

JAMES MORRIS MP

REPORTING BACK 2023

**INSIDE
DELIVERING
MY PLAN FOR
OUR AREA**



JAMESMORRIS.CO.UK



JAMESMORRISHRR

Dear resident,

Over the past twelve months, I've been standing up for the issues that matter in Halesowen & Rowley Regis and working on my six-point plan that I was re-elected on in 2019.

Serving as your MP continues to be a great honour, and I enjoy meeting many people, businesses and organisations across the constituency. I know that many have faced a tough period with rises in the cost of living, and I have been doing what I can to help those in challenging circumstances.

Whether it's keeping our area safe, preserving green spaces, helping traders, boosting skills, fighting for good health services or ensuring we can travel around easily, I'll keep standing up for the issues that matter to us all.

If you have an issue that is affecting you or your community that I may be able to help with, please do feel free to get in touch.

James

MP for Halesowen & Rowley Regis



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WORKING FOR YOU!

James has been working hard to help make Halesowen & Rowley Regis the best place to live, work, do business and raise a family; working with local Councillors and community groups to stand up for our area. Here are just some of the things James has been busy with in the last year..

James lobbied the Government to invest in a new hospital in Sandwell, and visited the new Midland Metropolitan University Hospital to inspect the progress being made.

The site in Smethwick will provide same day emergency care for adults, as well as a dedicated children's department, maternity and neonatal services and a sickle cell and thalassemia centre. Despite earlier setbacks, the hospital is on course for completion in 2024. ●



James inspects progress at the new Midland Metropolitan University Hospital, which is due to open next year



James outside Halesowen Police Station, which he will always fight to keep open to ensure our area is safe

With many residents expressing concern over crime and anti-social behaviour in their communities, James has welcomed the extra investment into policing and the news that the West Midlands has over 1300 new officers, including more in our constituency.

James will always fight to ensure that there is a physical Police presence in Halesowen, providing reassurance for local people and businesses in our area. ●

Many people are reliant on good public transport for getting around. That's why James supported the petition launched by Cllr Stuart Henley to save the 002 bus service and raised the issue with West Midlands Mayor Andy Street.

James was pleased that Diamond Bus and Transport for West Midlands reversed their decision, which maintains this vital service for passengers between Weoley Castle and Merry Hill. ●



Local bus services are important, and James fought for the retention of the 002

Small businesses are the lifeblood of our high streets and town centres, and James visited the Eco-Friendly Artisan Market that set up in Halesowen's Cornbow Centre for Small Business Saturday in December 2022.

James always enjoys hearing local success stories, and with his background in small business he will always stand up for local traders, ensuring that our local high streets have what they need to flourish. ●



James continues to work with local Councillors, residents and community groups to ensure that our green spaces can be enjoyed by current and future generations.

Following Dudley's decision to withdraw from the Black Country Plan in 2022, James met with Council bosses to make the case for protecting Halesowen's historic countryside and works with Halesowen Abbey Trust to preserve our local environment. ●



James talks to Halesowen Abbey Trust's committee members at the Leasowes Walled Garden



Supporting Halesowen BID's Second Term

■ James backed Halesowen BID for another five-year term, following their hard work to attract footfall and help local businesses bounce back from the pandemic. James was delighted that they won the confidence of traders, and will keep working with them to ensure that our town centre thrives.

Opening of new Sandvik site

■ Sandvik Cormant have been in Halesowen since the 1950s and sponsor the town's Christmas tree each year. James attended the official opening of their new facility in May 2023, which includes a manufacturing innovation hub and serves as the headquarters for Sandvik's global network.



Fighting for the re-opening of Station Road

■ Residents and businesses in the vicinity of Station Road in Old Hill have been affected by its closure since August 2022. Whilst the structural works being carried out on the canal bridge are important, James is urging Sandwell Council to ensure they are completed speedily to get the road re-opened.

Local business wins HS2 contract

■ James visited Whitcombe Pipelines in Rowley Regis, who were awarded a £2m contract in 2022 to complete reinstatement works on gas pipelines for HS2. Only founded in 2018, the business is now a medium-sized enterprise with over 150 employees.



Celebrations at St John Ambulance

■ The St John Ambulance unit in Halesowen celebrates its 80th year this year, and James visited to meet with young cadets and join in the celebrations. James had the opportunity to witness demonstrations of the life-saving skills that volunteers learn with St John.



Levelling Up success for Haden Hill

■ James endorsed the successful application to the Government's Levelling Up Fund for a £20m redevelopment of Haden Hill Leisure Centre. The current centre will be replaced by a modern and more accessible facility and will bring mental and physical health benefits to the local community.

1

PRACTICAL ACTION ON JOBS, SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT

I organise jobs and skills fairs, such as the Halesowen Career Expo in February 2023, which give local people an opportunity to forge a career path or re-train. I am working with employers and training providers to ensure our area can provide the best life chances possible.



2

IMPROVING LOCAL RAILWAY STATIONS AND TRANSPORT LINKS

Whether it's by road, rail, bike or foot, good transport links are vital for us all to get around. I am working with providers to ensure we have safe and efficient services on our public transport links, and I have also reported many issues with potholes to the relevant councils.

3

FIGHTING LITTER, GRAFFITI AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

I work with Councillors and residents to ensure a joined-up and pro-active approach to tackling anti-social behaviour, including issues with car cruising, speeding and fly-tipping. I'll always fight to ensure that we get our fair share of Police resources, so that everyone in our community can feel safe.

4

SUPPORTING LOCAL TRADERS AND SHOPS TO BOOST OUR TOWNS

Having worked in business prior to becoming an MP, I know how important businesses are to our local economy. I work with businesses to ensure that they have the support they need, whether that's accessing grants, support with recruitment and skills development, or ensuring their premises are safe.

5

MORE CHOICE AND BETTER SERVICES IN OUR LOCAL NHS

Everyone deserves the best possible treatment, whether it's for mental or physical health issues. I am in regular contact with our local NHS bodies, and I'll keep fighting to ensure that they have the resources they need to provide the best possible services.

6

PROTECTING OUR GREEN BELT

Our community is home to historic Green Belt land, with beautiful views out towards the Worcestershire countryside. I work with local residents and Councillors to fight against any development proposals that would be detrimental to the Green Belt, and advocate for a 'brownfield-first' approach for new housing.