

YOUR VIEWS

The Editor
Canterbury Times

LANDMARK

It's time to get shelter rebuilt

HERNE Bay residents may remember the Victorian Shelter, near the Kings Hall, that was destroyed by an arson attack in March 2011.

Since then the East Cliff Neighbourhood Panel (ECNP) has been urging the CCC to reinstate the shelter using the insurance money of £35,000.

Now, after this extraordinary length of time CCC is preparing a report for discussion at the next Herne Bay Area Member Panel. This report will consider the option to rebuild the shelter (with likely costs) but also options for alternative uses of the insurance money (with costs).

A recommendation is likely, so this report will be of concern to all residents who wish to see the Victorian Shelter replaced, as well as those who have an interest in how the council wishes to spend the insurance money.

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 20 at 7pm at Herne Bay Baptist Church, High St.

Sheila Chesney
ECNP



NEXT MOVE? Could the Victorian Shelter – shown here after the arson attack in April 2011 – be replaced?

consultation

Canterbury and Whitstable Stop the Cuts group call for no to all options except option 13 (protecting hardship cases and allowing flexibility) and least like option 1 (£5 extra a month) and option 2 (£10 extra a month)

As an alternative the council should increase council tax revenue, by double council tax for second homes and introduce a local tourist tax for guest housing, holiday lets, hotels and "airbnb" as 160 properties listed in Whitstable are completely unregulated or taxed.

This is a fairer way to increase council revenue without attacking the poor.

Chris Weller
Whitstable

GRAFFITI

Hope 'groins' aren't targeted

I REFER to the correspondent who was saddened by graffiti in our town ("ST and snuff tags are a real problem"). The mind boggles to read that "groins" are now being covered with graffiti.

Is this a kinky new fad in Whitstable, taking place in secret haunts? On the other hand, maybe the writer only meant paint on beach groynes.

E Long
Goodwin Avenue, Whitstable

COUNCIL TAX

Don't penalise poor with hikes

CANTERBURY City Council wants the poor and vulnerable to pay more in council tax – up to £10 a month more to save the council half a million pounds a year in Council tax support. Thirteen options are out for

LOOP RAILWAY

Restoring line cost-effective

THE founding name adopted by the University of Kent at Canterbury reflected much more than the fact that the campus straddled the boundary of two counties: the County of the City and Borough of Canterbury; and the county of Kent.

Ratepayers of both counties paid for the land bequeathed.

Had the University of Kent at Canterbury restored the world's first railway tunnel on the Canterbury and Whitstable Railway at Tyler Hill anytime

soon after the City and County of Canterbury purchased the tunnel from British Rail in 1963, Canterbury would probably be significantly less congested than it is now.

This would have been as part of the city's endowment to the new university of half the 270 acres of land funded by city ratepayers, with ratepayers of the County of Kent paying the other half of the endowment.

This represented a combined cost of £228,000 shared between the two counties, evidence that civil and railway engineering was not on the academic agenda.

Inflation averaged 5.8 per cent a year between 1963 and 2015; consequently, the current value of £228,000 in 1963 would be over £4,306,666 today and that is without considering the much greater rise in Canterbury land prices.

The Canterbury Loop railway line had national strategic importance, having been proposed after a landslip blocking the Dover and Folkestone railway line and need for not only an alternative route but also a new harbour, resulting in Sandwich Haven being acquired and renamed Port Richborough.

Restoring the Canterbury Loop railway line on the existing track bed still owned by Network Rail should prove cost-effective and could be capital funded by Riveroak, with resulting train usage access charges paid to them.

PICTURE OF THE WEEK



JACKSON the dog enjoyed running next to hay bales at the South Foreland lighthouse in St Margaret's Bay. ■ Do you have a similarly eye-catching shot? Share it with us at newsdesk.times@KRNmedia.co.uk with "reader's picture" in the subject line.

That would enable the now funded Manston Parkway railway station to serve both mainlines through Canterbury and without relying on any public funding.

Restoring the Canterbury Loop is a potential game changer for Manston Airport.

The railway archive video pinned to the top of Twitter account @ChaucerUniv shows, from the two minute fifteen second mark onwards, the double track Harbledown railway link between the Faversham and Dover via Canterbury East and the Ashford

and Ramsgate via Canterbury West main lines, during what was likely to have been the temporary re-opening in spring 1953 to enable an extended period of coastal flood relief train running to and from Thanet.

My Way We Were articles "Pioneering greats of our early railway networks" and "The floods that resurrected Harbledown's railway link", covering the background of the Tyler Hill Tunnel and the Canterbury Loop, can be read online under Latest Articles in the right hand column of The

Chaucer Education Project's virtual learning environment website: chaucer.university

Richard West (founder, the Chaucer Education Project)

■ OVAL CAMPAIGN

Help us defend our open space

PLEASE help us defend legal open spaces from being given over for development without proper public consultation.

The Oval case is turning out to

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

THE mother of one of my RAF colleagues was once the matron of the Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital.

Little did I realise then that more than 50 years later I would be living in Herne Bay and become a Friend of the same hospital and make a regular visit to its fete.

This year I came away with the following feelings. I felt very grateful that we have such a fine hospital on hand which seems to cater for every need and one which deserves our full support.

■ By Lionel Ball
St Martin's, Herne

I came away impressed, also, with the faithful enthusiasm of the many helpers who seem always to give their talents freely in order to ensure that the hospital maintains a high profile in the district.

Thirdly I came away satisfied having sampled the fare on offer; met a number of friends and, in my case, listened to some CDs and eat some vegetables purchased at reasonable cost. In all, a thoroughly enjoyable

afternoon.

It has occurred to me that we should, and can, be grateful, impressed and satisfied with what God has provided for us in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Grateful that Christ bore our sins, impressed that he got it right for our needs and satisfied that he can enter every life who receives him as Lord and Saviour.

I suppose that the hospital fete did me much more good than I could ever think it could.

Murder Mystery on the English Riviera

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SHIPPING NEWS

Charles Trill



REGULAR VISITOR: The Pluto in Whitstable Harbour

ALTHOUGH she had been delayed for 48 hours by berthing problems at Ramsgate, Whitstable's regular freighter Pluto managed to get back on schedule with a visit to the harbour last weekend.

Loaded with stone transhipped from Glensanda Quarry in Scotland, the Manx-registered cargo ship arrived in the early hours of last Saturday morning and discharged her latest consignment for Bretts at the east quay.

The next day Pluto (1,530 tonnes) left in ballast for Northfleet on the Thames to load for Ipswich and then returned to London to take a cargo of glass for Antwerp.

Write, Facebook, Tweet, vote & comment online

WEEK



be of national importance in ensuring that the legal safeguards that exist for open spaces cannot be circumvented, and the Open Spaces Society has contributed to our fighting fund.

The Oval campaign team is preparing for a judicial review of the council's contract to sell the Oval.

The hearing will be held at the High

Court on December 13 to 15.

Permission to take all five grounds of our case to the High Court was granted on June 8, after Mr Justice Supperstone listened to arguments from barristers on both sides.

Even though it had taken us a longish time to assemble our evidence, permission was granted because of the

over-secretive actions and inaction of the city council (not the councillors) throughout 2015.

The council, in response to this permission stated on June 8 that: "It is regretful that we will have to waste more taxpayers' money on this case, but we will obviously do so in order to defend our position." The question is, whose position is being defended? Is it that of the council taxpayer?

The council's former chief legal adviser Mark Ellender, now retired but still a consultant, now admits that he fell into error and gave councillors and the public incorrect information when he stated at the executive meeting in October 2013 that there was no indication in the council's records that the Oval was to be used as public open space.

Had he stated what we now know, namely that there are several such indications in the council's records, the course of events is likely to have been very different and cheaper of time and money.

For example, councillors would then have been able to consider the powerful arguments that:

1. There is extensive evidence that the Oval has been used for recreation for most of the period of its public ownership. This includes the 52 years use mainly as a dinghy park for the yacht club, on a heavily subsidised annual licence rental of £26, supporting the important leisure activity of sailing for all ages.

2. The land has been legal Open Space since being bought in 1945 under the powers of Acts of Parliament which powerfully protect legal Open Spaces by requiring public advertisement of any proposal to sell them for other purposes.

Councillors were warned to stay out of all Oval-related matters early in 2016 and were instructed by officers that the sale contract could not be cancelled. This is wrong.

Even the council's own barrister accepted that a finding of serious illegality on even one of our five grounds gives the High Court judge the ability to cancel (quash) the contract. We have been advised that this can be without compensation.

Our barrister, who also successfully led

READER'S OPINION

Write to:

Your Views, Westcliffe House, West Cliff Gardens, Folkestone, Kent CT20 1SZ

e-mail newsdesk.times@KRNmedia.co.uk

All letters should be no more than 350 words and include your name and address. The Times reserves the right to cut and correct any letters and does not guarantee to use every letter submitted

LOCAL INFORMATION

■ CHEMISTS

Canterbury: Asda, Sturry Road, Mon-Fri 9am to 10pm, Sat 9am to 9pm, Sun 10am to 4pm. Boots, 12 Gravel Walk, Whitefriars Shopping Centre, Mon-Sat 9am to 6pm, Sun 11am to 5pm. Boots, Ten Perch Road, Mon-Sat 8.30am to midnight, Sun 10am to 4pm. Boots, 29 Oaten Hill, Mon-Fri 9am to 6pm, Sat 9am to 1pm. Boots, Unit 2, St George's Centre, St George's Place, Mon-Fri 9am to 6pm, Sat 9am to 1pm. Bridge Pharmacy, 16 High Street, Bridge, Mon-Fri 9am to 1pm, 2pm to 6pm, Sat 9am-12.30pm. Eckersley, 2 Northgate, Mon-Fri 9am to 6pm, Sat 9am to 12.30pm. Morrisons, Ten Perch Road, Wincheap, Mon-Fri 9am to

9pm, Sat 9am to 7pm, Sun 10am to 4pm. Porter, 2B Hales Drive, Mon-Sat 7am to 8pm. Sainsbury's, Kingsmead Road, Mon-Sat 8am to 9pm, Sun 10am to 4pm. Sturry Pharmacy, 8 High Street, Sturry, Mon-Fri 9am to 6pm, Sat 9am to 1pm. Superdrug, 23 St George's Street, Mon-Fri 8am to 5.30pm, Sat 8am to 6pm. United Pharmacy, 68 St Dunstan's Street, Mon-Fri 9am to 6.30pm, Sat 9am to 2pm. University Pharmacy (Cheadles) Giles Avenue, Mon-Fri 9am to 6pm.

Faversham: Emergency chemist: Sunday 10am till 4pm Tesco, Crescent Road, Faversham. 01795 567547.

Herne Bay: Boots, 116 Mortimer Street, Mon-Sat 9am to 5.30pm, Sun closed. Borno

Chemists, 159 Station Road, Mon-Fri 9am to 7pm, Sat 9am to 6pm, Sun closed. Delmergate, 145 Reculver Road, Beltinge, Mon-Fri 9am to 5.30pm (closed for lunch), Sat 9am to 1pm, Sun closed. Delmergate, 269 Reculver Road, Reculver, Mon-Fri 8.30am to 5.30pm (closed for lunch), Sat and Sun closed. Delmergate, 38 Broomfield Road, Broomfield, Mon-Fri 9am to 6pm, Sat and Sun closed. Lloyds, 91 Sea Street, Mon-Fri 9am to 5.30pm, Sat 9am to 1pm, Sun closed. Boots, 161a Station Road, Mon-Fri 8.30am to 6pm, Sat 9am to 1pm, Sun closed. Park Pharmacy, 102 King's Road, Mon-Sat 7am to 10pm, Sun 8am to 6pm.

Whitstable: Boots, 33 High Street, Mon-Sat 9am to

5.30pm (closed for lunch), Sun 10am to 4pm. Cheadles, 115 High Street, Mon-Sat 9am to 5.30pm, Sun closed. Cheadles, 28 Faversham Road, Seasalter, Mon-Fri 9am to 6pm, Sat 9am to 1pm. Estuary View, 25 Boorman Way, Estuary View Business Park, Mon-Fri 8am to 6.30pm. Sainsbury's, Reeves Way, Chestfield, Mon-Sat 6am to 11pm, Sun 10am to 4pm. Swalecliffe Pharmacy, Swalecliffe, 5 St John's Road, Mon-Fri 9am to 7pm, Sat 9am to 5pm. Tankerton Pharmacy, 99 Tankerton Road, Mon-Fri 9am to 6pm (closed for lunch), Sat 9am to 1pm, Sun closed. Tesco, Millstrood Road, Mon-Sat 8am to 8pm, Sun 10am to 4pm. Tyrell and Jones, 1a Tower Parade, Mon-Fri 9am to 6pm, Sat 9am to 12.30pm, Sun closed.

the battle to protect legal Open Space at Kingsmead Field, is confident of success.

But, to achieve a return to legality, public consultation instead of secrecy, and a sensible outcome for this central and sensitive location, we must fund our legal team through the December hearings.

Also, prior to the hearing, we must put £10,000 of this into an escrow account, to be paid to CCC if we lose.

That money has to be paid by a couple of our trustees personally if we do not raise the funds.

In total, we need at least £25,000 to ensure that justice is done and we appeal for donations.

Please also pass this appeal on to anyone you know who wants a better performance from the council on public involvement and/or supports the defence of legal open space and legal due process.

More information and donation details can be found on www.whitstablesociety.info, or go direct to www.CrowdJustice.co.uk; which pays funds raised direct to the legal team after the hearing is finished.

Finally, please watch out for more fundraising events.

Thank you.

Angela Boddy (chairman, The Whitstable Society)

For the Oval Campaign, with the OPCG.

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