



AT YOUR LEISURE: Councillors John Davies and Jeff Dutton, chairman and vice-chairman of Huntingdonshire District Council, with Shirley and Michael Mockford.

Picture: SUPPLIED

New-look centre opens its doors

THE new-look Huntingdon leisure centre was officially opened on Friday following a £1.5million re-vamp. Work on the St Peter's Road building was started in May 2008 and over a

series of stages the building has been improved to include a larger gym area, a children's soft play centre and interactive zone, beauty treatment rooms, and a more spacious reception area.

THE new-look Huntingdon leisure centre is officially opened on Friday following a £1.5million re-vamp. Work on the St Peter's Road building was started in May 2008 and over a

Oneleisure

The honour of declaring the new facilities open fell to long-standing leisure centre members, Shirley and Michael Mockford from Great Stukeley, who are both in their 70s. They were also given lifetime memberships of all Huntingdonshire District Council-run leisure centres. Councillor Deborah Reynolds, who is responsible for leisure centres, said: "The new-look leisure centre is a great example of how an out-of-date and out-of-touch centre can be improved. We now offer more products as well as supporting the

traditional 'sports' to the community". St Neots leisure centre is next in line for a re-vamp and all will be renamed in 2010. All five council-owned leisure centres are to be re-branded – at no extra cost, the district council claims – in a bid to attract more people to use them. The re-branding will see the removal of the current five independent leisure centre names and logos and these will be replaced by the corporate name 'One Leisure'.

Gemma Bonnett, HDC's leisure centres marketing and brand manager, said: "With many people relocating to this area, a town name followed by the words 'Leisure Centre' can conjure up a negative image. On the back of massive investment in the facilities and our products competing with and matching the private sector standards, now is the ideal time to change this."

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2009 www.cambridge-news.co.uk

Member acted 'disreputably'

A COUNCILLOR has been found guilty of bringing his office into disrepute. Cllr Derek Giles, pictured, was found guilty of breaching St Neots Town Council's code of conduct at a Huntingdonshire District Council standards sub-committee hearing. However, he was cleared of accusations of bullying.

Cllr Giles, former leader of St Neots Town Council and the council's Liberal Democrat party, was accused of a series of allegations including bullying and harassment of former employee Margaret Sharp. Those particular claims were dismissed by the standards sub-committee on June 18, but it ruled that Cllr Giles had "conducted himself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing his office of authority into disrepute".

It said Cllr Giles had "acted without the necessary authority in relation to discussions and exchanges" with Mrs Sharp, her trade union representative and the council's human resource consultants, on several occasions.

It added he had failed to declare an interest in respect of his "friendship" with Mrs Sharp at council and personnel committee meetings when issues relating to Mrs Sharp were discussed.



Cllr Giles read an apology to councillors at St Neots Town Council saying: "Whilst I believe I had been acting in everyone's best interests I acknowledge that I have breached the code and I apologise to the council unreservedly." Cllr Giles was ordered by the sub-committee to present an apology to the council and take training on the code of conduct. New Cllr Jennifer Bird, leader of the St Neots Conservative party, who brought the complaint against him, has called for his resignation.

He added he had failed to declare an interest in respect of his "friendship" with Mrs Sharp at council and personnel committee meetings when issues relating to Mrs Sharp were discussed.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 1995 LISTED BUILDINGS AND BUILDINGS IN CONSERVATION AREAS REGULATIONS 1990

PLANNING PERMISSION
 0900980FUL Various Residential Properties RAF Alconbury Ermine Street Little Stukeley
 Erection of 38 new bungalows on footprint of existing bungalows.
 Amendments to parking arrangements
 0900972FUL Land Between 8 And 18 Chapel End Sawtry
 Erection of a single dwelling
 0900969FUL Land Between 8 And 18 Chapel End Sawtry
 Erection of a single dwelling (plot 1)
 0900977FUL Land Adjacent To Thorns Farm Hamerton Road Alconbury Weston
 Change of Use of redundant farm buildings to holiday homes
PLANNING PERMISSION AFFECTING THE SETTING OF A LISTED BUILDING
 0900979FUL Land At 90 High Street, Needingworth
 Erection of a detached dwelling
PLANNING PERMISSION AFFECTING THE SETTING OF A CONSERVATION AREA
 0900981FUL The Well 5 Madeley Court Hemingford Grey
 Erection of entrance portico to replace approved entrance lobby on dwelling under construction
PLANNING PERMISSION AFFECTING THE SETTING OF A LISTED BUILDING AND A CONSERVATION AREA
 0900944FUL 6 Vicarage Fields Hemingford Grey
 Proposed sun lounge and attic conversion including installation of dormer window
 0900989FUL 1 The Retreat Sawtry
 Alterations and extension to existing dwelling. Erection of annex to replace outbuilding and erection of new garage
 0900994FUL HSBC Market Hill St Ives
 Alterations to main entrance door to provide disabled access
 0900975FUL Church Of St Mary Magdalene Church Road Warboys
 Erection of storage shed in Church Yard and position new boiler flue in vestry
CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT
 0900990CAC 1 The Retreat Sawtry
 Demolition of outbuildings

Any person wishing to make representations should write to the Head of Planning Services, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon, PE29 3TN within 21 days of the publication of this Notice. Copies of the submitted plans can be inspected at the Planning Division of the Operational Services Directorate. The application including documents and plans, is also available to view from Huntingdonshire District Council's Web site at www.huntsdc.gov.uk/planning. It is also possible to submit any comments you care to make direct from this site to this office.

The provisions of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 require that any letters received may be made public and if an application results in an appeal, copies of representations will be sent to the Secretary of State and the Appellant.

In relation to householder applications, in the event of an appeal against a refusal of planning permission, which is to be dealt with on the basis of representations in writing, any representations made about such applications will be sent to the Secretary of State, and there will be no further opportunity to comment at appeal stage.

Steve Ingram
 Head of Planning Services

Comment

POLICE dogs are getting pensions and pensioners are getting poorer. The decision to give the carers of Cambridgeshire's police dogs some money to care for the animals in their twilight years is a complete contrast to how the future is looking for many pensioners in Huntingdonshire.

The district council has made some stark predictions about the future of the area's aging population: the 65-plus age group is expected to increase by 13,700, more strain is going to be put on the NHS and, in the medium term, there's just not enough specialist accommodation to cope.

Then there's the state of the current accommodation: HDC found 20 out of 28 sheltered accommodation homes "do not meet current modern standards".

Work and money is needed to keep on top of the situation, and HDC is right to be taking steps to help give pensioners a decent quality of life after retirement.

Where the money comes from to do this is another question. Until the economy picks up, hands are tied.

But when the homebuilders are at work again and the economy is growing, it is essential that HDC and its partners act on this vital work.

We do not want Huntingdonshire's pensioners envious of Cambridgeshire's police dogs.



Name _____
 Address _____
 Telephone number _____
 Category (please tick)
 Restaurant of the Year _____
 Food Producer _____
 Pub of the Year _____
 Best Independent Retailer _____
 Best Breakfast _____
 Best Home Grown Menu _____
 Name/Business name _____
 Address _____
 Reason for nomination _____

Huntingdonshire
 DISTRICT COUNCIL

Councillor apology

A ST Neots town councillor has apologised unreservedly for bringing his office into disrepute, claiming he made a 'simple mistake'.

Cllr Derek Giles has been found guilty of breaching St Neots Town Council's code of conduct at a Huntingdonshire District Council standards sub-committee hearing. The councillor was cleared of allegations of bullying a town council employee, but the committee ruled that Cllr Giles had 'conducted himself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing his office of authority into disrepute'.

It said Cllr Giles had 'acted without the necessary authority' in relation to discussions with the

employee, her union representative and the council's human resource consultants.

And that he failed to declare an interest in respect of his 'friendship' with the woman when she was discussed during personnel committee meetings.

As a result the councillor was ordered by the standards sub-committee to apologise to the town council and take training on the code of conduct.

Cllr Giles told *The Hunts Post*: "The only code of conduct that I fell foul of was that I did not declare a personal interest. This was a complete oversight on my part as I did not realise that a declaration of interest should have been made."

Leisure centre wind turbines

TWO wind turbines could be installed at the St Ivo Outdoor Centre in St Ives as part of a green scheme to boost power at the sports complex.

Huntingdonshire District Council wants to put up two 25 metre towers for the 15Kw turbines at the centre in California Road as part of an expansion of facilities at the site.

It wants to take action because the site has nearly reached capacity for the electricity supply and a second synthetic pitch, extra changing rooms and a training room are to be built, adding to demand.

Although electricity firm

EDF has been surveying the site to look at increasing capacity, the council is keen for a green alternative to help reduce energy costs.

A planning application by SRE Technologies, of Wellingborough, is being considered by council planners.

The turbines would go up on the western boundary of the outdoor centre more than 200 metres from the nearest residential properties. The turbines are estimated to produce more than 85,000Kw hours a year, saving 36 tonnes of CO2 and reducing electricity costs by 51 per cent.