

MPs secure funding for cliff slips repairs

Local MPs David Amess and James Duddridge are delighted with their success in securing funding to fix the cliff slippage at Leigh - and are continuing to seek further funding for the slipping sites closer to Southend town centre.

David Amess, who is the MP for Southend West, and James Duddridge, MP for Rochford and Southend East, have received notice from the Government that just over £1 million has been allocated for repairs at two sites at Cliff Parade and Belton Way.

This follows sustained calls by David over many years and repeated calls by James since he was elected in 2005.

In response to the announcement, David said, "I am absolutely delighted that the Minister has responded positively to the request that James and myself made in the House of Commons for financial help for cliff slippage. Now,

perhaps, the cliffs can be restored to their former glory."

James said, "The news about funding for the cliff slippage is brilliant, but the battle's not yet over. We'll still be pressing the Government to provide funding to repair the slip at the bandstand, a situation that's been allowed to go on for far too long. The Council are committed to solving it, but without help from central Government they simply couldn't afford to.

"I feel very strongly about this issue - so much so that I raised it in my very first speech to Parliament back in June 2005 and have repeatedly spoken to the Minister orally and in

writing. I know David Amess has been campaigning for cliffs funding since even before I was elected, when he worked with my predecessor. We're relieved that someone in Whitehall has finally sat up and listened to the danger that the cliff slip problem poses to our area."

The repairs will address the problem of water absorption and nearby cliff falls which have created a risk of land slippage. In a letter from the Transport Minister, James and David were told that the Minister has "approved the allocation of £1.013m towards a scheme to carry out highway repairs" at the two sites, and that Southend-on-Sea Borough Council "have commenced the work, which is scheduled for completion this spring."

However, James and David will be continuing to seek funding for a solution to the cliff slippage problems closer to Southend town centre.



Local MPs David Amess and James Duddridge visit Leigh cliffs to examine the damage caused by slippage

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Promoted on their own behalves by James Duddridge MP and David Amess MP, both of House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA and paid for from their respective Communications Allowances.



Your local MPs working together for Southend

Who's your local MP?

David Amess and James Duddridge work together for the residents of Southend - but only one of them is *your* local representative in Parliament. If you need help or advice, or want to speak to your MP for any reason, here's who you should contact:



Representing the Southend wards of:
Belfairs, Blenheim Park, Chalkwell, Eastwood Park, Leigh, Prittlewell (west side), St Laurence, West Leigh and Westborough



Representing the Southend wards of:
Kursaal, Milton, Prittlewell (east side), St Luke's, Shoeburyness, Southchurch, Thorpe, Victoria and West Shoebury

Representing the Rochford wards of:
Barling & Sutton, Foulness & Great Wakering and Rochford

MP for Southend West

David Amess

@ Email: david@davidamess.com

☎ Tel: **020 7219 3452**

📠 Fax: **020 7219 2245**

✉ Write to:
**David Amess MP
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA**

www.davidamess.com

MP for Rochford & Southend East

James Duddridge

@ Email: james@jamesduddridge.com

☎ Tel: **01702 616 135**

📠 Fax: **01702 619 071**

✉ Write to:
**James Duddridge MP
Strand House
742 Southchurch Road, SS1 2PS**

www.jamesduddridge.com

If you want to be totally certain, visit www.theyworkforyou.com and enter your postcode

Tackling local flood risk

The risk of flooding is ever present in Southend given its coastal location, not least thanks to climate change and the corresponding rise in sea levels that will only get worse in future years - and no-one wants a repeat of the great flood of 1953, which some local residents still remember vividly.

James and David take this risk very seriously and work closely with the relevant local and national authorities to ensure that Southend is both protected

and prepared for the storms that come our way. James is also the Vice-Chairman of the cross-party Flood Prevention Group in the House of Commons, where he uses Southend's experience and needs as a catalyst to help get national flood prevention policy on the right track.

One particular local project that is currently ongoing will shore up the defences at Great Wakering to make sure they remain fit for purpose in future years. James was pleased to work with the Environment Agency at the

design stage, when they consulted widely in the local area to get residents' views and keep them informed, and remains in touch with them as the project develops.

The Environment Agency has a free service that gives people advance warning of flooding in their area by telephone, mobile, fax or pager. If you want to sign up for the warnings, or get practical advice about how to prepare for a flood and what to do if one happens, call the Floodline on **0845 988 1188**.



The buses are back

SUCCESS!



A very large number of people rely upon local bus services to provide transport in order to get to work and school, to visit the local shops or to meet their family and friends - yet in recent years a significant number of bus services in Southend have been cut.

The western side of town has borne the brunt of the cuts, with many wards in David Amess MP's constituency of Southend West being seriously affected by the withdrawal of services operated by both Arriva Southend and First Group. David has been working tirelessly over the past few years to restore as many of the axed routes as possible, and James Duddridge, MP for Rochford and Southend East, has joined him to help ensure that the whole of the town is adequately covered.

Now, after much lobbying and discussion, Arriva have recently announced that the 6A service linking Belfairs and Leigh Station is being restored! Belfairs and Leigh were two areas that were hit particularly hard by the original bus service cuts, and the restored service is a huge relief to those who live in those areas of David's constituency. The 6A service is already being heavily used, and the two local MPs hope that this success will provide a springboard for the re-introduction of other routes across Southend.

Both David and James are in continual discussion with Southend Council in order to improve Southend's public transport infrastructure. They are fully committed to the fight to bring back as many axed bus routes as possible, and will not stop in their efforts until a first class Southend-wide bus network is up and running.

Save our Post Offices

You may already know that Post Offices around the country are under threat of closure as the whole of the network is downsized. David and James want Southend's Post Offices to stay open as they are because they provide invaluable services for residents, and the two MPs have been campaigning to secure their futures.

The announcement about which of Southend's branches might have to close will be made in May, but David and James aren't waiting until then to take action. They've joined Essex County Council and other Essex MPs in calling for full consultation periods about any possible closures, and are on the lookout for any hints about specific branches that may be under threat.

James said, "The Post Offices in Southend and the surrounding area provide vital services that we've got to fight to retain. The branches provide a lifeline to local residents, especially older people.

"To say that our post offices

would be sorely missed if they closed would be an understatement - for many people they're a necessity, not a luxury. How exactly are residents without a car or a computer meant to draw their pension or pay their TV licence when their local post office is no longer open?"

David also believes that funding cuts shouldn't be allowed to affect local services without local

people having their say, "It's an outrage that someone in Whitehall can come along and make central 'efficiency savings' without taking the local situation into account.

"What we need is a proper consultation period where local people can have their say on the situation in their area. We need the results of that consultation to be listened to and heard."



Seeking a fair deal on Council funding

David and James have been campaigning for a fair deal for Southend residents, to ensure that the local Council gets the money it needs to provide services in the area.

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council receives its funding for services from central Government based on how many people live in Southend. But the calculations are based on the 2001 census, which miscalculated the local population by 20,000 people - meaning that the Council receives less money than it needs.

David and James have had meetings with the Minister but Southend's allocation is still based on the under-estimated population size.

David said, "The errors that led to the funding shortfall to Southend have needlessly damaged public services. I am determined that Southend fulfil its position as a cultural hub, a centre of learning and a lively tourist destination, but local residents are suffering as a consequence of the problem and there needs to be movement on it."

Agreeing with David, James said, "We're continuing to press for a fair deal for Southend - it's madness that the Council gets funded according to such incorrect figures. I'm optimistic that we can get this resolved, but I hope it's sooner rather than later."

See overleaf for a petition that you can sign to help get a fair funding deal for Southend.





WORKING FOR SOUTHEND AND ROCHFORD

As the two local Members of Parliament for Southend, we work together on behalf of your interests.

Whether you live in the east of the town or the west, we believe that you have the right to fair funding from central government, top-class health services, protection from flooding, and decent local services like buses and post-offices. By working with the Council and other local service providers, as well as raising the town's needs in Westminster, we do our best to fight for these rights.

We also know that some of you may need help with an individual problem you have, whether it's a difficulty getting access to the services you need or a concern you have about something going on in your neighbourhood. Each of us is here to help out our constituents, and we both hold regular surgeries where we can hear about problems face to face.

Have a look at the map on page 2 to find out which one of us is your local MP, and therefore which one of us you should get in touch with.

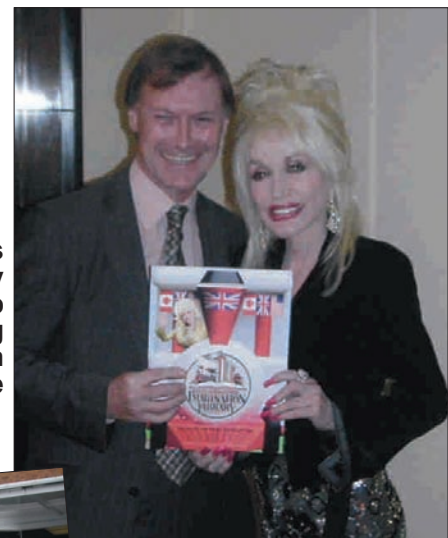
David Amess
MP for Southend West

James Duddridge
MP for Rochford & Southend East

James Duddridge and David Amess debating in the House of Commons on behalf of Southend residents



James and David get shown the ropes at the lifeboat station



David Amess joins Dolly Parton to help inspire reading books from an early age



James Duddridge (right) and elder son Tom celebrate 750 years of Rochford market

PETITION:

Give us a fair deal for Southend

Sign here to have **your** say about the fact that Southend Council receives less funding than it should (see overleaf for full story).

Local Authority Funding (Southend)

To the House of Commons.

The Petition of the residents of Southend,

Declares that they deserve a fair funding deal for their local council so that it can provide the services to which they are entitled. And further declares that the funding received by Southend-on-Sea Borough Council is too low because it is based on an incorrect calculation in the 2001 census.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to do everything in her power to secure a fair deal for Southend, by ensuring that the allocation of funds to Southend-on-Sea Borough Council is calculated according to the true size of the local population.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

Name(s):

.....
.....

PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS

Address:

.....
.....

Postcode:

Email:

When complete, please return to:
James Duddridge MP,
Strand House,
742 Southchurch Road,
Southend SS1 2PS

Data Protection Act - The answers to this survey will be recorded for the sole use of James Duddridge MP and David Amess MP. The information you have provided will not be made available to any other person/organisation.

Promoted on their own behalfs by James Duddridge MP and David Amess MP, both of House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA and paid for from their respective Communications Allowances.



Locals who've reached their 100th birthdays join David Amess (back, centre) to clinch the world record for largest centenarians' gathering

Are you registered to vote in local and national elections?

Remember, local Council elections are on 1st May and a General Election could be called at any time, so it's important that you keep your registration details up-to-date to ensure that you can have your say.

To find out if you are registered, and to complete the necessary form, contact the Electoral Registration Officer at Southend-on-Sea Borough Council on:

01702 215 116

If you live in Rochford, call Rochford District Council's Elections Line on:

01702 318 187