



Cutting crime in estate salon

IN A move which gives new meaning to the phrase "cutting crime", Suffolk police are planning to promote personal safety by visiting hair salons.

Officers in Bury St Edmunds have prepared a special crime prevention pack which will be given out at one of the town's salons.

The Hair Company on the Howard estate will be stocking purse bells and leaflets on security and safety as part of the scheme.

Members of the town's Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) will also be dropping in to give customers a pleasant brush with the law and to talk through local issues or concerns.

Salon owner and manager Mark Gooden said: "Virtually all my customers live on the estate, with around half of them mature ladies, and we chat about all sorts of things, including issues in the local area and what's been going on.

"Several of the ladies have told me about some of the callers they have received, whether they've been offering to do some work in the garden or check on an appliance.

"Everyone is very community-minded and if I can help the estate stay as safe as possible by giving out some crime prevention packs with haircuts, I'm delighted to assist."

Bury's crime reduction officer Bernard Plume suggested the concept to Mr Gooden and is putting together the packs.

He said: "With Mark and his team's strong relationship with his clients they are perfectly placed to help spread the word on things like distraction and artifice burglaries, bogus callers and rogue traders, and general advice on keeping safe and secure.

"I will also be supplying the salon with purse bells, which customers can clip onto their purse as they're paying for their haircut. If the project is successful we may be able to launch it in other areas."

Police community support officer Sue Medcraft said: "The atmosphere in the salon is very relaxed and friendly and I hope people will take the time to speak to me while they're getting their hair cut or coloured so the SNT can help with any problems they may have."



PIER PROJECT: An artist's impression of the revised plans for Southwold Pier, which now include a hotel which would be used all year round

Image: BAREFOOT & GILLES.

'Exciting' plan for historic pier includes hotel

£4M SCHEME: Apartments bid has been revised

By Craig Robinson



'EXCITING PROJECT': Pier owner Stephen Bournes

THE owner of an historic pier has spoken of his latest plans for a major multi-million pound re-development, which includes building a new four-star hotel.

Stephen Bournes, who along with his wife Antonia bought Southwold Pier in 2005, hopes the investment will encourage people to visit the popular seaside resort all year round and provide a boost to the local tourist industry during the quiet winter months.

He has already submitted proposals to the Waveney District Council and tonight they will be discussed by the town council.

Permission to build 10 two-bedroomed apartments on the upper floor of Southwold Pier, along with other improvements, was granted in April 2007. But it was

decided the accommodation could only be used on a seasonal basis and Mr Bournes hopes the new plans for a hotel will result in the condition being removed so it can be used throughout the year.

The proposals - which will cost in the region of £4million - include demolishing the existing pavilion building and creating a new five-storey structure that will feature a 34-bedroom, four-star luxury hotel.

There are also plans to improve the existing amusement arcade, re-model the kitchen, extend the café, create a new bar and replace the Beachcomber Bar with a multi-function room to be used by the community.

It is hoped the hotel will also have the added advantage of being able to cater for conferences, staff training and corporate entertainment.

Mr Bournes said: "We have the opportunity to regenerate a landmark building, replacing a crumbling structure with one capable of holding the line against coastal erosion for generations to come.

"It's a very exciting project and the first of its kind - ensuring the financial viability of the pier and providing security of employment for an increasing number of local people.

"At the moment there is a problem with sustainability but the new hotel will reduce the contrast between the peak demand in summer and the quieter winter months - providing a boost to tourism all year round."

Waveney District Council is hoping to make a decision on the plans in early October. craig.robinson@eadt.co.uk

BRIEFING

Car overturns but woman freed

A WOMAN had a lucky escape after her car overturned between Bury St Edmunds and Sudbury.

Emergency services were called to the A134 at Little Whelmetham, opposite the Bury Car Sanctuary, at about 2.20pm yesterday after reports that a driver was trapped in her vehicle.

Firefighters were able to free the woman from her green Renault Clio but she did not require hospital treatment after suffering only minor injuries.

The road was initially blocked to traffic with diversions put in place around Lavenham and Cockfield but was reopened at about 4pm.

The 'Bee's Knees' down at the lake

A programme of outdoor activity days begins at a Suffolk lake this week, offering youngsters the chance to find out more about the countryside.

Mid Suffolk District Council's Countryside Team will be at Needham Lake every Wednesday from this week through to August 26 running a series of hands-on workshops for children.

This week the team will be running the "Bee's Knees" where you can discover more about the world of bees, how they make honey and what attracts them to flowers.

Activities will run from 11am to 3pm and the entry fee for children is £3, with no charge for accompanying adults. For more details, visit www.midsuffolk.gov.uk or call 01449 724633.

Teenager assaulted

A 15-year-old boy suffered cuts and swelling to his mouth in an assault in Leisure Way, Lowestoft, close to the Pleasurewood Hills entrance, at about 3.30pm on Friday.

The offender - described as white, aged in his late teens to early 20s, about 6ft tall and of stocky build - got out of a silver Ford Mondeo-type car and attacked the boy, who was with a friend.

Anyone with information is asked to call Pc Meen of Lowestoft police on 01986 835300.

MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

UNIVERSITY CAMPUS **SUFFOLK**

Nursing BSc/DipHE courses offer an innovative approach to learning and exceptional links with clinical practice across a wide range of specialities and healthcare settings. They also offer fully paid tuition fees and generous bursaries. Choose from Adult Nursing, Child Health Nursing and Mental Health Nursing.

Make new connections at UCS
Clearing Open Day on Saturday 22 August
Waterfront Building, Ipswich Campus
Clearing Hotline 01473 338352
www.ucs.ac.uk/start2009