

## **Buckinghamshire young people meet with Member of European Parliament (MEP), 2008.**

The views of young people from Buckinghamshire were brought to the attention of the European Parliament for the third year in a row when a group of young people met with James Elles, MEP, at County Hall on the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2008.

Young people from the Bucks Youth Cabinet and the Buckinghamshire Members of the UK Youth Parliament were given the opportunity to discuss a range of issues which they, and other young people who were not able to attend, had.

The meeting was viewed as an informal discussion about the issues affecting young people, many serious issues were raised with each young person taking the lead in their chosen subject.

Issues discussed included:

- What is an MEP?
- How will changes to the EU Reformed Treaty affect young people?
- What are the laws concerning corporal punishment in schools and smacking at home in other EU countries?
- What is the EU's general opinion about obesity?
- Is bullying an issue all over Europe or just in the UK?
- Should we have Army Conscription?
- What do you think of learning a foreign language in England?
- Should Maths be applicable to life?
- How well are our qualifications received abroad?
- Young people generally in the UK have a negative image through the media. How are young people perceived in other EU Nations, if negatively what is being done to address this?

The young people debated at some length many of the issues raised.

James agreed to take specific points raised by the young people to appropriate colleagues in the European Parliament and to raise some of the issues at a local level.

Young people and James are keen to continue these annual meetings and a date has been set for the next one on the 30<sup>th</sup> October 2009.