



To whom it may concern

Character reference for Charlie Elphicke

I am currently a Politics student at [redacted] going into my third year.

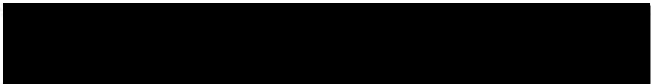
I first met Charlie in 2012 when I was a student at [redacted] we were required to do some work experience and many of my peers ended up doing work experience with their dads. I didn't know where I wanted to do my work experience but I knew I liked politics, so I contacted our local MP who was Charlie Elphicke to see if I would do some work experience with him. Charlie was happy to let me do my work experience week with him.

I consider myself to be friend of Charlie and the family. I get on well with Charlie not least because of our shared experiences growing up: I have never had a chance to know my father and neither did he. I have often asked for his advice on things such as getting involved in politics at university. I was the [redacted] on the Town Council and we helped each other out with canvassing in the local elections. I have also babysat his and Natalie's children and his family have always been welcoming to me.

Over the 8 years I have known him, I have found him to be cheery, kind and genuine. When I spent time with him, it was easy to forget he was an MP. He was always a family man and the kids always came first and he only wants the best for them. He is the closest thing I had to a father-figure in my life.

I am aware of the charges (sexual assault x3) Charlie was convicted of and my comments are in full knowledge of the court's findings.

I have spoken to Charlie since the trial and I would say he was much quieter than his usual self and he sounded shaken up. I felt horrible throughout the trial and I cannot imagine what the impact the entire trial process must have had on him and his family, especially his children.



3 September 2020

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Occupation: Nanny

To whom it may concern,

I thoroughly enjoyed working as the Elphicke's nanny between [Redacted]
[Redacted] I lived in the family home and was really treated like part of the family. Charlie was a great 'hooter' and had a very infectious personality. A great laugh! They always made me feel very welcome and relaxed. I'm aware of charges for which he has been convicted of and not once have I felt that this would be in his nature. He was always a great family man who showed so much love for both Natalie and the children. He was very dedicated to campaigning for his MP position and I could see how driven he was to succeed.

Since leaving the position, I have only had communication with Natalie but I care for the whole family a huge amount and enjoy hearing updates.

Yours Sincerely

[Redacted]



**PARISH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD**
'GROWING TOGETHER IN LOVE'



St Paul's Church & Presbytery 103 Maison Dieu Road, Dover CT16 1RU
St Finbarr's Church, Market Place, Aylesham CT3 3EZ

Tel [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

A parish of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark
CIO Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050

10th September 2020

To Whom It May Concern

Charlie Elphicke

I have been a Catholic Priest for 51 years. If I had not learnt how people operate I would not have been able to be a priest in Peckham whose Sunday Congregation went from 300 to 800, who once saved a school I inherited from closure and played key roles in the establishment of centres for the homeless both in London and Kent.

Charlie and his family, [REDACTED], have contributed to life at St. Paul's in Dover in many ways. Natalie, the former Mrs Elphicke chaired the committee organising the celebration in Dover Castle of the 50th Anniversary of my ordination. A thousand people gathered for Mass in the sun and were fed and watered after too. I know the Elphicke's well.

Charlie Elphicke has been an excellent MP. His ability to think deeply and work for what his constituents actually needed was the reason his majority went up markedly in 2017 when most of his party's figures went the other way. It is this habit of thinking deeply that leads me to hope he will be given a long but suspended sentence.

The man before the court has changed. He is quieter. He sees he has a journey ahead. He is, I believe, far more likely to complete the journey he needs to make if his sentence is suspended. In this case I believe a custodial sentence would do more harm than good. Too much of a shaking is not a good thing.

May I thank all of you who do so much to try and make this world a better place.

Yours faithfully,

Fr. Jeff Cridland.

Fr. Jeff Cridland.

[REDACTED]



05/08/2020

Ref: Mr Charles Elphicke

To whom it may concern:

My name is Neil Wiggins. I am a 53-year-old company director born in Dover 28/01/1967.

I first met Mr Elphicke, who I shall hereafter refer to as Charlie, in 2010 on the day when he took up the seat in Parliament for Dover and Deal, to which he had just been elected for the first time. I had written to him during the election campaign of 2010 with some ideas as to how the then proposed privatisation of the Port of Dover could be successfully countered in such a way as to ensure that the port would either remain as a Trust Port or be transferred into the ownership of its local community in perpetuity. Charlie's response was to invite my family and I to the Houses of Parliament once he had taken up his position so that I could give him a complete briefing whilst my family were given a tour of The House. On this occasion we spoke for a couple of hours and it was during this meeting that the foundations of what became a successful campaign to prevent the private equity sale of the Port of Dover were laid.

Charlie and I worked closely together on this project over the succeeding 2 years and became friends during this time. We met quite often as families with Charlie, Natalie, [REDACTED] myself, my wife, [REDACTED] and our children [REDACTED]). As with pretty much any type of significant campaign to alter the course of action chosen by a government, our wives and children joined us on Saturday mornings distributing information, meeting with people and talking to them, helping us to deliver leaflets, attending Town Hall and Village Hall meetings and so on. My experience, and my family's experience, of Charlie during this time was that he was a hardworking, earnest, and honest family man making every effort to serve the best long-term interests of all of his constituents.

With the Government's announcement on December 20th, 2012 that the port's privatisation proposals were not approved, the initial campaign was successful. However, it remained important to secure the future of the port and put in place protections for the local community and the port's workers to ensure that the port could not again, in a couple of years, try to repeat the privatisation process. So, Charlie and I continued to work closely together to ensure that overall policies and port governance structures, particularly at Dover, were changed and reformed. After a lot of hard work, these objectives were largely achieved in April 2014 with a major statement from the responsible Minister, Stephen Hammond MP, in Dover. Once again, during this time, my experience of Charlie was that of a hardworking MP determined to achieve the best outcome for Dover and Deal.

Even after the Minister's announcement, Charlie continued to work on this project for a further 2 years to ensure that changes were implemented in a meaningful way. At this point I had to take a step back from campaigning because I was by now a candidate to become one of the port's first

community Non-Executive Directors and it would have been inappropriate for me to continue to work on the project with Charlie.

However, by this time we had become friends and our families were friends and we continued to meet up for BBQs, Christmas and New Year and my family and I lent Charlie and Natalie our assistance during the election campaigns of 2015, 2017 and 2019 (local, EU and General).

The allegations on which Charlie has now been convicted came to all of us as a shock, because at no time since we first met in 2010 had he given me any cause to doubt his propriety or integrity.

I have known Charlie as a man dedicated to working for the improvement of his constituency and of the lives of his constituents. He has been an ebullient character, enthusiastic, almost bouncy, in getting things done in a proper and thorough way.

[REDACTED]

Of course, I am aware of Charlie's recent court case and his conviction on three counts of sexual assault and the comments that I make today are made in the knowledge of the court's findings.

I have spoken with Charlie since his conviction and he seems very subdued and extremely sad. He has, after all, lost his wife and family, his home, and his job over his behaviour. This is already a great deal to lose and his lack of animation and the buoyant good humour that has always been his 'trademark' during our friendship is quite concerning.

Regards



Neil Wiggins

[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern,

My name is [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and I work as a Caseworker for the Dover & Deal Conservative Party.

I have known Charlie Elphicke since 2010 when he invited my father and the rest of my family to the Houses of Parliament, [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] my father continued to support Charlie on his election campaigns which I also joined, helping with canvassing and leaflet distributing on his election campaigns through the years. My father and Charlie became friends and we would all meet for BBQs in the summer and other family/friend gatherings.

I have also worked with Charlie for work experience whilst I was still attending secondary school. I was able to witness all the hard work and dedication he put into being our MP, this also later inspired me into studying law at university.

Charlie has always been polite, friendly, very charismatic and always very grateful for our help during his campaigns. I have never felt threatened or uncomfortable in his presence, which is why when the allegations were raised, I was very shocked.

I am aware that Charlie has been convicted on three counts of sexual assault and the comments made are in the knowledge of the court's findings.

I have spoken to Charlie since his conviction and he seems very downcast and has lost his usual charisma and humour. Knowing the family personally makes the whole ordeal so hard to comprehend.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

17 August 2020

To whom it may concern

Supporting Statement for Mr Charlie Elphicke (former MP for Dover & Deal)

My name is [REDACTED] My date of birth is [REDACTED] and my temporary home address is [REDACTED]

I am currently unemployed [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I worked for Mr Elphicke from end of January 2019 to end of February 2020. I acted as his Caseworker in the constituency office in Deal, Kent.

Mr Elphicke was an extremely active and dedicated MP both in his constituency and in the House of Commons.

I arranged his diary locally and sat in with him on all his local surgeries with constituents. I also drafted his correspondence to constituents and other associated bodies.

We averaged 200 letters a week – all personally signed by Mr Elphicke. He was always happy to provide guidance or advice on constituents' issues if I needed it.

He was a very lively, friendly personality. His intelligence was obvious and I believe he was genuinely committed to his constituents and local issues. I have never seen him behave improperly with staff or constituents.

I have always found Mr Elphicke to be approachable and sensitive to his staff's needs. He allowed me to work from home [REDACTED] and was supportive of me [REDACTED]

I have only spoken once to Mr Elphicke since his conviction when he asked me for a testimonial. He expressed remorse for his actions. I have no reason to doubt his sincerity in this respect.

[REDACTED]

10th August 2020

To Whom It May Concern

I am [REDACTED]

Date of birth is [REDACTED]

My address is [REDACTED]

Occupation – Retired

I have known Charlie Elphicke since approximately 2010 and met him as the prospective MP for Dover and Deal when I would have helped delivering leaflets for his campaign. I also helped out at the 2015 campaign and subsequently worked for Charlie at the Deal Conservative office in the administration team for a year. Unfortunately, I had to retire from work [REDACTED]

Charlie is a professional, friendly and committed person and was very hard working for Dover & Deal and the constituents in the area. When he met constituents he was very interested in solving their issues and as such were pleased for his help. He worked long hours and was very involved in the community; attending many functions and events. I believe he made a big difference to this district with raising local issues in Parliament.

I am aware of the charges (three counts of sexual assault) that Charlie has been convicted of.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

10th August 2020

To Whom It May Concern

I am [REDACTED]

I am a Chartered Surveyor.

I have known Charlie Elphicke for ten years and met him as a prospective MP in my position of Local Councillor in Dover Town. I have supported him politically [REDACTED]

I am a Dovorian and have been acquainted with some of the past MPs and am of the opinion that Charlie was the most active and benefitted our District more than any other. He was hard working, extremely active and caring of his constituents for whom he always had time. He appeared at functions and events, barely missing anything and was well liked.

He had an outgoing personality and was an asset to our community. I am aware of the charges against him and make the above statements in support in full knowledge of the Courts findings.

To whom it may concern

My name is [REDACTED]

I run a small home help business and I run [REDACTED]

I have known Charlie Elphicke for many years as I used to help with canvassing at local elections with my uncle and cousin who are both councillors. [REDACTED] so was at many functions with Charlie Elphicke.

I used to help out at the Conservative office at The Strand. I would say about almost 12 years. Charlie opened my first group for me almost 10 years ago. Charlie also set up a Mental Health Round Table for [REDACTED] so we could help improve on services.

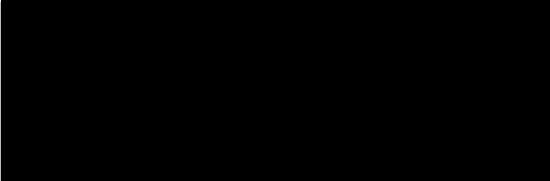
Charlie has always been very professional and many times helping in a crisis when someone was suicidal and finding them a safe place in the system. Charlie has always been very polite at all times with myself and my group members. I have always had a lot of respect for Charlie as he has helped so many of my group members through his office. I also went Canvassing with Charlie and was always as comfortable around him as all our other canvassers.

His personality is he is a very hard-working individual whom I look on as a friend. He has a great sense of humour but is always a respectful gentleman.

I am aware of the charges of which he has been convicted (X 3 counts of sexual assault) and that the comments made in the reference are made in the knowledge of the court's findings.

I am also aware of the effect it has had on Charlie Elphicke over the last 3 years and that he is becoming more withdrawn and many times been in a dark place. I always speak as I find and I can hand on heart say he has always been a complete gentleman when in my company and I can also see that he is becoming a shadow of his former self since this started 3 years ago. I am actually concerned for his mental health.

[REDACTED]



Occupation: Director of a public relations firm

Today's date: 7 August 2020

Reference for Charlie Elphicke

To whom it may concern

I am aware of the sexual assault charges which Charlie Elphicke has been convicted and the comments here are made with knowledge of the court's findings.

I have known Charlie for about nine years. I first met him socially at a dinner party in Kent, where he was an MP and where we have a house.

In his capacity as an MP, in 2014 Charlie was very quick to respond when there was a lot of flooding in Kent, to the extent that water streamed through our garden and flooded a neighbour's house. Charlie harnessed the support of the local fire service, army and other utilities to help divert the flooding. Pictures of the flooding appeared in the local paper.

In 2019, he was also helpful in supporting the neighbourhood in their objections to attempts to build a new town with 3,750 homes between Sandwich and Deal. The plans were subsequently dropped.

With my wife I have attended two Conservative party events that were organised by Charlie, to enable local people to meet cabinet ministers, and we have met Charlie socially. At all times, his conduct has been entirely appropriate.

My impression of Charlie is of a hardworking, family orientated, upstanding member of the community. We have known about the allegations against him since the whip was withdrawn in 2017 and, despite the enormous pressures he and his family must have been under, he continued to be hardworking and focused on supporting his constituents. This positive attitude included supporting his wife Natalie when she ran to replace him as the MP for Dover.

With the loss of his job and break up of his marriage we are all very worried about Charlie, who must be under intolerable pressure.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
4 August 2020
[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern,

The following comments are made in the complete knowledge of the recent charges, trial and conviction of Charlie Elphicke for 3 counts of sexual assault.

When Charlie Elphicke was the MP for Dover and Deal he was of great help to me personally and the district as a whole.

I met Mr Elphicke in 2014 at a job fair in Dover; this was really well attended and a welcome event. We also met at a Street Pastor commissioning where I offered my services to his campaign for re-election. He was very easy to talk to and listened to me, I found his personality cheery and enthusiastic about Dover and what he hoped to achieve for the town in the future. His personality has always been positive and cheery really.

[REDACTED]

Mr Elphicke worked very long and hard to have that hospital built; it really is a great asset for Dover. For me personally, my entire physio programme was done there too, saving a long drive to Margate. I know a lot of people are very grateful indeed to him for the work he did to achieve our new hospital, where we can go for blood tests and x-rays and other procedures saving a long trip to Ashford or Margate.

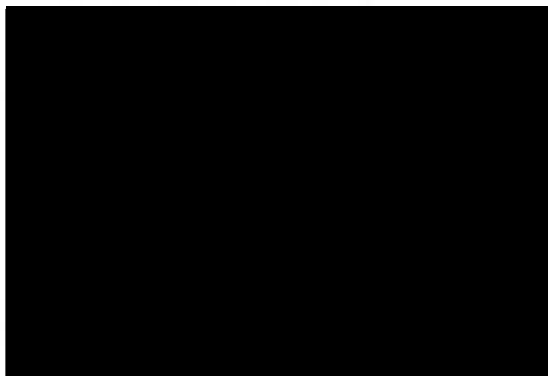
I volunteer in a shop [REDACTED] book shop, Mr Elphicke visited the shop twice when he was an MP, the second time to celebrate the shop reopening after a terrible flood due to a leaking

water pipe, no press were there, he took time out of his busy schedule to do this. He had helped greatly when the water company had sent the proprietors a huge bill. I was so grateful to him for helping so I could go back to my volunteering there and the shop could fully open again.

My husband works at the Eastern Docks Dover and is also grateful that the docks were not sold off, a process which Mr Elphicke stopped successfully after a long hard campaign.

His help with the Western Docks extension is well documented and has meant more work for people of Dover.

Speaking to Mr Elphicke during the trial and after the conviction, I find him quite withdrawn now.



Retired

[REDACTED]

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

I am delighted to pen this testimonial to CHARLIE ELPHICKE whom I know only as a constituent of his former Dover parliamentary seat. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] It should also be noted that I am not a friend of his, nor a member of, or supporter of the Conservative Party.

One further point I am well aware of the court proceedings against Charlie and the subsequent findings.

That said I very much wish to state that I had occasion to need Charlie's support during a very stressful encounter with Affinity Water who suddenly decided to end decades of custom and practice and refuse to maintain our water supply ... a feeder system from the main supply about two miles away. Apart from the emotional entanglement we stood to lose thousands in go-it-alone costs of maintaining the system ourselves. I wrote to Charlie in desperation asking for his intervention. To be honest I expected nothing. But he responded quickly, wrote to Affinity, and the whole matter was settled in our favour in 48 hours.

He wrote to me outlining his actions. It was a very kind letter expressing the hope that we would be happy at the end of the matter. He did not have to be so kind. He could merely have emailed rather robustly and left it at that. The manner of his response overwhelmed me. So much support, so much empathy, so much genuine interest in our fate.

I repeat, I never sing the praises of politicians, but this man is an absolute diamond of a human being and we are forever in his debt.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Monday, 24 August 2020

To whom it may concern

Dear Sirs,

Re: Charlie Elphicke

My name is [REDACTED]. I was born on the [REDACTED] at Erith in Kent. I have lived with my wife at [REDACTED] – which is in the Constituency of Dover and Deal – since November 2001 [REDACTED]

I first met Charlie Elphicke in July 2010, shortly after his election as Member of Parliament for my constituency. I had approached the British Council [REDACTED] for help with promoting [REDACTED] some of my novels. The British Council had refused in a manner that I thought unreasonable. I took my complaint to Mr Elphicke. After he had written a letter, the British Council changed its mind and cooperated [REDACTED] in a book tour of the country.

My most recent approach to Mr Elphicke for help was in November 2018. My daughter's music school had recently moved to larger premises. Its director had learned from an informal approach that these premises would not be liable for business rates. After moving in, the school was sent a rates demand for £15,000. I wrote to Mr Elphicke on behalf of the school to ask for help. His response was immediate and effective. The rates demand was withdrawn. I enclose a copy of Mr Elphicke's reply to my request for help.

On the basis of this personal matter and this matter of wider community interest, and on the basis of other matters that it would be redundant to list, I will say that I found Mr Elphicke to be an outstanding constituency Member of Parliament. In the near-decade that he sat for my constituency, he was always approachable, always sympathetic, always prepared to help in matters where he could legitimately intervene.

I regularly met him in the streets of Deal. I was invited twice into his house in St Margaret's Bay. On all occasions, I found him affable and even charming – never distant or overly aware of his status as a Member of Parliament.

I am aware of the charges of sexual assault of which he was convicted earlier this month. I am writing in full knowledge of the evidence given against him by the prosecution, and I write this letter in the hope that it may be useful in any subsequent hearings.

If I can be of any further assistance, please feel free to call on me.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

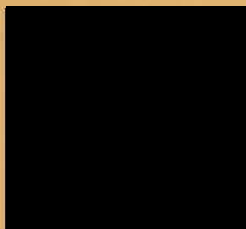
[REDACTED]

CHARLIE ELPHICKE MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA



23 November 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for contacting me about business rates for [REDACTED]. I'm grateful for you raising it as it is clearly a much-loved local enterprise.

I have contacted senior managers at Dover District Council about this matter, asking them to look into it urgently. I will write to you again as soon as I get a response.

In the meantime if there is anything else I can help with, do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charlie Elphicke".

Member of Parliament for Dover & Deal

Constituency Office: 01304 379669

Email: charlie.elphicke.mp@parliament.uk

www.elphicke.com

Mrs Elaine Newton

11th August 2020

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this in support of Charlie Elphicke. It is something that I have never done before, but I feel so strongly in this case.

I am not a personal friend, but I have met him in the course of his work a few times.

Charlie has worked incredibly hard for Dover, and done so much good, that for the first time in my life I switched from my long-time allegiance to the Labour Party to vote for Charlie out of respect for him.

With regard to the accusations and the Court verdict, while I accept the verdict, and am aware of his tearful confessions of adultery, I am deeply shocked. The newspaper reports just don't fit with what I've seen of him. I have heard things said such as, "My daughters have been alone with him and I didn't ever feel concerned." Personally, I have never had concerns about Charlie Elphicke, he has always come across as hard working, serious, professional, with a steady determination to do the work.

I could say so many things that Charlie has done for Dover and Deal. He has personally worked very hard and pushed for the positive changes we need. In the years that he was our MP, Dover and Deal have improved tremendously. Deal received High Street of the year award while other towns were becoming derelict. Dover was down at heel, neglected, but since Charlie has been fighting our corner things have greatly improved for this town. He worked hard to stop the docks being sold abroad, I understand that decision made in Government also impacted other ports in a positive way.

The long-awaited Dover town renovation began, the despised ugly tower building (Burlington House) was demolished to make way for the new St James Shopping Centre. When the main railway line to London got damaged due to sea erosion and bad weather, causing closure. Charlie personally oversaw the project and it was completed ahead of time and under budget. Charlie fought tirelessly to get a new hospital in Dover, now people speak highly of our new hospital. When thugs came into Dover to cause riots, and threatened to return bigger and more powerful, Charlie ensured that there was a massive police presence and the return visit was therefore a non-event. Those thugs have not returned to Dover, realising that they will not get away with it while Charlie was our MP. There are many individual testimonies of how he has personally helped people. I could give many other examples. He has been outstanding as an MP, devoted to improving our area.

I do not in any way condone what he's been found guilty of, however I and others are in shock because it does not fit the MP that we have seen. The continuous support through the election in the big number of votes stand as evidence for the high regard he has been held in, even through the accusations against him.

Yours Sincerely

Elaine Newton

Elaine Newton

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Regarding: Charles Brett Anthony Elphicke (known generally as Charlie Elphicke)

1. My name is James Hamilton Fitt of [REDACTED]
My wife and I live in sheltered housing attached to the [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] My date of birth is [REDACTED]
2. I am a retired officer of HM Customs & Excise in the United Kingdom, and after retirement I was subsequently engaged by various countries and organisations as an international management consultant. I have attached to this Paper my Curriculum Vitae (Annex 1) to establish and confirm my declared status. I am fully retired now.
3. I am aware of the three charges of sexual assault which Mr Elphicke has been convicted of and that the comments made in this paper are made in the knowledge of the court's findings.
4. In 2008 my wife (Mrs Carmilla Isobel Alexandra Fitt of the same address as myself) and I returned to the United Kingdom after about twenty years working and living overseas (see attached CV). We decided to return to the Dover area to live because we had lived there before. Unfortunately we arrived just as the UK entered into a major recession. Within weeks of our arrival our British bank (Kaupthing Singer & Friedlander (Isle of Man)) went into liquidation. This resulted in us being unable to access our money.
5. The bank was based in the Isle of Man and help and assistance was not available from either the British or Isle of Man Governments - or any other authority for that matter. Even though I had no fixed address in the Dover area (I was staying with a friend in a village near Dover) I contacted the Dover and Deal Member of Parliament at that time Mr Gwynfor Matthews Prosser. He was unable to give me any assistance or advice. I contacted many other politicians and financial experts also at that time with the same negative results.
6. In some desperation I then contacted the prospective candidate Conservative MP for Dover and Deal constituency in the approaching general election who was Mr Elphicke. This was my first contact with Mr Elphicke and it was by email.
7. His response was very positive and helpful. Within the constraints of the situation that I was in he gave me constructive advice and laid out the various scenarios and options that could arise. He also kindly arranged for me to meet Sir Roger James Gale MP for North Thanet in Kent. This I did on 21st May 2009. Mr Gale specialises on the interests of British expatriates and raises issues concerning them in the House of Commons and directly with Government. Mr Gale listened carefully to my story gave me good solid advice and stated he would follow up the case as best he could. This he did admirably.
8. Mr Elphicke, in the meantime, kept in contact with me giving support and advice when necessary. Then in May 2010 he was elected MP for the constituency of Dover and Deal in Kent. This was the constituency in which my wife and I came to reside permanently. The liquidation of my bank progressed predictably and I managed to put my finances in some sort of order.
9. Even though I am not a Conservative party member I maintained contact with Mr Elphicke, mainly by email and letter. I only met him briefly on a few occasions, normally at various functions but occasionally we would meet by chance in the street or harbour promenade when I was walking my dog. I had no other personal contact with him and had no knowledge of any of his private life other than that I read online and in the newspapers.
10. Once Mr Elphicke became the MP for Dover and Deal in 2010 he became very proactive with local issues, especially the Port of Dover. I was, and am still, very interested in matters arising and concerning this Port. This is because I worked in the port as Customs Officer for over ten years from 1970 onwards. From 2010 onwards there were many issues that concerned the Port of Dover, Border Force and HMRC. The latter two organisations being the successors to HM Customs & Excise who used to employ me.

11. Mr Elphicke and I appeared to share similar interests and concerns in these areas, although we did not always agree. However our contacts were always amicable. Some of the issues that he was proactively involved in over all the period he was MP included:
- a. Poor Border Force smuggling controls and activities.
 - b. All immigration issues especially 'migrants'. This has been, and still is, an ongoing problem ranging from the migrant camp in Calais (which he visited) to people smuggling by both vehicle and small boats. He gave, and was seen to give, strong support, as well as challenges, to the authorities dealing with this issue (mainly Border Force) both in Dover, in the House of Commons as well as directly to the appropriate Government departments.
 - c. The ruinous split (in my opinion) of anti smuggling activities between HM Revenue & Customs and Border Force.
 - d. Issues arising from the dredging of the Goodwin Sands to infill part of Dover Docks. (Amongst other activities he attended and supported the presentation of a petition against this activity by protesters at Number 10 Downing Street).
 - e. Support of Dover Harbour Board with the regeneration of Dover Port.
 - f. Fact finding and liaison contacts with Port employees of all organisations working there and various French authorities in Calais. This improved the general knowledge of all on various issues that existed and enhanced communications generally.
 - g. Brexit. When the referendum arose I was, as were many others, very confused and did not know the best way to vote. Mr Elphicke was a 'remainer' (in a predominantly 'Brexit' constituency) but gave clear views to the public as to the pros and cons of both. He also gave clear objective advice to any constituents who asked him directly. That included me. He also made Brexit related visits to all of the Port organisations to see for himself the preparations needed for Brexit. This information he used to good effect in supporting Dover Harbour Board, ferry companies and others with their concerns, taking these concerns up with the Government, in the House of Commons and elsewhere.
 - h. Noise. When I lived on the seafront of Dover Harbour in a Dover Harbour Board owned apartment (just before we moved to our present address) we were beset by a cacophony of noise from the dredging in the harbour through to major repairs being done to our building. The noise was acceptable during the day time but not at night. Mr Elphicke supported our appeal to DHB and monitored the noise levels and timings.
12. It can be seen from Para. 11 above that the issues I was concerned and interested in were mainly connected to the sea and harbour, but he was also very active in the many other areas of constituency matters arising. But Paragraph 11 above shows that he objectively trod a delicate path between his constituents concerns and those of the appropriate authorities. It was skilfully done.
13. As I stated in Para. 9 above our contacts were mainly by email and letter. Unfortunately I destroyed all his letters to me when we moved to our present home here in Surrey. However I have copied below a brief exchange of emails that we had in 2016 in the post Brexit referendum period. The content is unimportant but I have copied it to show an example of the tone in which our exchanges took place. This being a type of relaxed formality that only covered the issues and concerns I raised - and nothing personal from either of us was discussed. I found his character and personality helpful, caring, industrious, motivated, and friendly but not over familiar.
14. My wife and I were part of the congregation of St Mary in Castro Church within Dover Castle. We also had social dialogue with other sections of the Dover / Deal community. The point being that from the moment Mr Elphicke became the Member of Parliament for Dover all his constituents with whom I had contact with were very satisfied with his support and representation of the community. He regularly visited all parts of his constituency including occasional attendance at our church, where he was always warmly welcomed.
15. During the pre trial period we maintained the normal spasmodic email contact we always had. I saw no change in his tone or behaviour. It seemed to be 'business as usual'. In fact I saw him on television a few

times in the 'House' participating normally with parliamentary questions and debate. Of course my lack of intimate contact with Mr Elphicke resulted in me having no knowledge of his personal feelings or demeanour.

16. As you can see from above it is my opinion that Mr Elphicke was an excellent, highly respected, hard working and effective Member of Parliament for Dover and Deal who communicated very well with his constituents and with all others with whom he made contact. He is a great loss to that community by no longer being their MP. Also lost to the Government, and our country, is his hard earned expertise on Dover Port, Brexit, border controls, etc. However Mrs N Elphicke MP is a very worthy successor.
17. Finally, even though my wife and I have moved away from Dover I still have an interest in Dover issues, its Port, Brexit, Border Force, etc hence my continued contact with Mr Elphicke and now his wife Mrs Natalie Elphicke as past and present MPs for Dover and Deal.



James Hamilton Fitt. MNI.

12 August 2020

Re: EU Referendum

Yahoo/Inbox

•

ELPHICKE, Charlie <charlie.elphicke.mp@parliament.uk>

Sun, 3 Jul 2016 at 18:00

Thank you for your email. I understand your perspective on the result of the referendum. Having backed a Remain vote myself, I was very disappointed at the outcome. I had made the case to remain because I was concerned that the pound would collapse, the stock market would crash and the French would seek to return the border to Dover. I also set out how I was concerned about the impact on jobs and money as well as national security. You can read my full and detailed letter here:<http://www.elphicke.com/downloads/our-borders-will-be-safer-and-more-secure-in-the-european-union.pdf>

However, the people of Dover & Deal, as well as the people of Britain as a whole, did not agree. They decided that they wanted to leave the European Union. The turnout was incredibly high. The result was close, but clear. While I did not want this, it is now my duty to roll up my sleeves and make it work.

So while I understand how you feel, I cannot agree that we should rerun the referendum with a view to securing a different result. Nor can I agree that MPs should seek to subvert the expressed will of the people and vote this down in Parliament. We serve the people and we must respect the will of the people.

I am sorry to send you a response I know you will find to be disappointing.

Best wishes

Charlie Elphicke

Charlie Elphicke

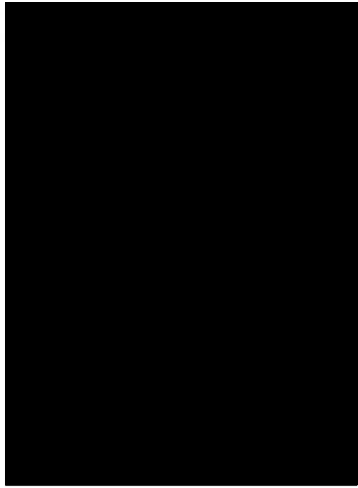
Conservative Member of Parliament for Dover and Deal

Charlie@elphicke.com

www.elphicke.com

@charlieelphicke

On 27 Jun 2016, at 10:35, Jim Fitt [REDACTED] wrote:



Charlie Elphicke MP (Dover & Deal)

House of Commons

London SW1A 0AA 27 June 2016

Dear Charlie

EU Referendum

Well it's a mess.

However it's not all over yet. A petition that is out may result in a debate in the House re a second referendum. I do hope there will be one. Meanwhile I hope everyone, public, Government, MP's, EU and so on, keeps calm and not be in too much of a hurry to do anything. Who knows what may come out of the mist.

Whatever happens I do believe that *Mr Cameron was very premature in stating that he is resigning in October*. We do not need the Government racked by internal rivalries at such a critical time. The Conservative Party needs to calm down and get its act together.

There are four priorities I have identified that need to be started immediately. They are:

1. Every effort must be made to stop the breaking up of the United Kingdom. That must be ***the priority***.
2. Start rebuilding bridges with the Commonwealth (it's about time) and making (trade) contacts with other key countries / blocs.
3. Get the Conservative Party stabilised, united and working together to provide a strong and responsible Government (to lead us out of the EU?). There is a great danger that the Labour Party could start getting its act together before the Conservatives. If that happens then a lot of Tory 'Remain' voters (including me) could vote Labour if only to stop the process of UK leaving the EU. Heaven help us if Corbyn is still leader.
4. Get the border controls sorted out. Preferably take the Home Offices 'dead hand' away from any border control other than Immigration. You know my views about this. The OUT won primarily due to Border Control issues. Politicians SHOULD LISTEN and be seen to start doing something sensible about it. It's not just Immigration problems that are the concern, especially here in Dover.

Finally please **fight any possibility of Boris Johnson becoming Prime Minister**. If he does become PM I am afraid I will not vote Conservative at the next election. I have no desire to vote against you, I appreciate your efforts too much. But Boris the Buffoon must not be PM, so I will not want the Conservatives to win under that leadership. Preferably not Theresa May either. Her reputation in Home Office circles is appalling.

Where are the good leaders?

Us Brits are really placed between a rock and a hard place. Why did Cameron put us there??

Do not bother to reply. I am only giving some feedback.

Best regards

Jim Fitt

PS

My wife and I have signed the petition for a second EU referendum.

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To whom it may concern.

Keith Single

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Retired Company Director

I first met Charlie Elphicke (CE) in 2009 when he was the prospective parliamentary candidate for Dover. I was then a volunteer at Dover and Deal Conservative Association. I subsequently became Treasurer in 2011, Chairman in 2014 and still hold that position. I was CE's Agent in 2017.

CE can be radical when it comes to reform but is a traditionalist in his day to day life. He possesses a great desire to be successful.

CE has been an exceedingly good MP evidenced by an increased majority in every General Election he stood, including 2017 when his majority was against the trend.

His legacy will be that he fought off plans to sell off the English border and Port at Dover to the French and saving Buckland hospital.

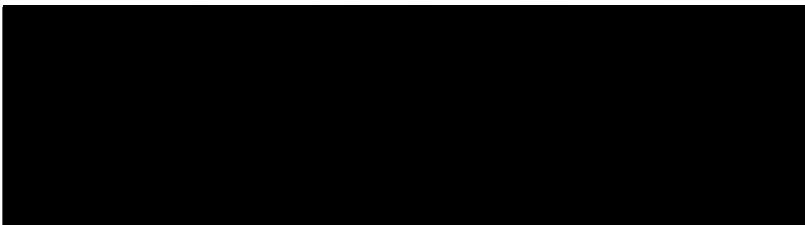
He had a rapport with every major employer in the area. He knew the headmaster of every school. He gave up time freely to join in with the community, talks at the Rotary club. School prize giving, and celebrating important local dates.

He was very diligent concerning his duties towards his constituents regardless of their political persuasion.

I am aware of the charges against CE and I have been following the trial.



Keith Single
Chairman
Dover and Deal Conservative Association
14 August 2020

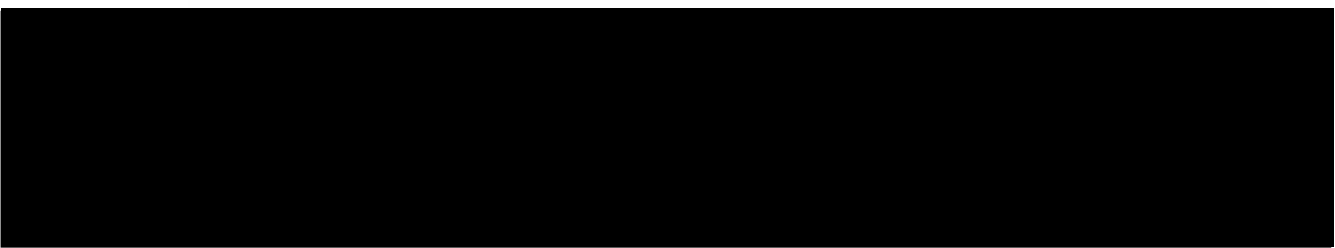


Wednesday, 12th August, 2020

To whom it may concern

I am [redacted] and I was born on [redacted] in Oxford. My home address and contact details are at the top of this testimonial.

I am a retired Special Needs teacher and am a founder Director of [redacted] a not for profit company [redacted] My work there is voluntary and I am Chair of the HR Committee. I am a local historian and have written articles for [redacted]



I have been a member of the Conservative Party for a number of years and [redacted]

[redacted] and was a committee member of the Local Population Studies Society and [redacted]

I first met Charlie in 2008 when I approached him for help in the early days of [redacted] He visited schools with us and made enquiries about free school meals. I was also a member of a group of parents and governors trying to save [redacted] from being merged with [redacted] Charlie was supportive in our efforts and we were able to have the building made a community asset. For some years, I was Secretary of the [redacted] and met Charlie at functions, such as Armed Forces Day and the annual Trafalgar Day service.

As a constituent, I have appealed for his help on a number of occasions and have listed the occasions separately. Before local and national elections, I spent time in the Conservative committee rooms and Charlie was always appreciative of the many volunteers who came to help by distributing leaflets or making telephone canvass calls, as well as the people who went out to canvass with him in the constituency.

From the outset, Charlie has been enthusiastic and helpful. He knew my burning ambition was to get a grammar school for Deal and Walmer and he contacted local councillors and spoke to the Head Teacher of Sir Roger Manwood's School, a grammar school in Sandwich, in the hope that there could be a branch of their school in Deal in the building vacated by Walmer Science College when it was forced to merge with Castle Community School.

Along with other Conservatives, I have been a guest in Charlie's home for fundraising events and Charlie, and Natalie, have been perfect hosts, making us all feel at ease and dispensing hospitality. Charlie always remembers a face and makes one feel that their presence is important to him.

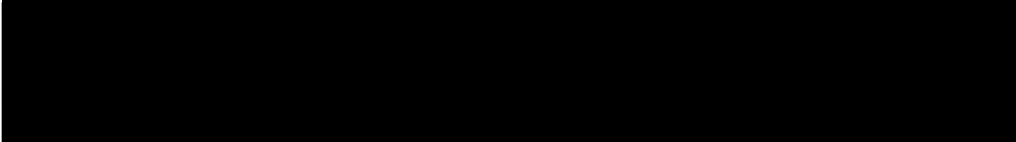


I am aware that Charlie has been convicted of three counts of sexual assault.

Charlie did not let the charges, which hung over him for such a long time, interfere with his work in the constituency. He has been an excellent MP serving Deal and Dover very well from when he was first elected in 2010 and has increased his majority at each subsequent election. He is well respected in the area and constituents know that they can count on his active support. We have received a weekly update throughout his tenure as an MP and the fact that he was well-respected at Westminster was evidenced by the quality of the speakers who have been the guests at our fundraising events, including Theresa May and Chris Grayling, among others.

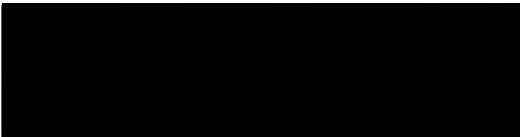
When I was asked to provide a testimonial for Charlie, I had no hesitation, as I have always found him courteous, helpful and with a good sense of humour. Over the years, he has answered my many requests for help and has followed up on issues assiduously.



Details of occasions when Charlie Elphicke MP was approached for help

- January 2008 Letter from Charlie – before he was elected our MP – he was just a candidate - following his visit with our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer when we were hoping he could push for an extension of free school meals.
- 17 July 2010 Letter from Charlie in response to my request to push for free school meals.
- 14th October, 2016 Letter from Charlie in response to my plea to push for a grammar school for Deal and Walmer.
- 16th December, 2016 Letter requesting Charlie to make a complaint to QEQM Hospital, Margate,

- 30 December 2016 Charlie's letter following my query about Council Tax being charged for the coach house.
- 18 August 2017 Letter from Charlie after taking up the issue of drainage outside 

- 8 September, 2017 Letter from Charlie in response to my proposal that he should push for more cruise ships to visit Dover.
- 25th September 2017 Charlie's letter to me after my suggestion we did something for the victims of the Grenfell Tower fire.
- 20 October 2017 Letter from Charlie after he had written to Dover Harbour Board re an increase in cruise ships using Dover.
- 22 December 2017 Letter from Charlie re bike hire business being set up opposite us.
- 23 March 2018 Letter from Charlie re Goodwin Academy's debut and the use of Walmer Science College building.
- 4 May 2018 Letter from Charlie enclosing a response he received following enquiries about Goodwin Academy.
- 25th September, 2019 Letter from Charlie saying he would contact DDC about charging Council Tax on an empty property.

There were occasions when I contacted Charlie by email and I do not have copies of those emails. The most difficult problem for me was over PPI, when I was being chased by a company to pay them money to recover PPI which they said was owed to me by Santander.



TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN


Occupation: Retired HR Executive

Re: Mr Charlie Elphicke

I have known Charlie for 11 years from when he was selected as the Dover and Deal candidate for the 2010 General Election. I have worked very closely with him and on a daily basis throughout all subsequent General, County Council, District and Police Commissioner elections together with the 2016 Referendum. This has involved door-to-door campaigning, street stalls, fund raising and literature distribution. I have entertained and been entertained by Charlie and his wife throughout this time.

Charlie has been the most excellent MP taking into account the majority views of his constituency on any major votes in the House and in the case of the EU Referendum although voting Remain immediately after chose to go with the majority view of the Constituency and campaigned for Leave. During his period of representing the Constituency he was instrumental in fighting to keep the Port of Dover free from foreign take over; progressing the demolition of Burlington House (the biggest eyesore in Dover); working with Dover & District Council to build the St James new shopping area and Cinema; fighting green field development as well as helping many constituents with their individual problems. Charlie has very high standards of public duty attending charity fund raisers together with town and village events. Charlie worked tirelessly and fought hard to get government funding for all local projects.

Charlie proved from the beginning to be an excellent team builder and attracted support and funding from private as well as local businesses and was highly respected. He was a good listener and welcomed new ideas and demonstrated empathy for those struggling to deal with legal and difficult medical issues. He was very helpful with families who had problems with drug abuse.

I am aware of the charges and his conviction of three counts of sexual assault and my comments are made in the knowledge of the Court's findings. Since he stood down from his position as MP he has put all his efforts into supporting Natalie Elphicke our current MP but has withdrawn from public life.




7th August 2020.



Dear Sir or Madam,

To whom it may concern:

My name is  My present address is shown above. Until October 2018 I resided in Sandwich, Kent.

I retired in December 1993. Prior to retirement, I was a Senior Civil Servant and Senior Lecturer in the  University 

I and my wife have known Charlie Elphicke since 2016. Our severely handicapped daughter,  then resided in a Nursing Home in Charlie Elphicke's constituency and we sought his assistance over a major problem with her care allowances.

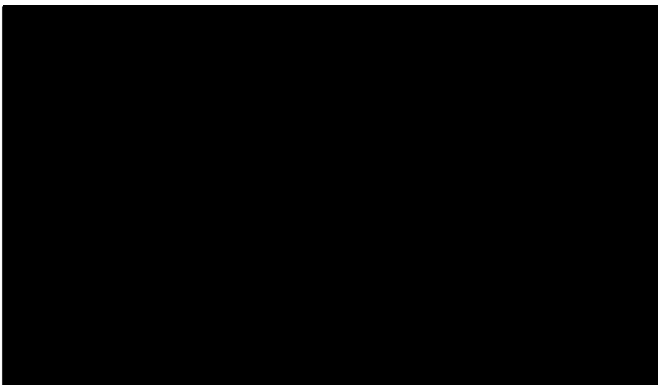
My wife and I both found Charlie Elphicke to be a most warm, engaging and friendly person. From the very start, he and his team were eager to assist us and he took a personal interest in our problems. He kept us informed at every stage, contacted colleagues in Government on our behalf and visited  Nursing Home so that he could get to know her personally. He was able to get legislation amended and as a result was able to resolve  problem for us.

We are fully aware of the charges of which Charlie has been found guilty by the Courts and our remarks are made regardless of their

findings. We have come to regard Charlie as a friend who had genuine concern for us in our time of need. He was, we believe, a model Member of Parliament and regard his downfall as a tragic loss to ourselves, to his former constituents and indeed to the country which he so ably represented. We sincerely hope that he will be permitted to find an appropriate way of reapplying his undoubted talents to public service as soon as possible.

Since the verdict was announced, we have spoken to Charlie by telephone. Although in many ways he seemed to be still the friendly, intensely human person we knew, we felt that he was quite subdued and had clearly undergone a severe personal trauma.

Yours sincerely,



For the attention of:

Mrs. Ellen Peart,
BCL Solicitors LLP,
51, Lincoln's Inn Fields,
London
WC2A 3LZ

10.

Whom it may concern,

I am [redacted] of the above
above address. I am on [redacted]

a permanent resident in Dover.

I first met Charles Elphicke when he
was first elected as M.P. for Dover +
Weald.

I have always regarded him as
very pleasant, very amiable, and
very approachable.

I am fully aware of the charges he
has been convicted of.

He has helped my wife and I on
several occasions.

In particular he intervened in a dispute
with a care home ending in a very
satisfactory conclusion.

On a few other occasions he has
tackled Dover Dist Council on other matters
when the council wouldn't talk to us.

He always replies to all our enquiries.

He has a very pleasant personality and
on one ~~case~~ occasion took the trouble
to speak to my wife and I while having
lunch at the local Nando's restaurant.

I am pleased to be able to write

a few words in support of Charlie.
Yours sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

To whom it may concern

10th August 2020

Re: Charlie Elphicke

My name is David Nigel Reeve Foley; date of birth [REDACTED] My home address is [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I am the Chief Executive of Dover District Chamber of Commerce. I am a Director or Chairman of nine other active UK companies. I am a trustee of two charities and a governor of Broadstairs College. I chair East Kent Business Advice Clinic and sit on the boards of the Care Leaver Progression Partnership, Manston Skills & Employment Board and Southern Water Stakeholder Kent Panel. I am a member of two hospital trusts and Chairman of Mersham-Le-Hatch Cricket Club. Since 2005, I have been a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, Manufactures & Commerce.

I first met Charlie Elphicke on 25th September 2007, when he was the guest speaker at a business breakfast organised by the Chamber. At the time, he had just been adopted as a prospective parliamentary candidate for Dover. He introduced himself to the delegates with self-deprecating good humour as another simple lawyer in the honourable tradition of previous members of the legal profession who had represented the constituency and claimed that he had been incorrectly labelled by the News of the World as "a leading economist".

Before his success in the General Election of 6 May 2010, I met him on one further occasion in his office at 30 St Mary Axe when we discussed the measures required to boost the economy of Dover.

Along with my fellow Directors at the Dover District Chamber of Commerce, we monitored his public statements and activities in the Dover constituency with much care and attention during the first eight months of his first period as a Member of Parliament. Impressed by his attention to detail on business issues and prompt responses to questions to his constituency office, I wrote to him in January 2011 with an invitation to accept the post of Chamber of Commerce President which he duly did.

As might be expected, we corresponded regularly on commercial issues related to his constituency.

In his first five years in office, one of the key threats to the future prosperity of Dover and its environs was the attempt by various individuals to engineer the sale of the Port of Dover to an overseas consortium which did not appear to have the best interests of Dover residents and workers at heart.

Charlie Elphicke was the driving force behind the formation of Dover People's Port Trust Limited (DPPT), a Registered Society formally established in August 2010 under the Industrial & Provident Societies Act 1965 with the declared aim of redirecting the port along a path that benefited locals and the UK in general.

Charlie Elphicke's boundless energy and unflagging enthusiasm inspired others to accept the essential virtue of the campaign. With the backing of Sir Patrick Sheehy, Dame Vera Lynn and prominent figures from across the political spectrum, Charlie Elphicke organised a town referendum in March 2011 which supported the case for the port to remain under British ownership by 5,244 votes to 113. The plan to sell the Port of Dover to foreign interests was subsequently dropped and Charlie Elphicke was rightly applauded for his community spirit and patriotic fervour.

Charlie Elphicke also helped to secure the £24 million required to build the new Buckland Hospital in Dover which reopened in 2014. Given the recent pressures on the NHS caused by the COVID-19 crisis, the residents of Dover have every reason to be grateful for Charlie Elphicke's foresight and successful fund-raising.

At many DPPT board meetings, company visits and evening events, Charlie Elphicke proved to be a genial companion with a ready wit. When reading of his conviction on 30th July 2020 on three counts of sexual assault, I reviewed the many occasions when I had been with him in mixed company. I cannot recall any time in the past thirteen years when his behaviour fell below acceptable standards. I never witnessed him being disrespectful by word or deed to those around him.

Charlie Elphicke was widely expected to achieve ministerial office with a senior cabinet post a likely consequence of his success in the constituency and confident oratory in the House of Commons. He was prepared to undertake the hard work necessary to complement his ambition, keen perhaps to be one of the exceptions to Enoch Powell's declaration that "*All political lives, unless they are cut off in midstream at a happy juncture, end in failure*". It is a matter of regret by those who admired and respected his support for his constituents and local businesses that a most unhappy juncture cut short his promising career in mainstream politics.

I have spoken to him once on the telephone since his conviction and it was immediately apparent that the cheerful bonhomie that defined his public persona was notably absent. I trust that appropriate professional counselling services will be made available to him. I also trust that the significant contribution by Charlie Elphicke towards an improvement in the daily lives of Dover citizens and the public facilities available to them will be given every consideration when he is sentenced.

Yours faithfully



David Foley
Chief Executive

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

6 August 2020

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Spain

[REDACTED]

Occupation: English Tutor

Dear Sir or Madam

I am writing in reference to Mr Charles Brett Anthony Elphicke, who is appearing before the court due to 3 x counts of sexual assault.

I feel strongly about Charlie and about his future. Therefore, I am writing this character reference based on the person I know and respect. My view of him is not diminished despite the charges he now faces.

I met Charlie approximately 10 or 11 years ago when I volunteered to assist the local Conservative Association in their bid for him to become the MP for Dover and Deal. Over a period of time I have found him to be honest, hardworking, sincere, caring and fun. My husband, [REDACTED] was facing immigration problems. Charlie was aware of this and said should he be elected he would, without making promises, ask that my husband's case be looked into. I thought no more of it. However, within 6-8 weeks of Charlie's Election win we received a letter from the then Home Secretary to say my husband would be considered for British citizenship. This had been a 16 year battle for us. Without Charlie's assistance this would never have happened. We were beyond relieved and ecstatic. Charlie restored our faith in human nature. We recognise him for what he is which is at heart a good man, who could have turned the other way, forgotten about us or was just in politics for himself. We believe he is a rare human being and we still hold him in high esteem and regard him now as our friend. Additionally, a couple of years ago, I had some problems with HMRC. I tried to sort it myself, but was getting nowhere. I contacted Charlie and he intervened, and the matter was resolved (at the time there were a lot of stories in the UK press re HMRC problems so I wasn't the only one). Charlie was a phenomenal MP for Dover and Deal and the local community benefitted massively because of his hard work.

I know from being on the campaign trail with Charlie and the team his positivity, sincerity, confidence and leadership was infectious and real. Everyone wanted to be with and on Charlie's side, and bask in the glow. I saw this effect on numerous occasions with my own eyes over many years. My husband and I attended many Election nights, Association evenings or events. We never saw Charlie behave or speak in an inappropriate/unprofessional way with anyone at any time. I, personally, have never heard anything negative about Charlie from anybody.

Prior to moving to Spain nearly 4 years ago, I worked full time as an Independent Living Manager for a major Registered Social Landlord in Kent and for 2 years sat on Dover Town Council [REDACTED] From time to time, in the latter capacity, I would also see Charlie at Public Meetings and various functions and, again, his behaviour was always professional. Although I haven't seen Charlie in person recently when I did speak to him briefly on the phone a few days ago I could tell things are bleak and dark just by his tone of voice. The very least I can do, and my husband concurs, is to support him now for the person we know and trust.

If you require anything further please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

6th August 2020

To Whom it may concern

Regarding Charlie Elphicke

[REDACTED] and my husband [REDACTED]

Residing at [REDACTED]

First met Charlie at the Hustings at Dover Baptist Church prior to the 2010 election.

Following Charlie's election to Member of Parliament for Dover we held a small reception [REDACTED] to congratulate him, where we presented him with a Bible. The press was present on this occasion and a report went in the local paper.

Charlie served Dover well during his time as their MP and in general he was regarded as a very hard-working kind considerate man who achieved many good results for the town all of which will be on record.

On a more personal level: we have had reason to contact him and found him to be very willing to help, write letters and follow up on the results. I.e. When our friend who suffers from Schizophrenia was sectioned on two occasions, we had cause to react to how she was treated, and Charlie was extremely helpful.

Also, when we were found to have a massive (undetected) water leak under the shop floor. We received water bills amounting to eight thousand pounds, Charlie once again wrote letters, and during this time asked if he could make an appointment to come to the shop to chat about it to us and our staff. We once again made a little tea party of it. There was no press present he just wanted to ask how things were going.

Charlie has appeared very controlled during the – almost three years – taken for the investigation but it is obvious that the waiting has taken a toll.

The above comments are made with full knowledge that Charlie Elphicke has been convicted of three counts of sexual assault.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

We, [REDACTED] self employed Telephone Engineer and Care supporter and [REDACTED] self employed Book keeper and English teacher to foreign students, both residing at [REDACTED] have known Charlie Elphicke for about ten years since he became an MP.

Charlie was our MP for at least nine years and a good one too. He has done many good deeds for the people of Dover and Deal. First time we met Charlie was at Dover Port when he and Vera Lynn fought to stop the sell off of the Port of Dover to France in 2010.

He has a very positive attitude towards helping and developing Dover and Deal. We were impressed with him then because he showed genuine care and compassion for the community.

We have a son who has significant additional needs and he lived in private supported living supplied by his care manager, but our son was not happy with the care he was receiving, thus was very unsettled. We didn't know where to turn and what to do to help our son as the care manager had not been very forthcoming despite the amount of times we complained to him. As our last resort, we contacted our local MP, Charlie Elphicke.

In 2015, we wrote to Charlie to assist us in our battle with our son's care manager. This was a battle that we had been fighting for over a year but to no avail. Charlie acted upon our request with no hesitation and with efficiency. With his help, since then, it changed our son's life for the better. Our son is now settled and much happier. We are ever so grateful for Charlie's help and kindness over this difficult period.

Again, last year, we also wrote to Charlie to assist [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. She waited for an appointment for almost a year but after writing to Charlie, this problem had been resolved. Charlie and his team once again proved how efficient and helpful they were.

To show our gratitude to Charlie, we volunteered to help out during the 2019 election campaign. During this time, Charlie showed professionalism, enthusiasm, dedication and passion for the cause. In spite of the current conviction, we can only speak as we find, he was also very supportive to his family during the campaign and came across to us as a very respectable family man. We also found that, during the campaign there were so many who were grateful for his understanding of the problems the people faced and the assistance Charlie had given them over the years.

We can confirm that we are aware of the charges of which he has been convicted (x 3 counts of sexual assault) and that the comments made in the reference we made are in the knowledge of the court's findings.

Signed

[REDACTED]

Signed

[REDACTED]

Dated:

6/8/2020

Dated:

6/8/2020

From The Revd Jonathan Aitken



To whom it may concern:

Character Reference for Charles Elphicke

My name is Jonathan William Patrick Aitken of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] My date of birth is [REDACTED]

I am a Prison Chaplain serving at HMP Pentonville and also an ordained Priest serving as Assistant Minister at St Matthew's Church, Westminster.

Most of my previous career was spent in politics as a Member of Parliament and as a Minister of the Crown.

I am the author of several books and in recent years I have done extensive charity work particularly in the field of Criminal Justice and Offender Rehabilitation.

I have known Charles Elphicke for over 20 years. I first met him in 1998 when he came to see me in my home near Deal to ask my advice about the prospects of becoming a Conservative Parliamentary Candidate for one of the East Kent constituencies. I had just retired (compulsorily!) from front line politics after serving 24 years as Member of Parliament for East Kent constituency of South Thanet which is next door to the Dover and Deal constituency.

In due course Charles Elphicke was selected as the Parliamentary Candidate and then elected as the Member of Parliament for Dover and Deal. I saw him occasionally and I heard about him frequently because I continued to live near Deal, the second largest town in his constituency, where I have many friends and acquaintances.

Charles Elphicke earned a good local reputation as a hard working Constituency MP. The adjectives I often heard spoken about him by his electorate were "kind", "hardworking", "energetic" and "effective".

When Deal Hospital was threatened with closure he fought and won a battle that has ensured it has stayed open. He also campaigned successfully for the building of the new hospital in Dover.

Charles Elphicke's greatest achievements in terms of local and regional impact was to oppose the privatisation of the Port of Dover. Instead Charles Elphicke successfully argued for the Port to remain in public ownership and to become a community led port. It resulted in the creation of what is called "The People's Port" of Dover, a community led port, which successfully runs and manages the huge Channel Port to this day. Charles Elphicke's achievements in creating "The People's Port" won much acclaim across all political boundaries.

The adjective "kind" was often applied to Charles Elphicke in his constituency because of his caring attitude to the casework that he handled at his local "surgeries" as the MP for Dover and Deal.

In the last few weeks, since his conviction, I have seen and talked to Charles Elphicke for personal and pastoral reasons. As a former prisoner and now a Prison Chaplain myself I have been able to offer him some advice and guidance on how to handle the life of a prisoner if he should be given a custodial sentence.

I have also had spiritual conversations with him. He is a committed Christian and regular churchgoer. He has made it clear to me, that he is deeply remorseful for his failings of character and behaviour which have led to his conviction. I am certain that his penitence is sincere.

I hope and pray the Court will temper justice with mercy when handing down its sentence on Charles Elphicke.



The Revd Jonathan Aitken
11 August 2020

Charlie Elphicke Testimonial and Character reference

From [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Retired District Councillor. DDC

I first met Charlie when I was a member of the selection committee, which recommended him to stand for the parliamentary seat in 2010, the seat he won. I canvassed with him on many occasions. From then on, I met Charlie on many occasions often during my council duties.

He is charming and does have an air of bravado. Charlie was a very hard-working MP, very diligent and extremely vocal on all matters appertaining to the electorate of Dover. He raised the profile of Dover and East Kent.

[REDACTED]

list below some of the issues I raised with him and usually a good result:

3/9 2018 Bus Services. And again
4/4/2019

31/8/2018 Anti-Social Behaviour Pencester Gardens Dover.
20/6/2019 Provision of a seat at the bus stop outside Buckland Hospital

14/12/2018 Removal of trees Kearsney Abbey
09/01/2019 Removal of trees Kearsney Abbey.

20/02/2018
Eye clinic services Buckland Hospital

19/01/2011
Proposed children's Home London Road River

05/02/2018
Whitfield expansion adequate education provision

Charlie attended many social events, Garden Shows, Fetes etc. I have a picture of us both at Alkham fete when [REDACTED] Over the four-year period from 2011 to 2015, I attended with Charlie many Civic events and these were carried out most respectfully.

Since the trial and investigation, Charlie has been more subdued and withdrawn. I think it has knocked him for six. I write this with complete honesty and I trust in time he will be able to rebuild his life. He is a very clever and competent man. It would be a shame for him to be unable to use his ability and knowledge in the future.

To Whom it may concern

4th August 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is [REDACTED]. My date of birth is [REDACTED]. My address is [REDACTED].

I have never met Mr Charlie Elphicke in person, nor am I a member of the Conservative party. I have spoken to him just the one time on the telephone. I have not followed the case, but I am aware of the fact that he has been convicted of sexual assault. I have no information about his private life as I do not know any of his family. My reason for writing is to provide you with my own experience of Mr Charlie Elphicke, his work for the people of Dover, the wider area; and for him helping my business over serious issues with a credit/debit card gateway provider.

It is well known that Mr Elphicke has worked tirelessly for the people of Dover and the surrounding towns. He got involved in all manner of projects from small community and school fetes to stopping the sale of the Port of Dover, campaigned for improved train services, particularly for Deal and in doing so helping to gain access to the high-speed line for constituents. He battled and saved Buckland Hospital in Dover, and we now have a new £24million hospital on the site of the old one. Dover now has an impressive new shopping facility in the heart of the town creating jobs and drawing customers from surrounding towns.

I own and operate a small online business. In early 2019 we experienced a number of orders for products that turned out to be the work of online criminals using stolen Credit/Debit cards. I won't give the name of the Gateway Provider, but they were not at all sympathetic to our financial loss.

A quick look online revealed that we were not alone, as many small businesses had suffered financial loss as a result of online fraud and this provider had treated them all in the same unsympathetic manner in which they treated us. I was (at that time) a member of the Federation of Small Businesses and I approached them for some help. They did not want to help. I won't go into detail as to why, but it would raise a few eyebrows if I did.

I found myself getting nowhere so I decided to email Charlie Elphicke and ask for his help. Within a fairly short period of time he wrote to me and asked for me to provide an overview of what had happened. At this point in time Brexit was constantly on all news channels and I was told that his office was inundated with calls and emails from those for and against it.

As the year moved on and with talk of a General Election looming I expected him not to be able to help me due to the sheer volume of work and commitments he already had. What surprised me is that he wrote to both the gateway provider and the Federation of Small

businesses, and he wrote subsequent letters when I was able to provide him with further information. It was only after he stood down as an MP did his work for us come to an end.

I am not here to comment or make judgement on Mr Elphicke'. I could have distanced myself from what has happened, but I felt it should be noted that on a personal level and from my observations of the wider community Mr Charlie Elphicke contributed so much, and his commitment and tireless efforts have made Dover and the surrounding area a better and more prosperous place to live.



TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

NIGEL JOHN COLLOR

[REDACTED]
Date of birth [REDACTED]

I am retired although I am:

An elected Member of Kent County Council

A Portfolio Holder and Member of Dover District Council

A Member of Dover Town Council

I first met Charlie Elphicke back about 2007 when he was interviewed as a candidate to be the Conservative Candidate for the Dover & Deal Constituency at the 2010 General Election. He was adopted as our candidate.

By the time the election was held I had become the Dover & Deal Conservative Association Chairman so was working very closely with Charlie Elphicke throughout his successful campaign.

Since then, I have had numerous meetings with Charlie and been out campaigning with him for elections at all levels of local and central government many times.

In my experiences with him, Charlie Elphicke was always very positive thinking and a pleasure to be with. I cannot recall having any serious disagreements with him as we were after the same things, improving the area for our residents and naturally being successful at elections.

I worked very closely with Charlie when the sea wall at Shakespeare, Dover collapsed and subsequently the rail line between Dover and Folkestone was closed for many months – Charlie held meetings with Network Rail, Southeastern Railway and other stake holders. The sea wall and rail connection was successful in what was described as record time for such an engineering challenge thanks to Charlie's efforts in conducting some excellent partnership working.

Another issue we worked on with many colleagues was when it was proposed to privatise the Port of Dover. Following Charlie's efforts as the main driver in our campaign we again won the day thanks to Charlie's drive and enthusiasm.

I am aware of the charges that were brought towards Charlie that was a great surprise to me knowing him well and having spent a lot of time in his company. It was a further surprise when I learned that he had been found guilty of all charges.

Personally, I have not seen Charlie since his outcome was known but he did telephone me to thank me for my support in everything we had worked on together over the years.



Nigel J. Collor

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

To Whom It May Concern:

By way of introduction I am the Chairman and Chief Executive of [REDACTED] and a director of other commercial companies. I am also the Chairman of this [REDACTED]

I have a military background [REDACTED] I am an author, about to publish my fourth book. [REDACTED]

I write in support of Mr Charlie Elphicke. I have known him for about ten years- before he became a Member of Parliament when he was a partner in a firm of solicitors.

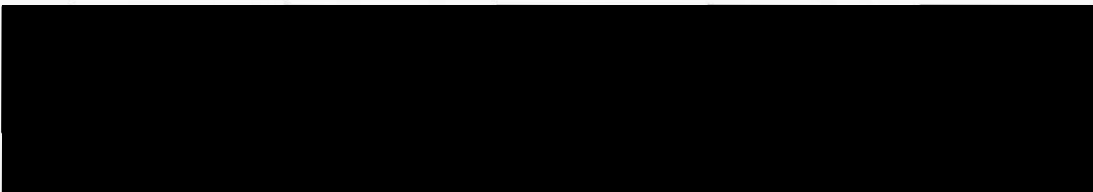
I got to know him very well after he became the Member for Dover where I live. We worked closely together in particular in establishing the Dover Peoples Port Trust (DPPT) which we were moved to do when the Dover Harbour Board announced their intention of listing the Board's shares on the Stock Exchange, thereby rendering the Port vulnerable to foreign ownership. We also were concerned that the Harbour Board had done little to contribute to the regeneration of Dover itself. We eventually resubmitted a bid of £200 million and although the bid did not eventuate the process galvanised the Dover Harbour Board which abandoned the privatisation scheme and embarked on a regeneration programme themselves.

This involved a great deal of work much of which was shouldered by Mr Elphicke who was the real inspiration behind the concept. [REDACTED] I was aware of the enormous effort which he invested in the Trust and I was impressed by his leadership skills and by his integrity. Additionally, he was an excellent colleague, always cheerful and optimistic with no trace of self-aggrandisement.

In my view he was an outstanding Member of Parliament- intelligent, active, and supportive of the constituents when necessary.

I have seen Charlie since his conviction, and I am very concerned for his mental welfare. He seems to be utterly despondent.

[REDACTED]



I respectfully submit that he has suffered enough, and compassion requires that he should now be left to rebuild his shattered life.

Yours Faithfully,

