

Fun fair negotiations are set in Dreamland

Entertainment proposal has its ups and downs

EXCLUSIVE

BY TOM BETTS

TOP level representatives from Thanet council are hoping to hold a fun fair on the Dreamland site this summer but their bid could yet be scuppered.

The site, which currently stands empty, has been earmarked as a spot to hold entertainment for the public, with a fun fair the most likely proposition.

Although it is still under private ownership, it is hoped that some kind of public event could be held there with permission.

However, site owners the Margate Town Centre Regeneration Company and sister company Waterbridge look set to

block the plans.

Council leader, Sandy Ezekiel revealed he has been involved in negotiations with arcade owner Jimmy Godden, one of the firm's major shareholders to gain permission to use the land.

Cllr Ezekiel said: "I met with Mr Godden prior to Xmas and he made it quite clear that they will not be allowing the Dreamland site to be used for a fun fair. However, I have also heard rumours there may be a change in mind."

Cllr Ezekiel added: "We are doing what we can to bring in a funfair. Cllr Mick Tomlinson is consulting with residents for their views."

Thule Howard from Margate's joke shop said: "It's not something I had heard, but a funfair is certainly something we would like to see, so long as it's a good one. They would have to spruce the site up a bit though, as with the Scenic Railway as it is, it looks a bit post-apocalyptic!"

She added: "Last time we had the big wheel in the gap on the seafront it was great. It would make a difference to trade, I'm sure. It would need to be well advertised though."

Mr Godden or representatives from Waterbridge, were all unavailable for comment.



FUN FOR ALL: Councillors hope to site a fun fair at Dreamland over the summer

Possible hit and run investigated

A MAN died after sustaining injuries in what police believe may be at hit and run incident.

The man, thought to be aged 58, was taken to the QEQM Hospital in Margate last Friday, where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

The man was stuck by a car at around 11.30pm in Cliftonville.

Cliftonville councillor Clive Hart said: "The incident in Eastern Esplanade really was a sad occurrence.

"Now, what appears to be one mindless act, has produced the worst possible consequences.

"My thoughts are with the poor victim and their family."

A Home Office post mortem examination has been carried out and the cause of death was established to be the result of multiple injuries.

The man's identity had still not been released by police as we went to press.

• A man aged 38 has been bailed by police in connection with the incident.

A big nomination for the big event

MARGATE'S Big Event has been short-listed for two awards in a national competition for event organisers.

The event, Kent's leading land and air festival, takes place over the Father's Day weekend, organised by the National Outdoor Events Association.

Margate's Big Event is competing for top honours for the best outdoor public event of the year tribute award and the best organised outdoor public event of the year.

The results are due to be announced at an awards ceremony in Oxford during February.

Petition calls for mayor for isle

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE and principles."

Legislation that enables the petition to trigger a referendum was adopted in 2002. Citizens have the right to petition to request a referendum on a mayoral form of executive.

Mr Kirkaldie wants to get rid of the cabinet system he believes is inefficient. He does not intend to run, but hopes his campaign will bring candidates into the frame.

An elected mayor would serve for four years and become the leader of Thanet council.

Asked if it was taking Mr Kirkaldie's efforts seriously, a council official said: "Thanet council takes all forms of local democracy seriously."

On the numbers who need to vote, she said: "The petition needs five per cent of the number of local government electors. As of February 16, 2008, that was 4,877 electors, but this will change on February 16, this year.

"The petition has to be valid. The referendum must normally take place within six months and at least two months after proposals are sent to the Secretary of State.

Mr Kirkaldie said he would aim to coordinate any referendum with other votes, to reduce cost to taxpayers. He aims to have a referendum in place by 2010 and hopes his petition will lead to debate in the council chamber.

Crampton's Tower comes to rescue of Age Concern

THE Broadstairs and St Peters branch of Age Concern have avoided a mini-crisis by arranging new accommodation.

The charity had feared for its future after the building they use for their activities was condemned and scheduled for demolition.

The condition of their base in Pierremont Park was so bad they feared they would be homeless for up to two years as they have no alternative premises.

Long wait

They are waiting to move into the planned Broadstairs Community Centre when it's eventually built, but that is unlikely to be before 2011.

However, a lifeline was found last week in the form of those at Crampton's Tower.

A building behind the famous tower will be used by Age Concern after a deal for them to rent it was agreed upon with Crampton

Museum Trust chairman Peter Shaw.

Age Concern's committee chairman, Hazel Pinder-White said: "The users will be delighted and the staff will be too.

"The building has everything we need although we may have to wait a month or two until we move in as there is a little work that needs to be done."

She added: "Hopefully we will be able to move in by the end of March but we are breathing a huge sigh of relief that we have somewhere to go for the next two years.

"We were all getting very concerned, it's not easy to find somewhere when you have 40 or 50 elderly people who need a facility where they can go."

Mr Shaw said: "Striving to uphold its commitment to the local community, Crampton Tower Museum has stepped in to provide facilities to enable Broadstairs Age Concern to continue its valuable work."

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