

Mark opens food box scheme

Mark Lancaster has praised a new foody project which 'ticks all the boxes'.

On Friday the city MP was honoured to officially open the Newport Pagnell Food Box scheme, which allows Neil Whitford and Carole Trillian to bring the quality of the high street to people's doorsteps.

At the start of this month, the Tyringham-based firm began assembling boxes of the finest produce from the Market Hill greengrocers, as well as GJ Douglas Butchers, delivering to people's doors.

Customers can even request produce from the Adderson family dairy in North Crawley and the Newport based florist Bluebell Flowers and business is already reported to be good.

Mr Lancaster, who spent the weekend munching his way through the fresh veg in the box presented to him, said: "For me, an initiative like this really does tick all the boxes. With such hectic lives, people find it harder to shop in their local high street, and end up stopping off at a supermarket after work. But this is a way of fitting in with their busy 21st century lifestyles.

"It is a great way of keeping our fantastic high streets alive and compete with the big chains. I also like the emphasis on the fruit and veg, which will help people, lead healthier lifestyles and get their five a day. And by taking the items to people's homes, Neil and Carole are helping limit those extra car emissions of people driving to the shops."

The Coalition Government is committed to helping small businesses, and Mr Lancaster recently pressed for more information in Parliament. After a meeting with Newport Pagnell Partnership, he is seeking more information as to how the services provided by high street stores can be protected.

More information on Newport Pagnell Food Boxes go to www.npfoodbox.co.uk.