

intouch

with your Conservative Councillors in Shoebury



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NEW YOUTH CENTRE FOR SHOEBURY



The Conservative Administration in Southend have successfully bid for funding from the Big Lottery for a new £2.9million Youth Centre in Shoebury, which is due for completion in May 2010. The bid was in response to issues raised by young people in Shoebury, including the Debate Shoebury events.

The new Youth Centre will be built on the site of the existing Centre in Delaware Road. It will have its own restaurant, a dance studio, gymnasium, and a sports hall with a climbing wall. There will also be an IT suite, recording studio, snooker room, and a bike and motor vehicle workshop. The high specification restaurant will offer reasonably priced and

locally sourced seasonal food and will be run as a Social Enterprise by the YMCA.

What else is planned for Shoebury in the next 12 months?

A total of nearly £6million is scheduled to be spent in Shoebury in this financial year. In addition to the Youth Centre this will include: -

- £850,000 of improvements to the new Gunners Park.
- £500,000 for improvements to East Beach.
- £160,000 on Improvements to Shoebury Park Lakes, to reinforce the banking and preserve the lakes for the future.
- £100,000 on Improving Shoebury Leisure changing facilities
- As part of the £1 million Play Builders Scheme



new play equipment has now been installed in Friars Park; the next park to benefit will be Gunners Park, followed by Shoebury

Park.

- Improved Parking arrangements in Shoebury High Street.
- Funding has been approved and plans are now well on their way for the rebuilding of the new £6.5m Hinguar School in its new location in Gunners Park.
- Free Swimming has started for all pensioners and under 16's
- Work has now started on a bid for £85m in trying to secure the funding under the Building Schools for the Future programme for a major rebuild of a large percentage of Shoebury High School, and other schools in the borough



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The New Garrison Road



Many residents have been concerned about the excessive speed of traffic, and the lack of pedestrian crossings, on this new road. Arrangements have now been made to carry out a safety audit, which will help to identify where road safety improvements need to be carried out.

The Council Tax rate from April 2009 is the second lowest of any similar size unitary authority in the country, comparing the rate for Band D with about 40 similar Councils.

Southend has moved from 27th place to 7th place in giving good value to its residents, compared with other similar size authorities, according to the latest annual survey by PricewaterhouseCoopers.

East Beach Café

Shoebury Conservative Councillors have been very concerned about the lack of facilities since fire destroyed the café at East Beach, and have been pressing for action. We are pleased to be able to report that a Planning application for the rebuilding of the café is expected to be submitted to the Council in the next few weeks.

Meanwhile, arrangements have now been made to clean up the site and provide temporary refreshment facilities.

SURGERY

Do you have a local issue that you wish to be resolved or need help from your councillors?
On the last Saturday of the month a ward surgery is held at the Friars Community Centre between 10am and 12pm.

No appointment necessary

Coastal Pathway



Parts of the long-awaited coastal path and cycle way through the Gunners Park and the Garrison from the Coastguard Station to Rampart Street will be opened in June. However, after this long delay, residents and Councillors have been very annoyed to be informed that access for part of its length will only be allowed for four months of the year. English Nature has insisted that the pathway should be closed during the winter months (September to April) to protect the birds. No such restrictions apply to East Beach or Shoebury Common so Cllr Hadley and Cllr Rayner are vigorously arguing that this should not apply to Gunners Park