



James Duddridge MP IN TOUCH WITH JAMES



Autumn
2006



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James leads campaign against graffiti

LOCAL MP James Duddridge has been running a campaign against the graffiti that blights much of Rochford and Southend.

James hasn't been afraid to get his hands dirty himself. In a bid to understand just how much work it takes to clear up each and every tag, James joined one of the Council's clean-up vans for an afternoon to see how they go about cleaning the graffiti in the local area.

Working on a tag at the railway bridge on Thorpe Hall Avenue, James was ably assisted by the dedicated staff who operate the fleet of clean-up vans on a day-to-day basis. The vans, laid on by Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, are a crucial front in the fight against the criminal damage.

James later said, "The Council do a grand job cleaning up graffiti with the resources available to them, and I certainly vouch for the hard work that the operators of the clean-up vans have to do day in, day out.

"It feels rewarding to have cleared this site, but at the same time I am disturbed that this is just one tiny battle in the whole of the clean-up



operation."

James has also welcomed the ongoing work by the Council, the Police and other local organisations to find new ways to tackle the taggers.

James said, "Initiatives such as free DIY cleaning kits for local residents are all part of a big community-wide effort.

"We face this problem together, and we need to tackle it together."



James out and about in Southend



James helps mark the opening of Mencap's new fancy dress hire shop



James and Southend West MP David Amess join Southend's Youth Mayor

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

Promoted on his own behalf by James Duddridge MP of Suite 1, Strand House, 742 Southchurch Road, Southend on Sea, Essex SS1 2PS, and paid for by Mr Duddridge from his IEP. Printed by The Windrush Press, Windrush House, Avenue Two, Station Lane, Witney, Oxfordshire OX28 4XW

Find out what James is doing in Rochford & Southend East - and in Westminster - on his online blog.

Go to:

www.jamesduddridge.com

and follow the links





James and fellow Essex MPs at the Home Office for a meeting with the Policing Minister

MP welcomes U-turn on Police mergers

JAMES is delighted with the news that Essex Police are going to remain a single force and will no longer be made to merge with neighbouring forces.

The Government had planned to reduce the number of police forces in England and Wales from the current 43 down to only 12. In Essex, that would have meant a merger with Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Police Forces.

However, many people in Essex were strongly opposed to the plans and James helped make sure their voices were heard. He campaigned along with 14 other Members of Parliament from across the county to show the strength of feeling amongst the people of Essex in support of their local police.

The MPs joined debates in Parliament, questioned Ministers and helped Essex County Council launch a county-wide survey that afforded local people a direct chance to have their say.

During their unrelenting campaign, James and the other Essex MPs, were told during a meeting with the Policing Minister that the plans to impose mergers were now "off the agenda" and would no longer go ahead.

This news was then confirmed when it emerged that the Government was dropping its plans for mergers altogether due to a lack of available funding.

James said, "After our sustained campaign and the clear opposition to a merger by local people, it is very welcome news that the Government has called the plans off.

"My colleagues and I will not be afraid to oppose any suggestion of a merger if this absurd situation arose again.

"I am delighted that we will keep our own police force to serve our own community".



James praises the Samaritans

JAMES visited the local headquarters of the Samaritans during this year's Volunteers Week to show his support for the charity.

During his visit, the volunteers showed James around their facilities and explained the work that they do.

"I was delighted to go along to the Samaritans and say thank you to the volunteers", James said. "They provide such an important service to the community and I hope they know how much they are appreciated."

RADIOACTIVE WASTE: THE FULL STORY

JAMES recently organised a campaign about radioactive waste at Foulness Island, after it came to light that the disposal of waste from warheads was being examined by the Environment Agency.

With the community not having been provided with any information about the Environment Agency's work, James decided to move quickly to ensure that nothing would be disposed of on the Island that might pose a risk to local people's health.

In conjunction with the *Evening Echo*, James organised a public petition that allowed local residents to express their objections to the proposals. When James took the petition to Parliament, it had over 1,000 signatures on it.

Thanks to the petition and representations that James made to the Environment Agency and the Defence Minister, James was able to find out exactly what was going on. A consultation was being run that would consider the level of warhead waste that would be permissible to be disposed of at Foulness.

However, James was also able to find out that this would be no cause for alarm. Having requested a detailed explanation of the activity involved, he was reassured that the levels were so low as to pose no risk to the community - in fact, they are two million times lower than the legal dose.

James has said, "I am now fully comfortable with the permissions for waste disposal that the Environment Agency is proposing to give. At the start of the consultation there was a very unclear picture about what would be taking place at

and the local community.

"Full information has been made available and I am satisfied that there is no risk to the community.

"I do believe that we as a community need to break down the barriers between us and the Island and be more open in our relationship with it. I would also encourage local people to go to the excellent Visitors' Centre on the Island."





James becomes Trustee of SHIELDS

JAMES was delighted to recently accept an invitation from local group SHIELDS Parliament to become a Trustee of the group.

SHIELDS stands for Supporting, Helping, Informing Everyone with Learning Disabilities in Southend. It is an advocacy group for people with learning disabilities and is unique in that it is run by ten disabled elected councillors who represent wards across the Southend area.

James first met the group of councillors when they visited the House of Commons for a tour and a question and answer session with him.

James said, "I am absolutely delighted to become a Trustee of SHIELDS. The councillors are really enthusiastic and committed to representing the interests of others like them."

He added, "SHIELDS are in the process of applying for charity status (so it can become an independent body) and I will do what I can in my role as Trustee to help them achieve it. It is clear that they certainly need and deserve it."

UPDATE Success!

James has helped secure changes in guidelines for people with learning disabilities who want to become Trustees of charities.

SHIELDS had previously been told by the Charities Commission that their members could not become Trustees of their own charity. James raised concerns about this both when the Charities Bill was debated in the House of Commons and when he sat on the cross-party committee of MPs who scrutinised the Bill clause by clause.

James has since received recognition from the Charities Minister Ed Milliband that guidance will be amended to make it clear that people with learning disabilities are not excluded from becoming Trustees.

James commented, "I am very pleased to receive these assurances from the Minister. It will send out a positive message that all people, with or without learning disabilities, are entitled to be considered for a role as a full and active Trustee."

James goes the extra mile for Sport Relief

JAMES is pictured running a mile around Westminster in aid of Sport Relief.

After the race James said, "The Sport Relief Mile is such a fun way of supporting charity. I was pleased to finish the Westminster Mile within the top 20 Parliamentarians but it wasn't about running a race. We were there in the spirit of pulling together for a worthwhile cause."



The National Blood Service needs you

"DO something amazing today" - that was James' advice to his constituents after he gave blood at a mobile unit in Parliament.

"Becoming a blood donor is a simple but effective way of saving lives," he said. "Of course, some people are unable to donate their blood but those of us who are in a position to do so should take that little step to make a huge difference to others' lives."

To find out more about giving blood, call 0847 7 711 711 or visit www.blood.co.uk





Dear Reader,

Thank you for taking the time to browse the news of what I've been up to in recent months.

As usual, the people of Rochford and Southend East have kept me on my toes. With such a vibrant community and so many local groups and organisations in our area, it has been a pleasure to join in with a whole range of fun activities.

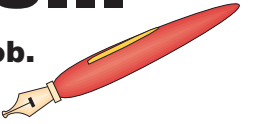
From the sights and sounds of the Carnival to the celebration of Southend United's 100th anniversary and everything in between, I was reminded of how Southend and Rochford really come into their own in the summer months.

I have also been working on ongoing issues to ensure that my constituents get the best deal. We have had confirmation that Essex Police will not be abolished and that no harmful activity will be taking place on Foulness Island. Graffiti remains a problem to tackle but I'm confident that with everyone working together we're really giving the taggers a run for their money.

As always, please do contact me if I can ever be of any assistance to you.

Thank you James...

MPs don't expect to be thanked for doing their job. However, it is nice when they are. Printed below are quotes from a selection of letters from residents received by James since his last report.



"It is heartening to know you have your finger on the pulse relating to matters that concern the community."

**M.C.,
Shoebury**

"Thank you for your help in resolving our recent problems. We are sure they would still be going on without your kind help."

D.L. and K.L., Rochford

"Thank you so much for all your help and time in this matter. All my family are very grateful for everything you have done to help us, you have made everybody happy."

D.G., Southend

Caption Competition

Win a bottle of Champagne

To enter James' competition to win a bottle of Champagne, devise a suitable caption for the photograph below and return to:

**James Duddridge MP
(Competition),
House of
Commons,
London
SW1A 0AA**

Please post your entries to arrive by last post on:
**Friday
1st December
2006**

Please use block capitals



My caption is:

TITLE INITIALS

SURNAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

TELEPHONE

E-MAIL

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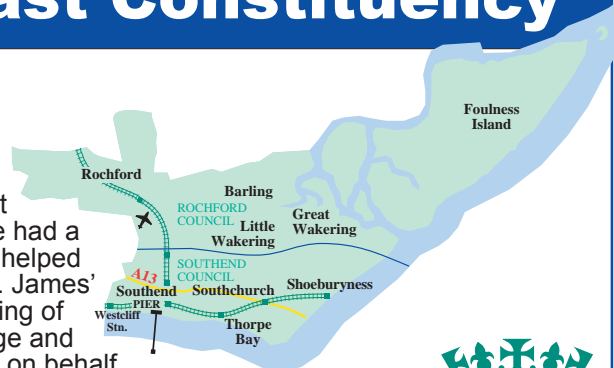
The Rochford & Southend East Constituency



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 son Tom, who was born in May 2006 - and their two cats, Boris and Barney. He enjoys cycling, and supports Southend United and Southampton Football clubs.



Surgeries

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Contact details

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CUT OUT & KEEP