

District Council Report March 2018

EGG-CITING PLANS AT TENDRING LEISURE CENTRES OVER EASTER BREAK

An eggstravangza of activities is being laid on at Tendring District Council-run leisure centres during the fast-approaching Easter school holidays.

Youngsters can hop like the Easter Bunny during Bouncy Fun sessions at Brightlingsea Leisure Centre on Tuesday, April 3 and Monday, April 9, from 10am-3pm. Suitable for all ages from 0-12-years, the sessions cost £3.

For younger children, the Gymkins classes at Clacton Leisure Centre also promise lots of fun, with sessions on both Thursdays, April 5 and 12 from 9am-noon costing £3. For under-fives, the first session is an Eggstra special class not to be missed.

Jump into Gymnastics classes take place during the school holidays for those aged 4-7-years, with two classes at Harwich Leisure Centre on the morning of Wednesday, April 4, and sessions at Clacton Leisure Centre from 1-1.50pm on Wednesdays April 4 and 11.

Cheerleading for beginners takes place at Clacton from 11am-noon on Tuesday, April 3, for those aged 7-14-years and costing £3, while a standard cheerleading class at Brightlingsea Leisure Centre takes place the next day for those aged 5-12-years, also costing £3.

If you want to try new things there are taster sessions in a range of sports at the various sites during the school break, as well as bouncy castle and soft play sessions, athletics, and multi-sports, and the climbing wall at Manningtree Leisure Centre.

Football fans can try Soccer Stars at Harwich Leisure Centre from 10.30am-12.30pm on Thursday, April 12, for those aged 5-10-years at a £6 cost, or there is Football Fun at Brightlingsea Leisure Centre on the same day from 2.30-4pm for those aged 6-14-years with a £3 charge. A Football Fun day takes place at Manningtree Leisure Centre on Wednesdays April 4 and 11, from 9.30am-3.30pm for ages 5-13-years, costing £12. Footie fans are also reminded of the affordably priced astro-pitch hire at other centres.

And if your family prefer to splash around, the pools at Walton-on-the-Naze Lifestyles, Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles and Clacton Leisure Centre have a full programme from floats and fun to lane sessions for the more serious swimmers.

Alternatively get your skates on for the roller disco at Manningtree Leisure Centre on Fridays, April 6 and 13, from 2-4pm, costing £4 each. Suitable for five and over.

Mick Skeels, Tendring District Council Cabinet Member for Leisure and Tourism, said he was pleased with the range of activities on offer.

“There really is something for everyone at our leisure centres during the school Easter holidays,” he said.

“So whether you like to kick or hit a ball, splash in the pool, or want to try something completely different, the opportunity is right on your doorstep to get out and get active during the break.”

For the full list of activities, visit the leisure centres’ holiday web page here:

<https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/leisure/leisure-centres-and-pools/school-holiday-activities>

POSITIVE TALKS OVER FUTURE OF MANNINGTREE RAILWAY CROSSING

Partners have agreed to look at short-term solutions to improve congestion at the Manningtree railway crossing after a multi-agency meeting held last week.

Tendring District Council (TDC) has been pushing ahead with partners to get a solution which both addresses community concerns about safety and takes the opportunity to lessen congestion – and thereby improve economic possibilities.

At meeting co-chaired by Harwich and North Essex MP Bernard Jenkin and South Suffolk MP James Cartlidge, partners agreed to look at temporary solutions, while work is ongoing to find a permanent answer to the issue.

As well as TDC and the MPs, representatives from Essex and Suffolk county councils, Network Rail, Greater Anglia, Babergh District Council, the Department for Transport, Haven Gateway and the Essex Rail Users’ Federation were also present.

Those present recognised the importance of the junction, lying as it does on a route of strategic importance between Essex and Suffolk, and beyond.

Local partners agreed to put together a proposal to lobby government on the matter and to seek a funding contribution from Whitehall towards creating a business case for a scheme at the site. Funding for technical and feasibility studies to inform the business case would also be sought.

Carlo Guglielmi, TDC Deputy Leader, welcomed the meeting.

“The problems associated with this crossing and the nearby junction on the A137 have long been raised by local residents, rail passengers and motorists, and taken on board by elected representatives,” he said.

“Any solution will require a number of different partners working together, not least several councils, railway and road bodies, and across borders. As such, this round-table discussion was most welcomed and I feel it was very positive.

“I am also pleased there was recognition that while there are opportunities here for a long-term solution, the people of Manningtree, Lawford and Brantham cannot wait that long, and that work is to be carried out to look into temporary solutions in the meantime.

“We must use the momentum from this meeting to carry on pushing to make the most of this opportunity to improve this congested junction and improve the economic possibilities of the area, and I am delighted with the support from Cllr Kevin Bentley at Essex County Council.”

Cllr Bentley, deputy leader and Cabinet Member for Economic Growth and Infrastructure, added: “To get everybody around the table to discuss this important issue was a great first step, and it is important now that we keep taking steps forward to reach a solution.

“I am proud that Essex County Council is leading the way on this by agreeing to act as the lead organisation on local efforts to lobby Government to see this project through.”