

Press Release
22 May 2020



Sarah Dines MP urges visitors and bikers to respect residents in the Peak District and Matlock Bath ahead of the bank holiday weekend

Sarah Dines MP has spoken with the Home Secretary The Rt Hon Priti Patel MP and the leadership of Derbyshire Constabulary including the Chief Constable Peter Goodman to pass on her constituents' concerns following the influx of visitors last weekend. Sarah Dines has also spoken to the leadership of Derbyshire County Council and Derbyshire Dales District Council and is in regular conversation with them on concerns raised.

Sarah Dines MP said "I have spoken with the Home Secretary and Derbyshire Constabulary in very clear terms regarding my constituents' worries that visitors will flood Matlock Bath and other areas in Derbyshire Dales this bank holiday weekend. The Home Secretary was adamant that Derbyshire Constabulary should enforce the law. I share my constituents' concerns and have urged the police to use the full extent of powers available to them to tackle these problems and maintain social distancing to protect residents. Visitors should not be putting our community at risk and I expect the police to take action.

The rules and guidelines are clear, we should all be following them. The rules permit you to meet one person outside of your household at a distance of 2m. The scenes we were seeing in Matlock Bath and other areas last weekend clearly breached this guidance. These scenes should not be repeated this bank holiday weekend. We all have a duty to be responsible and safeguard the vulnerable in our communities in Staying Alert, Controlling the Virus and Saving Lives to protect all of our loved ones.

The upset caused by the high numbers of visitors acting irresponsibly and not social distancing to those of my vulnerable constituents from the virus is intolerable. People need to think before they act and should not feel prisoner in their own homes due to the irresponsible actions of others. We are in this together. All of us.

I know these are difficult times and everyone is worried, but I would like to reassure people here in Derbyshire Dales that I am doing everything I can to raise constituents concerns at the highest level and stand up for the locals! The public need to do their part to beat this virus and send it packing as soon as we can."

Sarah Dines' had a frank conversation with the Chief Constable today, and Derbyshire Constabulary will be putting into action a specialist operation in Matlock Bath to tackle these issues and the keep community safe this bank holiday weekend.

ENDS

Note to Editors

- Photograph taken before the Coronavirus outbreak



Sarah Dines MP

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To sign up to receive update emails from Sarah please sign-up at www.sarahdines.org.uk/contact

To view campaign responses please visit www.sarahdines.org.uk/campaignresponses

To keep up to date with Sarah's Facebook activity, please visit and like Sarah's page at

www.facebook.com/Dines4derbyshiredales/

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