



James Duddridge MP

IN TOUCH

WITH JAMES



June 2006



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Campaigning for Essex Police

YOUR local MP James Duddridge has joined forces with fellow Essex Members of Parliament to campaign to keep Essex Constabulary as a single force.

The Government plan to merge all those Police Forces with less than 4,000 Police Officers into new regional forces which would coincide with the Government's artificial regional boundaries.

As Essex Police Force has 3,200 officers, it is a candidate for a merger.

Essex Police Force was given three options to join with different counties.

However, James feels that this is entirely

unsuitable for Essex. James believes Essex Police should not be forced to merge with an entirely different force simply because the Government has plucked the arbitrary threshold of 4,000 officers from thin air.

James was one of 15 Essex MPs who signed a pledge to keep Essex Police local. He has also spoken in debates on the matter in the House of Commons and met with Robert Chambers, the Chairman of Essex Police Authority.

James said, "I would like to see directly elected local police authorities and let them set local priorities and allow them to hold the local police to account. Put police on the streets and let them take coffee breaks out in the community rather than heading back to the station. My colleagues and I all share the same goal: to keep Essex Police as a local force. Attempting to force the police to change drastically - against their will and the will of the people they serve - simply cannot be right."

In touch with James

"This is my first annual report since being elected last May, and I certainly do have plenty to report on.

"I have been busy campaigning to ensure that our local services in Southend remain strong. Essex Police and the Cancer Centre at Southend Hospital have both been facing significant changes, so I have teamed up with other local Members of Parliament to support them locally and in Parliament.

"I have also spent a lot of time helping individual constituents in my weekly surgeries with issues they have come to me with, which is one of my core responsibilities as the local Member of Parliament. In some cases, problems develop into wider local issues which I have worked hard to solve. For example, numerous people came to me complaining of excessive train horn noise from a nearby footpath crossing. For more on this story, please turn to page 2.

"It has been a pleasure to serve the people of Rochford and Southend East so far, and I look forward to continuing to do so in the coming years. I would encourage anyone who thinks I can be of any assistance to get in touch with me using the contact details on page 4 and let me know how I can help."



James is campaigning with a group of cross party Essex MPs

Surgeries

If you think that a group or organisation would benefit from a visit from James Duddridge then do get in touch. He would be pleased to hear from you.

Surgeries are held weekly. To make an appointment call:

01702 616 135

www.jamesduddridge.com



Victory in train noise battle

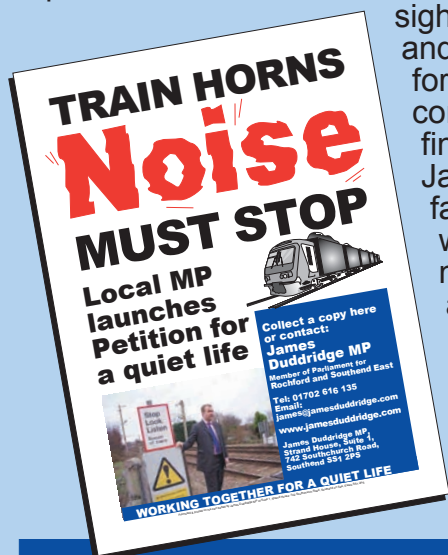
JAMES is delighted that he was able to help constituents in Woodgrange Close who were suffering from the effects of noise pollution from piercing train horns.

James had been inundated with complaints from his constituents about the noise of train horns from trains passing the crossing at the end of Woodgrange Close in Thorpe Bay. The horns were being sounded until 2.00 am and would start up again just two hours later, so it was hardly surprising that many constituents were complaining of interrupted sleep.

Working closely with the local council, James had a number of discussions with c2c, Network Rail and the Noise Abatement Society on the issue. James also distributed a petition to local residents and the overwhelming response he received confirmed the extent to which the train horn noises were affecting residents. As a result of James's action, the area was risk assessed.

Following the risk assessment, the vegetation on the 'up' side of the track was removed which improved the sight line of train drivers

and thus removed the need for sounding a horn. Work continued and following a final risk assessment, James was told that in fact the whistleboards will be removed - meaning residents around the Woodgrange Close crossing can once again sleep peacefully.



Saving our Southend Cancer Centre

JAMES has launched a joint campaign with fellow local MPs Mark Francois, David Amess and Bob Spink to show their support for the cancer centre at Southend Hospital.

Essex Strategic Health Authority has been running a consultation on the future organisation of cancer services in Essex which will have implications for the Southend centre as decisions must be made on where certain operations should take place. James is concerned that changes to the current arrangements might not be in the best interests of his constituents, and he is therefore leading the campaign in Parliament and locally to put that

view across.

The consultation ended on Monday 13th March and James and his colleagues presented a petition of 5,000 signatures to Parliament that calls upon the Government to give its full support to the centre in the future. James distributed the petition to GP surgeries and pharmacies across the constituency for their patients and customers to sign, and he received a very strong response in support of the centre.



MP congratulates young people

IN December James presented awards at Roots Hall to thirteen young people who had taken part in the Prince's Trust Programme.

The programme lasted for twelve weeks and in that time, the team achieved numerous awards, including the Millennium Volunteers 100 hour certificate, an appointed first aid certificate and a City & Guilds Profile of Achievement.

James said, "I was very pleased to present the awards to these courageous people. I think it is very important to recognise the hard work and achievement of these young people."

Fighting crime and disorder

BEFORE Christmas, James attended the launch of the Southend Crime, Disorder and Drugs Strategy.

The scheme employs a strategic partnership between the Police, Southend United Football Club and volunteers from the local community as a means of tackling the problems of drugs and antisocial behaviour in Southend. Between them, they have launched initiatives such as the SOS Bus, Cycle Watch and Leisure Watch as part of a comprehensive approach to making Southend safer.

James said, "I have been out on the 'beat' with the team of Street Pastors who patrol the High Street on a Friday and Saturday evening. It is great to see the community working together to help provide a deterrent to anti-social behaviour".





James visiting a local Primary School in the constituency

Let's recycle!

JAMES recently visited Southend's Central Cleansing Depot at Cory.

Cory clear rubbish and recycle for many areas in Southend and Rochford. Their facilities include providing a recycling collection, street cleansing, materials recycling and green waste collection.

James visited the site on Eastern Avenue to see the process of recycling at first hand.

"I was hugely impressed with the site and at how hard they work," James said. "I think it is essential that we all make a positive effort to recycle."



Poppy Appeal



IN November James raised money for the Royal British Legion by selling poppies to customers in Waitrose Supermarket.

James is a keen supporter of the Royal British Legion, who campaign to remember the interests and memory of those who have served in the Armed Forces. James said, "I think it is important to remember the people who gave their lives for us. I wanted to help raise money for the Royal British Legion, who look after so well those who have served in our Armed Forces".

TO HELP WITH THE 2006 COLLECTION, VISIT: www.britishlegion.co.uk

James backs the Blues

JAMES was delighted to attend the victory parade along Southend seafront to celebrate Southend United's promotion into the Championship.

James commented, "We are proud of the Blues in Southend, they have done a magnificent job and we wish them the best of luck in the Championship. I am 100% behind building a new stadium."

James supports the Blues - on pitch at Southend United



James pictured with a constituent during one of his weekly surgeries



James out and about in the constituency



Opening the new pitch at King Edmund School

The Rochford & Southend East Constituency



Your local Member of Parliament

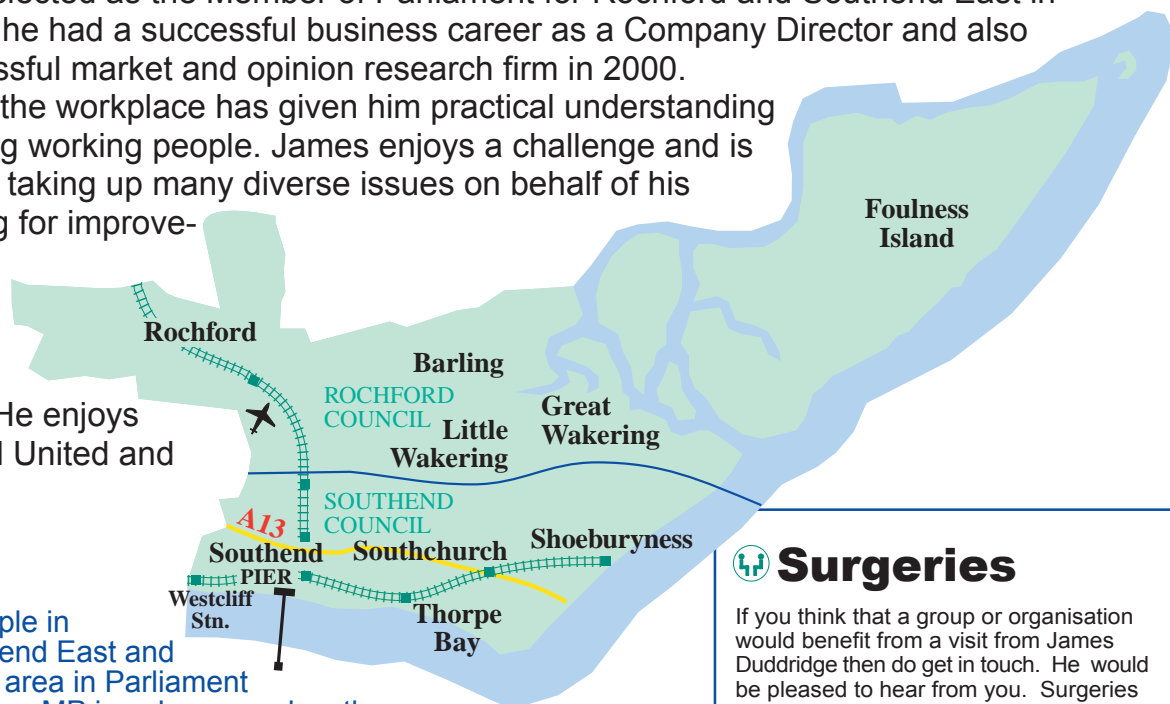
James Duddridge MP



James Duddridge was elected as the Member of Parliament for Rochford and Southend East in May 2005. Before this he had a successful business career as a Company Director and also helped set up a successful market and opinion research firm in 2000.

James' experience in the workplace has given him practical understanding of the challenges facing working people. James enjoys a challenge and is relishing his new role of taking up many diverse issues on behalf of his constituents and fighting for improvements in the locality.

James lives in Southend with his wife Katy and their two cats, Boris and Barney. He enjoys cycling, and supports Southend United and Southampton Football clubs.



Working for people in Rochford & Southend East and representing our area in Parliament is a privilege. Your MP is only as good as the information he or she receives, so please get in touch with me by writing to me at the address in the panel on the right or e-mail me at james@jamesduddridge.com. If there are questions or issues that you would like me to raise, or things you would like me to do or see in the constituency, please do let me know.

James

Lessons in Democracy

James Duddridge is always keen to ensure that his younger constituents understand the wonders of our democratic process! If you are a teacher and would like your pupils to tour the House of Commons, please do not hesitate to write to James at:

James Duddridge MP
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA



Surgeries

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Contact details

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