



NEWS UPDATE

From James Brokenshire, Conservative MP for Old Bexley & Sidcup



Week commencing 10 February 2020

James presses for new trains on South Eastern

At a meeting with the Rail Minister this week, James underlined the need for new air-conditioned trains to be introduced on local rail services through Bexley to improve both performance and overall passenger experience.



James has urged the Government to use the imminent decision on the future of South Eastern Trains to improve reliability and performance – including through the introduction of a new fleet of trains. The contract to run local train services is due to expire at the start of April and the Government will make an announcement in the next few weeks. The Government is also expected to set out its broader vision for Britain's Railways and the future of the current franchising system.

During a meeting with Rail Minister Chris Heaton-Harris this week, James said it was essential that new arrangements provided tangible improvements for passengers. As a first step, James called for 30 five car trains similar to those used on Thameslink to be transferred to South Eastern when they become available later this year.

Separately, James met senior managers from South Eastern & Network Rail to discuss current operations. Discussions included the structural works at Barnehurst over half term to prevent further landslips. The engineering operations will mean the suspension of Bexleyheath Services for a week to enable the strengthening to the banking to be made.

World Cancer Day



As part of World Cancer Day last Tuesday, James attended events organised by Cancer Research UK & the Less Survivable Cancers Taskforce. James has underlined the need for continued investment & research and the importance of earlier diagnosis & treatment of the disease.

News in brief

- James welcomed **Year 8 students from Hurstmere School** on a visit to Parliament including taking part in a question time session with the group.
- Local policing & crime prevention issues were on the agenda when James met Dana Wiffen, the Chair of the **Bexley Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association**.
- James congratulated the **Alma Pub Sidcup** for all of their fundraising efforts for local causes when he popped in this week.

Ending Rough Sleeping

James hosted a reception in Parliament this week to celebrate the amazing work of the charity St Mungo's and to underline the continued priority to deal with homelessness & rough sleeping. St Mungo's works with those in need out on the streets to give them the support & help they need.



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