

Elphicke predicts 'black' Christmas

Report by Laura Smith

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DOVER residents will face a "black" Christmas this year as the economy takes yet another turn for the worse, it is being predicted.

Tory Parliamentary candidate Charlie Elphicke says this festive season will be 20 per cent more expensive than last, as prices spiral. With wage settlements at just two per cent, says Mr Elphicke, the cost of goods is now growing 10 times faster than earnings.

Mr Elphicke, a tax lawyer, who advises the Shadow Cabinet on economic trends as a fellow of the Centre for Policy Studies think-tank.

He said: "These are gloomy times and it is against that backdrop that it will be a black Christmas this year. And it will be the hard-working but low-earning folk up on the Buckland estate and in St Rad's who will suffer the most."

Mr Elphicke urged the Government to take steps to allow the mortgage and housing market to function to keep the economy "ticking over". He added: "They have to ensure fuel increases planned for the autumn are scrapped to ease the burden."

Mr Elphicke said the announcement of an eight per cent down-turn in freight through Dover was "very bad news indeed". He added: "Freight is a very good indicator of how the economy is faring and, evidently, it's not faring too well. I would be fearful of job losses locally."



Gloom: Black Christmas ahead for Dover, says Charlie Elphicke. DOAJ240508hospitalmarch-18

- Dover Express Thur 10th July

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A READER, clearly with too much time on her hands, found a photograph of Tory Parliamentary hopeful Charlie Elphicke. It was taken for the 2001 general election when he unsuccessfully stood in St Albans. My informant is impressed by his foppish barnet and notes the gravitas achieved by the frameless glasses, although she notes our Tory terrier no longer requires spectacles.

"Either his eyesight got better after polling day or his vision is now very clear," she purrs.