



NEWS UPDATE

From James Brokenshire, Conservative MP for Old Bexley & Sidcup

Week commencing 2 March 2020



Landslip Works Completed

James has welcomed the completion of multi-million pound structural engineering works on the banking surrounding the railway at Barnehurst to prevent regular landslips which have plagued services on the Bexleyheath line serving Welling & Falconwood Stations.

After four landslips in the past decade – the most recent in February last year blocking the line for seven days - James pressed Network Rail for investment into a long term fix. Following his intervention Network Rail agreed to the £6.6 million investment in this section of track which is intended to provide 100+ years assurance.

The work involved removing 2,500 tonnes of mud and trees on the slopes, followed by building retaining walls along both sides of the cutting, stretching 650 metres to stop any future landslips from reaching the tracks.

To make the most of the closure, Network Rail and South Eastern also completed other works on the line, including the deep cleaning of stations, painting of booking halls and platform furniture, toilet facility improvements and clearing vegetation.



James visiting the Barnehurst works to see the scale of the engineering works needed to safeguard the Bexleyheath Line

Bexley Book Buzz



James took part in the Lamorbey and Sidcup Local History Society presentation at Sidcup Library as part of the Bexley 'Book Buzz'. The readings explored the pioneering plastic surgery undertaken at Queen Mary's Hospital Sidcup during the Great War and its impact on the town.

New 'Protect' duty for operators of public places & spaces



James visited the O2 last week in his role as Security Minister to announce plans to introduce a law which will require owners and operators of public spaces and venues to put in place measures to keep the public safe from a terrorist attack.

Delivering on the manifesto commitment to improve the safety and security of public venues and spaces, the new 'Protect Duty' will reflect lessons learned following the terrorist attacks in 2017, as well as more recent attacks.

News in brief this week

- James welcomed Year 5 students from Burnt Oak School on a visit to Parliament, including taking questions from the pupils about his work as an MP.
- James met Rob Light, the Commissioner of the Independent Commission on Civil Aviation Noise to discuss aircraft noise issues affecting homes in Bexley, particularly from flights serving London City.

Contact James >

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