

TDC Update – Manningtree – November 2017

BUSINESS PARK GETS GO AHEAD TO EXPAND

A business park in Elmstead has been given the go ahead to expand with plans that **could create around 160 new jobs.**

Lanswood Park in Broomfield Road wants to put up three new buildings at the site and also divide another proposed unit into two smaller ones.

The scheme – which has been approved by Tendring District Council (TDC) – also has the backing of Elmstead Market Parish Council which welcomed the boost for employment opportunities in the area.

The site is currently operating as an office and industrial park and has been so successful it wants to increase its operation.

TDC's Regeneration Team fully supported the proposal for the new commercial premises.

“It will – if built out - provide additional capacity at the centre and in doing so create the opportunity for a further 160 new jobs,” a spokesman for the team said.

“Lanswood Park has proved to be a very popular location amongst both new and established businesses as well as with investors from outside the District.

“This proposal will bolster and enhance the size and further establish the centre's credentials as a significant for employment growth in the western part of Tendring.”

The three new buildings were granted outline planning permission with the details over access, appearance, layout, scale and landscaping to be agreed at a later date.

The split of the single building into two was granted full planning permission following a previous application.

The hours of operation will be restricted in line with the conditions already in place for existing occupied units at the park from a 2008 permission.

There were no objections to the latest scheme from any residents or Essex County Council as the highway authority.

STREETS OF HARWICH TO BE LIT UP ONCE AGAIN BY FESTIVAL

The streets of Harwich will be lit up once again next month with a festival aimed at promoting the town's strong links with the Mayflower ship.

Illuminate 2017 will take place on November 24 with a promise from organisers that it will return even bigger and better than last year.

Tendring District Council (TDC) has invited Harwich Festival to run the celebration for the second year and it will involve as many local people as possible using local contacts in performing and creative arts.

Schools are being asked to take part by making lanterns and then taking part in the procession and performance.

People will gather at H'apenny Pier at 6.30pm with a replica of the Mayflower ship on display and members of the Dovercourt Theatre Group in costume.

There will be a torchlight procession led by folk musicians along Kings Head Street to St Nicholas' Church where a special themed service will be conducted by the Rev Canon Margaret Shaw.

Lanterns will be hung in the church; the Illuminate poem will be read and there will be various musical performances as well as readings, hymns and psalms.

The Illuminate Festival was held for the first time last year and the aim was always to repeat following the initial success.

The festival is all part of the lead up to 400th anniversary of the Mayflower voyage to America set to be celebrated in 2020.

Peter Davis, Artistic Director of the Harwich Festival, said that he is delighted that plans are coming together for another very special evening of celebration.

“We were very pleased when TDC came back and asked us to organise the event again and we are determined that it will be even bigger and better this time around,” he said.

“The response was excellent in 2016 – as was the feedback we received – and this is another chance to bring the community together to celebrate our links with the Mayflower.

“We are keen for as many local groups, schools and individuals as possible to get involved in some way.”

The Mayflower was a ship of Harwich and was skippered by Christopher Jones, a local man twice married in St Nicholas' Church.

Harwich was the starting point for the celebrated journey which took the Pilgrim Fathers to America.

Mick Skeels, TDC's Cabinet Member for Leisure and Tourism, said that Illuminate 2017 will be another significant event for Harwich in particular and Tendring as a whole.

“Our list of events just continues to grow and this one has a very special significance for the people of Harwich and Dovercourt,” he added.

“I am sure that they will fully support it and it would be great if others from across the District turn out on November 24.

“Hopefully it could even attract people from outside the area and become a real visitor attraction as we lead up to 2020.”

FORMER GANG MEMBER HOLDS PUPILS SPELLBOUND

Former London gang member Gavin McKenna gave pupils from across Tendring the value of his experiences which almost cost him his life.

Now reformed, married with two children and running his own company he warned youngsters of the dangers ahead if they chose the wrong path.

Mr McKenna told how they could be groomed and lured in with promises of loyalty and friendship when instead they were being used by the gangs.

“If someone older than you who you would not normally associate with tries to get you involved with things that make you feel uncomfortable you need to say no,” he said.

“Speak to someone about it and do not get dragged into their activities and way of life.

Mr McKenna now runs Reach Every Generation and travels the country talking to youngsters.

He added that although he had now turned things around he was still traumatised and embarrassed about his past.

Today it was the turn of Frinton Primary School, Market Field School and Rolph Church of England Primary School from Thorpe to attend sessions as part of this year’s Crucial Crew event.

In all more than 1,200 primary schoolchildren from Tendring are receiving vital advice and guidance on issues that affect their daily lives.

They are being held once a week over eight weeks at Bishops Park College in Jaywick Lane, Clacton.

The youngsters take part in three sessions concentrating on gangs; healthy relationships and internet safety and grooming.

They have been organised by Tendring Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and tackle identified priorities.

Lynda McWilliams, Chairman of Tendring CSP and Tendring District Council’s (TDC) Cabinet Member for Health and Education attended the sessions with High Sheriff Simon Hall, who helps fund Crucial Crew.

“We sat in on Gavin’s session and the children were hanging on his every word,” said Cllr McWilliams.

“Being a former gang member himself he made it very real and current and hopefully his strong message will have hit home.”

There were two other sessions with Basildon Women's Aid leading on healthy relationships and Teen Talk dealing with internet safety and grooming.

BEWARE OF COUNCIL TAX SCAMS

Residents across Tendring are being warned not to get caught out by Council Tax scams.

A company has been actively calling people in the area and offering to get a reduction in bills – but at a cost.

What residents need to be aware is that if they are entitled to a lower charge then they can take action themselves without having to pay a third party.

Paul Honeywood, Tendring District Council's (TDC) Cabinet Member for Housing, said he would not like to see residents part with money when they do not need to.

"Anyone can have their Council Tax band checked free of charge by contacting the Valuation Office Agency (VOA)," he said.

"You can also make an appeal against the banding without having to pay for it."

Callers may well insist that residents are definitely in the wrong band and are owed back payments, when this is not true.

They may also say that they are from the Council or VOA and ask for bank details so they can process a refund – and then take money from the account.

For further advice on scams and how to avoid being caught out go to

<http://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/council-tax/council-tax-and-business-rates-scams-be-aware>

TIDE IS TURNING FOR TENDRING'S TOURISM INDUSTRY

A gentle wave of optimism is breaking over Tendring's tourism industry.

The tide is definitely on the turn with the **value of visitors to the District hitting £373 million last year – more than £1million per day.**

The number of people employed in the industry was 6,183 in 2016 and it has been on a steady upward spiral since 2012.

The private and public sector are working more closely than ever before in a bid to bring additional visitors to the area and provide them with even more attractions and improved facilities at which they can spend their hard earned money.

It is leading to increased confidence amongst those investing in the sector and putting on major events to pull in the crowds.

Tendring District Council (TDC), along with its partners, has played its part in the upturn but is quick to acknowledge that there is no way it could have done this on its own.

Mick Skeels, TDC's Cabinet Member for Leisure and Tourism, said it is all about working together and pulling in the same direction.

"There is no doubt that all coastal areas have had some tough times and plenty of challenges in recent years," he said.

"It has been a rough ride but I think it is one that has finally started to get a little smoother. We have teamed up more closely with the private sector and talk to each other more than we used to in the past and it is definitely paying dividends.

"However, we must never get complacent and have to build on our achievements. It is all about meeting the demands of today's customers while still staying true to our traditions as a British seaside area."

The latest economic impact figures reveal that the amount of money from, and jobs in, tourism have risen over each of the past three years.

In 2012 the value of tourism to Tendring was £347million; that dropped to £325million the following year but went back up to £354million in 2014, then £365million in 2015 and £373million last year.

Employment in the sector rose steadily from 5,590 to 6,183 over the same period.

"These statistics don't lie and they paint a very encouraging picture for all those with a vested interest in tourism," added Cllr Skeels.

"Tourism is more important than ever to our economy and has grown from 15 per cent to 16.6 per cent of overall employment in the District.

"TDC continues to support all businesses – including those in tourism and hospitality – with a successful annual Jobs and Careers Fair. It provides jobseekers with a chance to get into work and firms with the opportunity to grow their business."

"The £36million coastal protection scheme from Clacton to Holland created new sandy non-tidal beaches which are packed on sunny weekends and have proved extremely popular. We are looking at ways to make the most of their creation.

"Clacton Airshow goes from strength to strength; Tendring has hosted three stages of the Women's Tour cycle event in 2014 and 2015 and the men's Tour of Britain only last month.

"There have been Beside the Seaside Events in Clacton and Harwich, Theatre on the Greensward, the Illuminate Festival and we are looking to make the most of the opportunity that Mayflower 400 presents for Harwich in 2020 and beyond."

The Harwich and Dovercourt Tourism Group was born in 2015 and came up with the new Historic Harwich brand – to increase promotion of the area.

Paul Milsom, of Milsom Hotels and Restaurants, chairs the group and is certain it has made a significant difference.

“Businesses have joined forces with TDC, Harwich Town Council and the voluntary sector to discuss our joint aspirations and put Harwich on the map as a destination,” he said.

“It has been a very refreshing experience and has created a positive vibe and a new spirit of co-operation. We put together a new tourism website and promotional film and we are working on a number of ideas going forward.

“I am sure that we will continue to develop new ideas which will benefit businesses into the future.”

The Love Clacton campaign resulted in the town being featured on national television advertising for the first time in many years.

It is funded jointly by TDC, Clacton Pier and Clacton Pavilion and has seen marketing budgets diverted into an initiative which has hit screens across the country for the past three years.

Billy Ball, a director of Clacton Pier, “By us all putting money into the pot we are able to support a significant campaign which is continuing to promote the town on a national scale,” he added.

“The Pier has plans underway for a major seven-figure refurbishment which involves an all-weather, undercover exciting development to make every square inch of our 6.5 acre site pay for itself.

“We would not be embarking on such a huge project unless we had confidence in the area and that has grown stronger over the past few years.”

Billy Peak, who runs Clacton Pavilion and Magic City, agrees that Clacton and Tendring as a whole are on the up and that momentum must be maintained.

“The improved link-up between the public and private sector is definitely a factor which is contributing to that,” he said.

“We can work better and smarter and achieve more if we are all pulling in the same direction and helping each other. We all have the same goal – to see the area thrive as a destination of choice.”

Clacton Pavilion has planning permission for its third phase of development, which includes a waterpark for children, and it is hoped to have some of the facilities ready for next season.

Neil Stock, Leader of TDC, said that it is encouraging to see the number of jobs in tourism on the rise and hoped the trend will continue.

“I am very proud of the Council’s record in supporting the creation of prosperity and jobs. This is certainly not the end of the journey but just the start with further plans for Jaywick Sands, Harwich and the Garden Communities,” he added. “It is vital that we support business growth across our whole District and enable better job prospects for all our residents.”

HUNDREDS TAKE A PLUSH NEW SEAT

Hundreds of grappling fans took a plush new seat to enjoy a night of LDN Wrestling at Clacton's Princes Theatre.

A £40,000 scheme to install 300 seats in time for last night's event was completed ahead of schedule by contractors Audience Systems – much to the relief of staff at the Tendring District Council (TDC) run theatre.

Two teams from the company worked together to get the job done in between the finish of Clacton Arts and Literary Society's show on Monday night and the wrestling less than 72 hours later.

However, they finished the task with more than 24 hours to spare!

Audience Systems had installed seats in the theatre's tiered section more than 20 years ago and returned to put in 332 new ones.

Kai Aberdeen, TDC's Theatre Manager (Technical), said it was amazing just how quickly the transformation was achieved.

"We all thought it was going to be very tight to complete the changeover in time for the LDN Wrestling event but they did it with time to spare," he said.

"We are delighted with the improvement and our audiences will certainly notice a difference.

"The scheme also included putting in hand rails on the steps in the tiered section which some customers have been asking for so they should be pleased."

TDC saved money by getting its own staff in to rip out all the old seating starting around 10pm on Monday night and finished about 2.30am on Tuesday morning.

The new seating is of a high standard and identical to that used in London's O2 Arena.

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT SITES IN TENDRING

Residents across Tendring are being urged to take part and help shape plans which set out future housing and employment sites in the District.

They are being encouraged to get involved in the public engagement process so that their views are taken on board.

All Councils are required to produce a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and Tendring District Council's (TDC) Local Plan Committee agreed to go out to consultation on its latest version at its meeting on November 2.

The SCI sets out exactly how residents and other interested parties will be notified, consulted and involved in preparing the Local Plan and other planning documents.

It also includes the Development Plan Document as part of the Council's ongoing work on the Tendring and Colchester Borders Garden Community Project.

The consultation will run for eight weeks from 9am on Monday November 13, 2017 to 5pm on Monday January 8, 2018.

Neil Stock, TDC Leader and Chair of its Local Plan Committee, said: "The SCI explains how communities and other stakeholders can get involved in the preparation of Council planning documents like the Local Plan as well as major applications.

"It is important that all those interested in this process find the time to express their views."

Officers will take into account any representations received and will report findings back to the Local Plan Committee.

The Council's preferred method of receiving comments is through the Council's online consultation portal: <http://tendring-consult.objective.co.uk>

The portal enables everyone to view the documents and add comments directly.

Alternatively people can write to the Planning Manager, Tendring District Council, Thorpe Road, Weeley, CO16 9AJ, or e-mail planning.policy@tendringdc.gov.uk Again the deadline for submitting comments is 5pm on Monday 8 January 2018.

For more information please contact Planning Policy Team via email at planning.policy@tendringdc.gov.uk (link sends e-mail), or call them on 01255 686177.

FUNDING TO HELP REDUCE ENERGY BILLS

New grant funding is up for grabs to help residents in Tendring reduce their energy bills.

Aran Services Ltd – supported by Tendring District Council (TDC) - is offering free and partially funded energy efficiency improvements.

These include loft and cavity wall insulation as well as new heating systems and everyone is entitled to some money – regardless of income – and homes can save up to £360 per year on bills.

Recent changes in legislation mean that those with a health condition made worse by the cold, those living in fuel poverty or are in receipt of a Government means tested benefit will receive increased levels of grant.

This may be for various types of insulation and some may be entitled to extra heating grants.

Paul Honeywood, TDC's Cabinet Member for Housing, said that the Council is very keen to help residents both improve their homes and lower bills.

"We are pleased to be able to link up with Aran Services who are able access this grant funding from the major energy suppliers around the UK," he said.

"Aran is also able to provide a free home assessment and some households will be eligible for 100 per cent funded home insulation.

"It is available to home owners and tenants who rent from a private landlord."

The company will not be cold calling any residents over this scheme and householders do need to request a visit should they want to be involved.

Anyone interested can book a free no obligation assessment by calling Aran Services Ltd on 01284 812570 or Freephone 0800 5877795 quoting reference TDC/17.1

Alternatively they can fill out an online enquiry form at www.aranservices.co.uk/pages/908/

TENDRING PREPARES FOR NEW WASTE AND RECYCLING CONTRACT

Tendring District Council (TDC) is preparing its options for delivering waste collection and street sweeping services across the area from 2019.

Contractors costs have gone up significantly since the last one was agreed in 2012 and changes may well need to be made.

Michael Talbot, Tendring District Council's (TDC) Cabinet Member for Environment, told a meeting of the Cabinet that it will be a case of considering what is deliverable and that includes looking carefully at the costs.

"We need to take into account what has happened since the last contract was signed in 2012 and that includes the pension changes, increased diesel price, an increase in the minimum wage and other new regulations – all of which have meant extra costs," he said.

"Having spoken with our existing contractor we would be looking at least £250,000 on top of what we currently pay just to renew the current contract.

"If we went from weekly to fortnightly collections there would still be a massive increase but with other potential collection changes that can help to improve recycling rates and possibly reducing the amount going to landfill."

"It is not going to be easy and at the end of the day it will come down to what we can afford to pay balanced against what service improvements we can squeeze in."

Cllr Talbot promised that Councillors will receive an update at an all-Member briefing in spring 2018 where they will be able to give their views.

However, he ruled out setting up a Member working party- as suggested by TDC's Corporate Management Committee - as he felt it would not add significant value to the overall process.

JOBS AND CAREERS FAIR COMES UP WITH THE GOODS

At least two dozen jobseekers have already found employment as the direct result of the Tendring Jobs and Careers Fair held earlier this month.

And companies across the District have lined-up more people for interview over the coming weeks.

The fair at Clacton's Princes Theatre attracted more than 2,000 jobseekers with 55 businesses looking to recruit staff.

The free event was put on by Tendring District Council (TDC) in partnership with the Department for Work and Pensions.

It was the fifth fair of its kind staged by the organisations and has been hailed as the best yet.

Zoe Fairley, TDC's Cabinet Member for Investment and Growth, said the feedback from firms has been excellent.

"It is fantastic news that at least 24 people have already secured jobs directly from attending the event on October 3," she said.

"Those are the ones that we have been told of so far and I am sure there will be other people taken on over the coming weeks as more interviews are held.

"We promised real job opportunities and that was what was delivered by the companies who came along on the day and it is a great result."

TDC Careline is hiring five, possibly six people; Access Dignity Care recruited four new staff; three were taken on by Surya Foods; three each by Mencap and Danshell; two by Voyage Care and one each by Lifehouse Hotel and Spa, Colchester University NHS Foundation Trust, Alliance Care and Home Instead Senior Care.

Suki Dalau of Surya Foods said: "It's marvellous that the Council recognises the challenges local businesses face for specialist employment roles and we are absolutely delighted with the results from this well attended event.

"Thus far, we have employed three fabulous candidates ranging from our technical department to logistics."

Charlie Quick from Voyage Care added: "As a whole the fair was fantastic for us as it gave us a chance to really get our message across and to actively screen people in a slightly less pressurised environment."

And Mark Westall, TDC's Head of Customer and Commercial Services who runs Careline, said that the quality of candidates that turned up on the day was far superior to anything experienced before.

Free buses were laid on to bring residents in from Harwich, Dovercourt and Jaywick Sands.

The day was sponsored by Affinity Water, Harwich Haven Authority, Galloper Wind Farm, Surya Foods and Hotels, the Electric Centre and Grange Fencing.

General Information:

If anyone witnesses any fly tipping occurring please contact TDC's Waste Management Team on 01255 686768.

Dates for this year's Tending Highways Panel meetings are:-

➤ **Thursday 7 December**

All meetings are held in the Council Chamber at Weeley, commencing at 5pm.

Alan Coley & Carlo Guglielmi