



James Duddridge MP

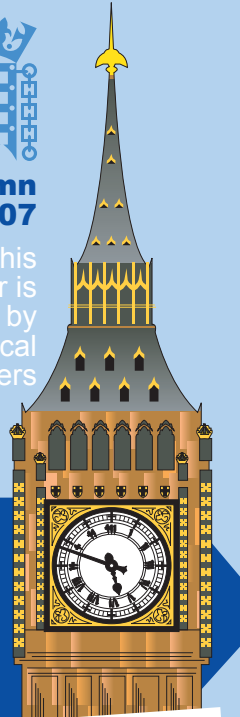
IN TOUCH

WITH JAMES



Autumn 2007

This newsletter is delivered by local volunteers



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James presents Graffiti Bill to Parliament

JAMES has presented proposals to Parliament which, if they become law, would require people who commit the criminal damage act of graffiti to clean it up and meet the victim whose property they vandalised.

Under the guidelines, once an offender is caught, they would be issued with a 'clean-up' order, requiring them to go back to the site, or a similar site, and clean up the mess they made.

James has been working with a local advisory panel in Rochford & Southend East to get the proposals right, and to hear views about how they would work in practice. The panel is made up of Councillors, the Police, youth workers and others who work regularly on

tackling graffiti in Southend. James would especially like to thank Cllr Ian Robertson and Karon Grant from Southend Borough Council, and Chief Inspector Steve Worrone for their help.

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council spent £150,000 last year cleaning up graffiti. Talking about the problem James said, "Graffiti is an eye-sore and blight for many parts of our town. There's no getting away from the fact that

it's criminal damage, and a long-term reminder of anti-social behaviour that adversely affects everyone.

"Many local councils such as Southend Council do an excellent job with the resources they have; cleaning off as much graffiti as they can as quickly as possible. But graffiti shouldn't be appearing in the first place - we need offenders to realise the impact their behaviour has on the community so that they stop creating graffiti altogether.

James hopes the proposals in his Criminal Damage (Graffiti) Bill will act as a deterrent, "I believe that by making offenders clean up their mess, they will realise the true cost of what they have done.

"I've been out in Southend with one of the Council's clean-up vans myself, and can testify that it's a hard job getting paint off walls - certainly hard enough to put people off risking getting caught again."

James has been working closely with ENCAMS, the environmental campaigns charity that is also behind Keep Britain Tidy and the Blue Flags scheme, which recognises the high quality of Southend's beaches.

In Parliament, James' proposals have cross-party support, and MPs from a range of political parties have also signed up to an Early Day Motion that echoes the sentiments of James' Bill.



James backs Southend Carers Week



James pays a visit to Southend Ambulance Station



James samples local delights at the farmers' market



James welcomes South East Essex College to Parliament



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Many hands make light work

THIS newsletter is delivered by volunteers. Would you like to help?


James says, "As your local Member of Parliament, I need to keep constituents updated on what I have been doing in the local area and in Parliament. The 'In Touch' is produced three times a year, and I would appreciate help from anyone who is able to lend a hand delivering to their road or local area.

If you are willing to help, please contact my constituency office on 01702 616 135 or email me at james@jamesduddridge.com .

www.jamesduddridge.com

JAMES WORKING ACROSS THE CONSTITUENCY

The Seafront Taking to the high seas!



JAMES recently spent an afternoon with the local lifeboat team for a hands-on demonstration of the work they do.

Not one to shy away from a challenge, James donned all the gear; a full waterproof drysuit, lifejacket and helmet and went out on call with the crew.

The first thing James had to say about the day was that the commitment and professionalism of the volunteers is outstanding. In their day-jobs, their careers are wide-ranging; with firemen, policemen and builders all on the team - as well as a man in marine insurance, which seemed somewhat apt. All of them volunteer their time to be on call in the event of an emergency, as well as going out on regular exercises to keep up with their training.

Earlier on, James' visit was nearly cancelled as the lifeboat was out searching for a potential body, after some clothes had been found on the beach. The team feared the worst, but it turned out that the clothes had been there for some time, and thankfully it had indeed been a false alarm.

Working on a lifeboat certainly isn't a job for the faint-hearted. The boats are pretty speedy - going up to 40 miles an hour when necessary - and they of course operate in all weather conditions. It's reassuring for all of us living so close to the sea that there's a strong and reliable lifeboat team on hand to keep us safe.

If you want to know more about the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, the local crew's website is at www.rnli.org or you can reach James on 01702 616 135.

WARRIOR SQUARE James joins Warrior Square clean up

James was delighted to join the Residents of Warrior Square Association as they volunteered to clean up their local area.

Chaired by Paul Harris, the organisation has been in contact with local residents, businesses, the Council, the Police and other stakeholders to try and address problems including lighting, anti-social behaviour and the street furniture in the square.

The group took a direct approach by having a go at cleaning the Square themselves, along with help from the Council and local Police. James said, "Warrior Square does have its problems, but it's great to know that everyone's working together to try and overcome them. I love the idea of direct action on the part of local residents and I enjoyed helping them."



ROCHFORD Surgery success at local pub

JAMES invited constituents who wished to talk to him to join him at a drop-in surgery - in the Golden Lion Pub in Rochford.

James holds weekly appointment-based constituency surgeries at his office in Southchurch Road, but also holds regular drop-in sessions at local places that are easily accessible to local people. On this occasion, James worked with the Golden Lion, a community pub that provides a valuable amenity for the local community.

James said, "I invited local people to come and join me at the Golden Lion to talk about how I can help them or even just to have a chat. People are often worried about approaching their Member of Parliament but I'm here to represent them and want to be as accessible as possible."


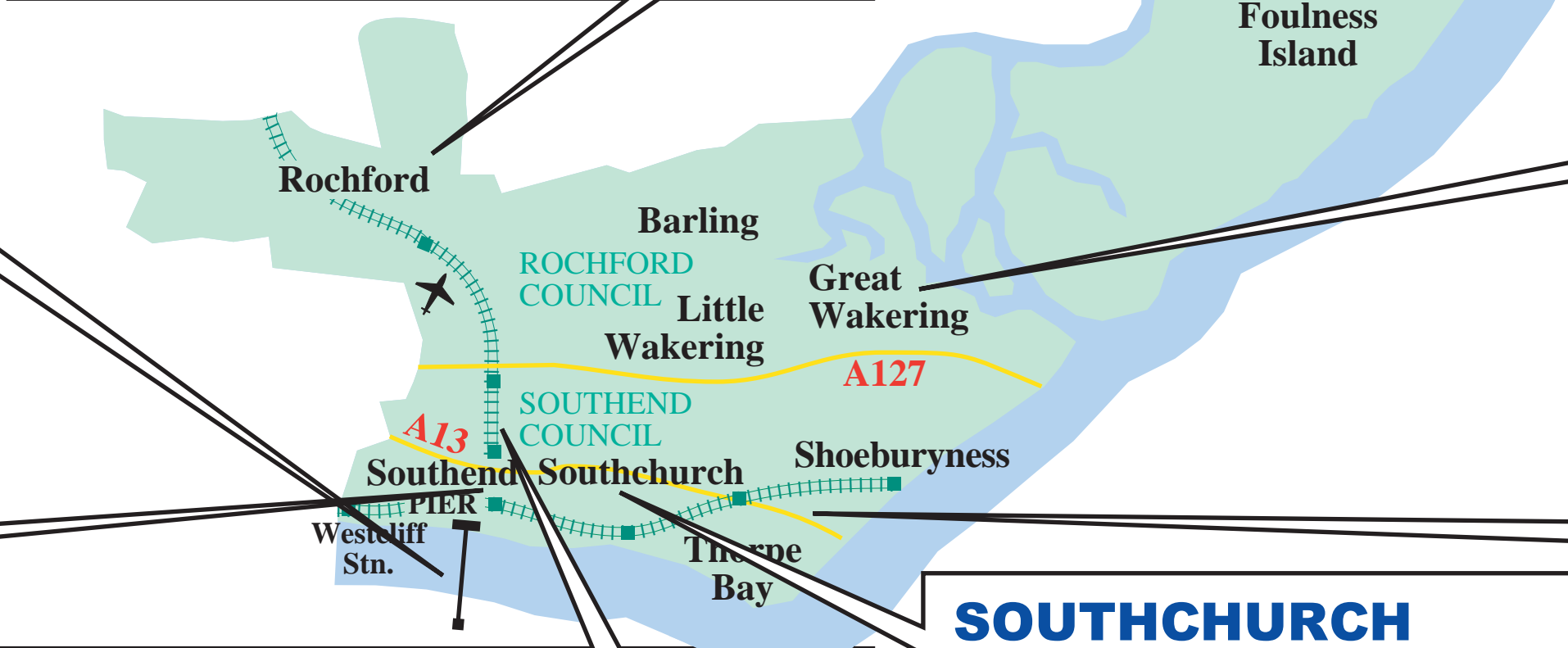


FOULNESS Backing Foulness Bike Ride

JAMES has been working closely with the Ministry Of Defence at Foulness, QinetiQ and Thorpe Bay Rotary Club in order to secure a charity bike ride for next year.

The Rotary Club of Thorpe Bay holds an annual family bike ride on the Island, which raises around £20,000 for local charities. However, the ride in 2007 was cancelled due to problems with the route.

James is confident that the bike ride will go ahead in 2008. He said, "The charity bike ride is a day out enjoyed by thousands of local people and the money raised for local charities can be substantial. I have taken part in the ride in the past and look forward to doing so again next year."


GREAT WAKERING Welcoming Shadow Pensions Secretary

JAMES joined the Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in Southend and together they heard about the pensions plight of local people.

Philip Hammond MP, Shadow Pensions Secretary, and James met former workers of printing firm Perivan White Dove, all of whom lost their savings when the firm's final salary scheme was closed. At the get-together at the Great Wakering home of Barry Tillson, the MPs heard what went wrong and what the former employees thought the Government should be doing to help.

James said, "It was really valuable to have Philip in town hearing from local people. We have to keep up the pressure on the Government to do the right thing and support the 125,000 people across the country who are suffering."

James also met the Perivan Pensioners when they campaigned outside Parliament in July.



ST LUKES James takes a turn at the Bingo

JAMES has been out 'calling the balls' at the local bingo hall, and learning about issues surrounding the popular pastime.

Visiting the Mecca Bingo Hall in Greyhound Way, James was treated to a tour of the main hall, which can hold up to 1,000 players at a time, by representatives of Mecca Bingo and their owners, Rank Group. James even took to the stage himself to call out the first line of numbers for the 700-strong crowd playing the afternoon sitting.

James said, "Visiting Mecca Bingo was great fun, and I was honoured to be asked to call out the balls. I think I got most of the numbers right, but I won't be giving up my day job!"

The visit was intended as an opportunity to find out more about the bingo hall, which has over 100,000 members, and the pastime more generally. In particular, thanks to a postcard campaign by local people, James was already aware of the issue of 'double taxation' that the bingo industry is facing, whereby bingo is taxed for both Value Added Tax (VAT) and Gross Profit Tax.

James commented, "The huge social value of the bingo hall in Greyhound Way was obvious to me as soon as I walked in the door. It plays a large part in the lives of thousands of local people, both as a place for a leisure activity and as somewhere to come and socialise. The lessons I've learned today will stay with me for a long time to come."



SOUTHCHURCH MP's surgery at local chip shop

JAMES recently held a drop-in surgery at a local fish and chip shop. James went along to The Frying Pan on Southchurch Road, where he sat down with local people who stopped by to seek advice from their Member of Parliament.

Speaking at the Frying Pan, James said, "The drop-in surgery today has been a great success. I had a continual stream of people coming to see me, and I think each of them found it useful to chat to me in an informal setting."

"I hold regular surgeries at my office, but I also do drop-in days like this one at convenient places around town so that people can just stop by and get the help they need."

"Julie and Steve, the owners of the Frying Pan, were great hosts for the day!"



THORPE BAY & SHOEBURYNES Meeting local pharmacists

JAMES has been out and about meeting local pharmacists to hear about the issues they face.

James visited Deejay Pharmacy in Campfield Road, Shoeburyness, and Bansals on Thorpe Bay Broadway, which has recently had a refit to help it provide the best service to the local community.

James said, "My visit to local pharmacies was very successful and I have learned a lot. Not many people get to see behind the scenes at a pharmacy, but being on the other side of the counter has been really valuable in helping me understand the intricacies of pharmacy as an industry. Local people can be confident that their local pharmacists are working very hard to provide the best possible service."





Dear Reader,

I hope you have enjoyed reading about some of the things I have been up to in Rochford and Southend recently.

As you have seen, graffiti has played a large part in my recent activities and I have now had the chance to meet with the Youth Council and other locals to discuss these issues too. If you have experienced graffiti problems on your property, or wish to voice your opinion on the matter, please do get in touch.

I have also been dealing with local housing issues and the post office strikes. Hopefully these are issues that will be resolved very soon as they do affect a lot of local residents.

Please do get in touch if I can ever be of assistance to you, whether with a general enquiry or on a specific issue.

Yours,

James Duddridge MP

P.S. Please do get in touch with me if you are able to offer some help delivering this newsletter to your road or local area.

James helps 7,263 people

JAMES has helped over 7,000 local people in the past two years. Surgeries are held weekly and to make an appointment, please call 01702 616 135.

James would also be pleased to hear from you if you think that you, your group or organisation would benefit from a visit.

What others say about James...

A.A., Southend

"Thank you VERY much for all your help with my case - it is really appreciated and I look forward to hearing from you in the future."

"Thank you for your response, James. I'm glad I voted for you."

N.E., Westcliff

"Thank you for coming to our school and telling us about politics. I really like people that help towns and try to make them better."

J.W., Shoebury

D.L., Rochford

"Many thanks for your help in resolving my recent problem, which I am sure would be still going on without your kind help."

Get the 'In Touch' in Audio or Braille

YOU can now receive an audio or Braille version of this newsletter.

Every household in Rochford and Southend East should be receiving a copy of 'In Touch With James' this month. James is aware that some members of the community would find it useful to receive an audio or Braille version.

Requests for a copy can be made to James' office on 01702 616 135 or email james@jamesduddridge.com (stating clearly which version is required).

USEFUL CONTACTS

- Southend-on-Sea Borough Council** ☎ 215 000 - www.southend.gov.uk
- Rochford District Council** ☎ 546 366 - www.rochford.gov.uk
- Local Police (non-emergency)** ☎ 431 212 - www.essex.police.uk
- Citizens Advice Bureau** ☎ 610 610 - www.southendcab.org.uk
- Connexions (advice for young people)** ☎ 464 315 - www.estconnexions.co.uk

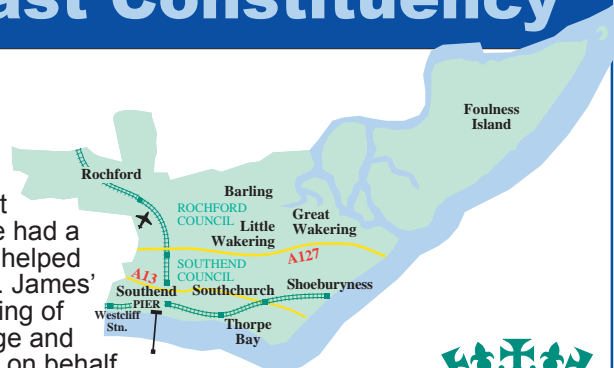
The Rochford & Southend East Constituency



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

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, please call 01702 616135.

Contact details

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CUT OUT & KEEP