



Flytipping hits business P5

**Brace yourself, Southend,
and get ready for...**



SEAFRONT'S POSH FLATS GOLD RUSH

● Town
is set for
a surge
of buyers
from the
capital,
says £15m
luxury flats
developer

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9.7
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"Excellent and
very helpful!"

Drove off in a stolen car

A MAN drove off in a stolen car after a crash in Tilbury.

Police were called to Calcutta Road at about 8am yesterday after reports of a collision between a silver Chrysler Neon and a silver Kia Rio.

The driver of the Neon suffered minor injuries. The driver of the Rio, which had been reported stolen from Tudor Gardens, in Shoebury, left the scene. Anyone with any information is asked to call police on 101.

In court over stolen BMW

A MAN appeared in court accused of handling stolen goods and driving offences.

Toby Sawyer-Walgrave, 25, of Thorney Bay Caravan Park, Canvey, is accused of handling a stolen BMW on February 3.

He is also accused of driving without insurance, driving without a licence and damaging a cell at Basildon police station.

He did not enter a plea at Basildon Magistrates' Court and his case was sent to Basildon Crown Court. He was denied bail.

Boom times for

EX-PUB HOSTED FAMOUS BANDS

THE Esplanade pub was a pillar of the local music scene for many years.

US grunge titan Pearl Jam, who have sold 80 million records worldwide, are the most stellar name to rock up at the venue.

The band picked the Southend pub to play their first European gig back in 1992, when they were touring with their seminal Ten album.

The five-piece grunge band have gone on to play some of the biggest festivals in the world, and have packed out arenas.

South Essex pub rockers Dr Feelgood also started gigging there 40 years ago, and played the venue twice in the Nineties.



■ It's the new thing – how the seafront apartment block will look. Developers expect great interest

By IAN BURBIDGE
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REDAB Properties is putting forward more than £1 million to shore up subsidising cliffs behind its development.

The Swedish firm, which bought the Esplanade pub in September, intends to plough £1.2 million into stabilising the cliff slippage behind the building – a long-term issue.

It will propose the project as part of a planning application to Southend Council, instead of offering up any social housing.

The architect behind the design of the building said, if the cliffs were shored up, it could create a tree-lined 'winter garden' for residents, which would act as the entrance to the apartments.

Ben Stagg, from Stagg Architects, said: "We will go for wooden beams on the outside that give a soft edge to the development, and we will put in greenery surrounding it to make it an attractive entrance for tenants."

Redab boss CG Patterson

Firm will put £1m into cliffs

added: "As part of the construction, essential piling will be required to stabilise the cliff area and, subject to planning approval, this will be handled to cause the least amount of disruption to both local residents and wildlife."

If agreed by Southend Council, the cliff works will be in tandem with the authority's

own project to stabilise the cliffs below Clifton Drive in Westcliff, with £460,000 earmarked in the budget.

The site already has planning approval for a 58-bedroom block of flats, but no operators have come forward and the Echo understands the council has some reservations about losing the site as a hotel.

Southend Council's deputy leader Graham Longley said: "The council welcomes any development in the town which helps the future of Southend and contributes towards its needs."

"We look forward to working with the developers to ensure we get a development which is acceptable."

Redab claims its development will also generate up to 35 per cent renewable energy, including solar panels and underground heat pumps.



■ Attractive – how the proposed 'winter garden' will look

seafront homes

Developer: Londoners are flocking to Southend

By IAN BURBIDGE
ian.burbridge@echo.co.uk

PLUSH apartments will soon become the norm in Southend as more and more Londoners flock to the coast, according to the businessman spending £15 million on transforming an iconic pub.

CG Patterson, managing director of Swedish firm Redab Properties, outlined his company's plans to demolish the 100-year-old Esplanade pub, in Western Esplanade, and replace it with a restaurant and 24 apartments.

Mr Patterson said the town could experience a surge of people moving out of London and picking up seaside apartments to avoid high prices in the capital.

The pub plan is the latest investment in the seafront after Marine Plaza and the redevelopment of Seaway car park.

Mr Patterson said: "In three years' time, the pressure will be on Southend to welcome thousands of people who are working in London."

"Southend has a reputa-

The town needs to put up its arm and say 'we are here and we are great'

We'll give it a modern look

tion for people just coming for the day, but we're seeing London people want to live here, and this gives them a chance to sit on a terrace in the sun, opposite the sea, at a fraction of the price of living in the capital.

"Not that many people from Europe have heard of Southend. The town needs to put up its arm and say 'we are here and we are great'."

Southend is already adapting to the demands of London commuters with swanky apartments on offer at Nirvana, in The



■ Grand Ideas – architect Ben Stagg, Redab managing director CG Patterson and Colette Bailey, from Metal, by a scale model of the new apartments

Leas, Westcliff, and at Eden Point, in Broadway West, Leigh.

Some properties at Eden Point are selling for upwards of £1 million, but only three remain.

Nirvana hasn't been so successful as it has been the subject of legal wrangles since it was completed in 2012, but it was given a recent shot in the arm by entrepreneur David Lloyd, who plans to add a sauna, gym, swimming pool and rooftop terrace to it.

Mr Patterson is confident his apartments will be

able to compete. He said: "They will be higher quality, with a robust design, and we can offer apartments next to the sea with secure parking."

Also included in the plans is 7,000sq ft of restaurant space.

If permission is granted in the coming months, demolition will start in November, with the new development taking two years to build.

Expected prices for the new Esplanade development will range from £500,000 to £800,000.

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More trains are running

TRAINS between Liverpool Street and Southend Victoria will run four times an hour this weekend.

The increased frequency is due to engineering work on the mainline between London and Norwich.

Replacement buses will take passengers to Billericay station, where they will connect with Southend Victoria services.

5km run in the park

PITSEA Running Club will hold a race through Westley Heights Country Park on Good Friday.

Runners will meet at the car park in High Road, Langdon Hills, at 11am and run 5km through the country park.

Entry costs £2. For details visit pitsearunningclub.org.uk

THE Homeless Help in Basildon and Surrounding Areas sleepout will be held tomorrow between 8pm and 8am close to Gala Bingo in Southernhay, Basildon.

The Echo incorrectly reported it would be held today, on page 17 of yesterday's paper. We are happy to make this clear.

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Sunday 1st March 2015
10.30am to 4.30pm

BRAXTED PARK

In exquisite backdrop for your perfect wedding memories

£40k for artwork

REDAB will give an arts group £40,000 to create a huge mural on the site of its development.

The firm has asked Metal Culture to come up with a huge 10x5m artwork.

Colette Bailey, artistic director at Metal, said: "This would mean we could create an artwork that would be a landmark piece and attract interest from all over the world."

Redab is prepared to offer Metal a realistic budget which would allow us to commission a world-renowned artist."

Out with the old – the team by the former pub

based Stagg Architects, said: "This part of the landscape is very subjective and this might not be everyone's cup of tea."

"Some may want to keep the Victorian look of the building, but I don't think that will be right. This site gave us an opportunity to build a high-quality contemporary building. A lot of people like that kind of modern look."

Ben Stagg, of London-

www.braxtedparkweddings.co.uk

Reverend Paul Kinn, Witham, Essex, CM8 1EN
Telephone: 01972 492801 • Email: info@braxtedpark.co.uk