since the Cold War, while exceeding our Manifesto commitment to increase defence spending. As the Prime Minister said in his statement to the House of Commons, we are pressing on with renewing the nuclear deterrent, securing

Barrow's future and over 10,000 local jobs. This is also good news for Barrow, which will benefit not only from a proportion of the £16.5bn increase in defence spending, but also for the security this investment will bring our country, together with the jobs and prosperity it will deliver to our defence industry and our local supply chains.

Get in Touch

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@simonfell

@SimonRJJell

I hold regular advice surgeries offering help and support to local people. To arrange an appointment please email or call me.

If you would like my help or support with any of the following issues, please indicate accordingly and return to me by post or by taking a photograph of this form and emailing me at: simon.fell.mp@parliament.uk

<input type="checkbox"/> Police and crime prevention	<input type="checkbox"/> Fire and rescue
<input type="checkbox"/> Covid-19	<input type="checkbox"/> Roads and potholes
<input type="checkbox"/> Schools and learning	<input type="checkbox"/> Other, please state
<input type="checkbox"/> Health and social care
<input type="checkbox"/> Sport and recreation	

On a scale of 1–10 how well do you feel Simon Fell MP is performing as your local MP?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Name:

Address:

..... Postcode:

Email:

Tel:

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