

# 'Exciting times ahead' says MP on visit to development

CHARLIE Elphicke has declared himself "amazed" at the progress of the St James Development.

The Dover MP was shown around the Cineworld complex last month ahead of its opening date of February 2

Mr Elphicke said: "These really are exciting times. We are so close to getting a first-class retail experience in the heart of Dover. Some of the units are ready to go now.

"I was amazed with the progress. We must never forget that barely two years ago this area was blighted by the awful multi-storey car park and Burlington House.

"St James is going to massively improve things in Dover – yet we need our high street to flourish too.

"Everyone wants the entire Dover town centre to succeed. Making sure the St James development draws more visitors to our high street is our top priority.

"We also need to make more of our tourist attractions like the Roman Painted House."

Mr Elphicke met Dr Brian Philp, who runs the Roman Painted House, last month to discuss what can be done to help boost tourism.

He also met with Dover District Council's head of investment Tim Ingleton, chief executive Nadeem Aziz and Townwall Street leisure centre owners Citycourt for a site meeting. Citycourt are working on plans to use the leisure centre site for more parking and retail provision.



Mr Elphicke at the St James site with Tim Ingleton

Public toilet blocks dubbed the worst in the county will be totally transformed

## Cleaning firm steps in to give 'filthiest' loos free spruce-up



The graffitied baby-changing table

By Sean Doherty

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A PUBLIC toilet in Deal which is arguably one of the filthiest in Kent is about to get the spruce-up it so desperately needs.

The King Street loos were condemned as "filthy" by a parent who walked away in disgust after trying to take her son in there.

The grimy toilets had a broken light fitting, no toilet roll and empty cans of lager on the floor, as well as a dirt-covered baby-changing table with the words "Would you put a baby on here? I wouldn't. It's disgusting" scrawled on it.

Its poor state was reported to Labour councillor Ann Napier.

After reading our article, the owners of Channel Facilities Management, a Deal firm specialising in cleaning, security, grounds maintenance and pest control, felt compelled to lend their services.

They got in contact with Dover District Council and agreed to provide a one-off deep clean, free of charge, to the King Street and Pier toilet blocks.



Empty lager cans were found in the toilet

Workers from the firm will tackle the toilets from 7.30pm today (Thursday), to bring them back up to a respectable standard.

Joe Gregory-Foster, one of the owners of the company, said: "We read the article regarding the King Street public toilets in Deal and how the community are really dissatisfied with the cleanliness.

"The reaction to on Facebook really caused a huge stir within the community with more and more complaints being made to the council.

"We will be giving both sets of toilets a complete deep-clean free of charge, we want to showcase that just because these public conveniences are old, they can still be left in a clean and tidy manner."

### Friendly

Mr Gregory-Foster also stressed that, as well as making sure the toilets are clean, they will make sure the job is handled in an environmentally friendly way, as with all their cleaning work.

He said: "As a cleaning company we use no harmful chemicals. All of our products are enzyme-based which means they are safe for the environment, humans and animals.

"We are a very green company that are trying to change the way commercial cleaning harms the planet."

The council has not yet specified whether the toilets will receive more cleaning attention in the future.

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