

Listening to you

# Adam Holloway MP

I want to know what you think

Please take a few moments to complete the attached survey and return it to address below:



### Local Issues

Please indicate your key local issues of concern:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Theoretically, would you be prepared to pay more tax in return for more police officers?**

Yes  No

### Your contact details:

**Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**email:** \_\_\_\_\_

### I want to hear from you

This form is also available online at:  
[www.adamholloway.co.uk](http://www.adamholloway.co.uk)

### Adam can be contacted as follows:

Commons: 020 7219 8402  
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Email: [hollowaya@parliament.uk](mailto:hollowaya@parliament.uk)  
By post: Adam Holloway MP  
House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA

## Blame soft courts

Violent crime is a problem in Gravesham, and the rest of the country. Incidents such as teenage knife murders are committed not very far from us in South East London; the murder of part time taxi driver Mr Bajar and more recently, the assault on Mr James Parkinson (at the cab rank in Gravesend) who was beaten so badly that he was in a critical condition in hospital, with possible long term brain injury. Our local police chiefs are doing their best and we have seen an improvement since Gary Beautridge took command. But the red tape that stifles effective policing and the soft sentencing in our courts is hampering the best efforts of his officers.

I will renew my calls for more police patrolling our streets, and to reduce the ridiculous amount of red tape. Parents - do you know what your children are up to? Please get them off the streets before 9pm and do not tolerate drinking if they are under the age of 18 years. It is not the police alone that can change this spiralling violent crime wave.

## Litter

Dropped litter and graffiti devalues and defaces Gravesham so I decided to join the street cleansing department of Gravesham Borough Council to understand a little more about how they deal with this anti-social behaviour.

Stuart Alford, manager of the department, heads up a great team: Scott and Rob on the graffiti side; and Ian, James and Bernard from the Green Machine street cleansing machines. There is a serious financial side to this. Each year, you the council taxpayers contribute around £400,000 to operate this department who are literally clearing up after thoughtless people who drop their cigarettes, litter, fast food cartons and deface our walls, cemeteries and public areas with mindless graffiti. Spray cans are banned for sale to children.



## 2008 "On Your Bike" ride for charity.



Adam with Michael and Rob Gill after completing Gravesend Rotary's "On Your Bike" charity 45 miles - in the middle is Rotary's main man for the event, Adrian Warburton.



Picture taken at the 18 mile Checkpoint Refreshments were supplied by 9 yr old Alex Parkes of Gravesend.

# Adam Holloway MP for Gravesham

Summer 2008 Newsletter

Things are very, very far from perfect, but over the last couple of years there have been very significant improvements locally in crime rates. In very large part this has been down to Chief Superintendent Gary Beautridge. Rather than blame others for lack of officers, or too much paperwork, or anything else, he has just got on with it.

Locally I am sorry to see him promoted to become Assistant Chief Constable. But I would like to publically thank him for his outstanding leadership.



Outstanding Leadership

# Adam Holloway MP

## Fighting against crime and anti-social behaviour in Gravesend



### Brilliant Effort!

Westcourt Councillor John Caller and his brother Mark, having just run the London Marathon. They raised over £1,000 for the Mayor's Charities and the NSPCC. Congratulations to anyone else who completed it.

### Under-age drinking

I asked a government minister how many fixed penalty notices had been issued by Kent Police to retailers for selling alcohol to under age drinkers in the past 5 years.

I was astonished to find that in 2005 there were 10 issued and in 2006 that number had reduced to 5. I do believe that if a zero-tolerance approach was adopted and licences taken away rather than handing out a fixed penalty notice, we would have a quieter towns.

### Train station fare increases

I wrote to Meteor Parking, the company that operates the train station car parks, asking them to justify the increased charges. The recent increased charges are unacceptable in light of the recent above inflation commuter train ticket increases. What justification does the car park operator have for increasing the charges by 50p to £3.80? The long-suffering commuter is getting nothing out of this. The only people who benefit are the car parking companies. All this will do is push the hard-pressed commuter onto the surrounding roads which, in turn, will extend double yellow lines and restricted parking. I see this as another tax on hard working commuters.

However, I received an unsatisfactory reply from the parking company. It is interesting to note that last year the parent company - Go-Ahead - had made a 20% increase in profits from its rail concerns and stated "...parking is an area with considerable scope for revenue ..."

### Prison education and work experience

Having visited a number of prisons, I was disturbed by the lack of education and skills training available to prisoners. I raised this in the House of Commons. A Home Office minister said that each prisoner receives on average, per prisoner, 7.7 hours of education and 12.5 hours of work activity each week.

This is astonishing given that prison is after all about rehabilitation as well as punishment and should be preparing people for life outside of prison. Otherwise they will go back to their criminal activities unless they have the skills to get employment. Many of the prisoners I met had little education and even less work skills. It strikes me that we miss a huge opportunity to prevent re-offending and to give former prisoners a decent new start in life.

### Lisbon Treaty

I am sorry to say that the House of Lords has voted against holding a referendum on the EU Treaty. Peers dismissed a proposal by a margin of 62 votes. This is a sad day for the independence of the UK.

In a national referendum the Irish rejected the Treaty and therefore it should be dead, but do not hold your breath - I imagine that there will be attempts to ratify by stealth, piece by piece.

Businessman Stuart Wheeler, has taken his case against the Lisbon Treaty ratification to the high court to try and force a judicial review. We await the outcome.

### Well done to Hollies Residential Home

I recently visited the Hollies as the guest of the manager, Joan Lightfoot, who runs a very efficient and welcoming residential home. I was impressed with the high level of accreditation received in their staff training programmes.

### Gravesend Football League - 800 Players a week!

Following the superb win at Wembley by Ebbsfleet Utd, another good news story is the Gravesend Football League. The League was formed in 1904 and has been providing football to the Gravesend area ever since. In the past there have been as many as 60 teams in the league - there are now 28.

Hats off to the League which has a wealth of experience in its Officers who give up many hours of their own time voluntarily to give up to 800 players a game of football on a Saturday afternoon. Using grounds at Kings Farm & Cascades, Thong Lane as well as the Fleet Leisure Sports Ground, the League plays 2 representative games each season against the Sevenoaks & District League to help cement the reputation of the League and area.

One thing the League is justifiably proud of is it's Cup Competitions that give around £2,000 to various charities every season. Amongst those supported - The Lions Hospice, The Kent Air Ambulance and the Darent Valley Hospital Lollipop Appeal.

To contact the League: [www.gravesendfootballleague.co.uk](http://www.gravesendfootballleague.co.uk)

Peter Danzey: [peterdanzey@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:peterdanzey@blueyonder.co.uk)

Tel: 01474 567697 or Derek Carey: 01322 288389



Adam with captain of Heathview Utd, Daniel Jones

### Dartford Crossing

I have been campaigning to extend the Dart-Tag discount to the residents of Gravesend. Earlier this month my colleagues and I raised a number of Parliamentary Questions to the Transport Minister, Rosie Winterton, on what estimates the government has made on the delays by congestion to commercial travellers and commuters using the Crossing.

She said that the average north bound delays were three minutes and the south bound by two minutes.

The Minister described my idea of a one-week toll free trial as "unintelligent" and dismissed a government report that stated if the tolls were removed on the south bound carriageway congestion would disappear. We have the support the residents, the Freight Trade Association, Federation of Small Business, media and motorists. I shall continue to press for this concession.



.... bizarrely, no traffic today!

This newsletter is paid for from Adam's IEP