



Conservatives

News from CHARLIE ELPHICKE

See more at www.elphicke.com



BACK LOCAL JOBS

Times are tough for everyone. It's time for us all to come together. We all need to work as hard as we can to support our local economy. So please help by filling in the Survey on the back.

Our local businesses, high streets and village shops are fantastic. We should back our community and buy local more. We should do all we can to help our local businesses.

What do you think would make more people buy local? What more can be done to back our local economy?

Charlie Elphicke is hosting open forums with coastal towns economic expert Mark Simmonds MP. Also on the panel will be cabinet members from Dover District Council and Kent County Council. The aim is to discuss what more our local councils and all of us can do together to protect what we have and build for the future.



Charlie Elphicke is backing local jobs with business leaders Jane Langstaff, Stephanie Hayman and Jasin Kaplan

PUBLIC MEETINGS

**Deal Town Hall:
21st April 2009 at 5.30pm**

**Dover Town Hall:
21st April 2009 at 7.30pm**

Please email Charlie on buylocal@elphicke.com if you think you'll be able to come, so we have an idea of numbers.

**Have your say.
Post your experiences.
Support great local businesses!**



www.greatbuymap.com

Charlie Elphicke REPORT BACK

Thank you so much to the many, many thousands of people who returned my recent survey.

- 97% overall said they wanted to see a proper hospital with care beds and doctor led emergency services in Dover. I will keep pressing for this.
- One third have personally suffered anti social behaviour. I am deeply concerned about this and will write more about what measures can be taken in future newsletters.

On the issues, top was healthcare, followed by the cost of living, then border security/immigration matters. After that people were concerned about the general economic situation. I imagine concern about the economy has increased – certainly I feel that, which is why I have turned this newsletter over to what we can all do together to beat the recession.

You know, the key test is not the tough times we face – it's what we do about it. For me, we have to emerge stronger, so we will all be better off for the long term.

Our great community

Clr Julie Rook, of Rooks Butchers, Deal writes...



It's hard being in business just at the moment and I can genuinely say I know exactly what it's like trying to keep business profitable in the present economic climate.

Deal is a great town. It has historical monuments, museums, a stunning seafront and a wonderful pier. We have a great High Street. So the message is "Keep coming to

Deal. There is no other town in Kent quite like it".

Dover District Council has already set up a task force to help business in the current difficult times. To make this work we need information to target our support where it is needed. Please do complete this survey.

Kit Smith Cabinet Member Dover District Council



Businesses in Dover are suffering from the current economic recession, as are all town centres. I believe that we should all work together to make sure that everything possible is being done to encourage local people to shop in their local town whenever they can.

I support this survey. Please help us all to help our local businesses to not only survive but thrive, by filling it in and returning it.

Clr Roger Walkden Dover Loyalty Scheme

“BUY LOCAL!”

say East Kent businesses...



Charlie Elphicke speaks to local businesses

Hardly a day passes when we don't thank our lucky stars! We must surely live in one of the safest, most attractive and successful communities anywhere? Yes, there are problems and not everything is as we would like it, but compared with most other places, our little corner of East Kent has got so much to be proud of.

Not that we should be complacent of course. If we want to keep our unique qualities and enable our towns and villages to prosper, we need vibrant, diverse and useful local shopping centres.

According to a BSSA survey of what people want from their local shopping centres, Deal, Sandwich and Dover have just about all of them. But we need to keep them – and that means using them!

There are many benefits of “keeping it local”. For example, it really does support the whole local economy. For every £10 spent in an independent shop or business, the evidence is that £25 is recycled around the local economy, compared to just £14 spent in multinationals. Jobs are preserved and created for local people and the numbers show that, on average, independent shops pay higher hourly rates than the multinational stores pay.

A trip to local shops is less time-consuming than a trip to out-of-town venues and less damaging to the environment. You can enjoy a real sense of community and friendship when shopping in a local high street – it's certainly not like that in out-of-town superstores and shopping centres!

For our local shops and services to survive and thrive – for all our benefits – we need to use them. Just a small shift of spending away from out-of-town centres and into the High Street can make an enormous difference. But we need to understand what motivates people to choose where to shop so that local traders and politicians can respond to local needs.

That's why we are asking you to complete and return the survey overleaf. The more we understand, the better we can serve! Thank you.

*Jane Langstaff & Stephanie Hayman
The Best of Dover, Deal & Sandwich
www.thebestof.co.uk/dealanddover/*

I would encourage everybody to fill in the survey provided as your views are important to our Town. Shopping locally is important because: it provides local employment, often local produce is available and people enjoy a sense of community when using local shops.

You get a wide range of shops and services which makes the community more active and interesting.

These are just a few of the reasons why I would encourage everybody to keep it local and please fill in the survey as it is important to get your views

*Pat Heath
President of The Deal and Walmer Chamber of Trade Ltd
www.dealandwalmerchamber.co.uk*



*Meetings Andy at Dealec
See www.dealec.co.uk*



*Charlie buys local at Buckland Press
See www.buckland.co.uk*



*Stalco – a great engineering firm in Deal
See www.stalco.co.uk*



*Wallett's Court – a fantastic hotel in St Margarets
See www.wallettscourthotel.com*

SHOP LOCAL!!

1. Do you do most shopping in your local town/village centre?

- No Yes

2. What **THREE** things do you shop most for in your local town/village centre?

- Food Drink Clothes Books/CDs/DVDs
 Banking/Finance Homeware Electricals
 Other.....

3. What **THREE** things would attract you to shop in your town/village centre more?

- Lower prices Lower parking charges/more parking
 Entertainment/handy to occupy the kids Better public transport
 Wider product range Longer opening hours
 Customer Service Other

Please tell us more about what would encourage you to “buy local”

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4. Why would you shop in an out of town centre or online?

- Lower prices Lower parking charges
 Handy for entertainment/occupy the kids Good public transport
 Wider product range Longer opening hours
 Customer Service Other

Reply form:

Name

Address

.....

.....

Tel

Email

Send to:
D.D.C.A.
FREEPOST SEA4775
Deal
Kent
CT14 7BR

By returning this form, you agree that the data may be entered on computer and shared with local businesses (you will not personally be identified!).

Contact Charlie Elphicke:

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