

EXHIBITION SHOWS HOW SITE COULD LOOK

# A chance to see £30m plan for paper mill

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IMAGES of how the old paper mill could look once the site is developed have gone on show.

The site owner, London-based developers Essential Land is holding a public exhibition at 1 to 5 High Street, Sittingbourne, from noon to 8pm today (Friday) and from 10am to 4pm tomorrow (Saturday).

The event will showcase some preliminary plans and views of the proposed £30m redevelopment scheme which have been arrived at following the consultation so far.

The ambitious plan has been submitted to Swale council for approval.

Members of the development team will also be on hand to answer questions and record public feedback.

## Chance

Leaflets have been sent to residents about the proposal and anyone living or working in Sittingbourne is invited to attend the exhibition.

Scott Hammond, partner at Essential Land, said: "Our consultation is going well and we hope that those who have taken part will see how their aspirations for the site have influenced the masterplan.

"The exhibition is an additional chance for the local community to view the proposals, including many new artist's impressions and proposed layouts.

"They can also speak directly to the team responsible for delivering the scheme.

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**'We are keen for local people to comment and help contribute to what we believe will be an important first step in the wider regeneration of Sittingbourne'**

tant first step in the wider regeneration of Sittingbourne."

The Sittingbourne Mill project covers two sites - the Mill Site to the north of the railway line at the intersection between Mill Way and Milton Road and the nearby Wharf Site next to Milton Creek.

Essential Land bought the site from Finnish paper company M-Real for £5.65m in June.

While the vision for the site is subject to planning permission, the mixed-use development is expected to create 300 building jobs and more than 400 jobs once finished.

■ **Those unable to attend the exhibition can still participate online by completing a questionnaire on the Sittingbourne Mill website [www.sittingbournemill.com](http://www.sittingbournemill.com) following Twitter for updates and taking part in polls and by logging onto [ConsultSittingbourneMill.com](http://ConsultSittingbourneMill.com) on Facebook to view and comment on the proposals. Alternatively, you can write to Sittingbourne Mill Consultation, 7 Hertford Street, London, W1J 7RH.**

# Pervert who kissed boy, 13, faces jail

A PERVERT who groomed a boy for sex and downloaded child abuse images from the internet is facing a jail sentence.

Olivier Leger, 39, met his 13-year-old victim in an internet chatroom, Maidstone Crown Court heard this week.

Eloise Marshall, prosecuting, said Leger's claim it was the boy's idea to meet and that he instigated kissing was not accepted.

Leger, of High Street, New-

ington, admitted four charges of sexual activity with a child in February last year and nine of possessing indecent images of children.

The pictures at levels one to four, the highest being five, totalled 783. There was also one movie clip at level two.

Adjourning sentence for reports until January 7 and remanding Leger in custody, Judge Philip Statman warned that custody was inevitable.



Pupils from Lynsted and Norton Primary School, Lynsted, wear their new high-viz jackets with head teacher Mary Haney

Picture: Andy Payton PD1778703

## High visibility jackets help to improve pupils' safety

THERE'S no missing pupils from a village school when they go out and about these days.

Youngsters from Lynsted and Norton Primary School stand out in more ways than one thanks to a donation of high-visibility jackets.

The jackets - given to the school by Lynsted with Kingsdown Parish Council - are worn by pupils when they go out on school trips.

Executive head teacher Ian Fidge: "We are extremely grateful for the support of the parish council in providing us with the jackets for our children. We use them whenever we take the children outside the school, whether for swimming lessons in Faversham or on our regular school trips.

"Now our children not only stand out for their excellent behaviour when outside the school, but also for their outstanding jackets!"

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## Restaurant and wine bar plan for site

THE former Gerald Lukehurst's furniture store could be transformed into a restaurant and wine bar.

James Freeman, head of planning services at Swale council, has recommended approval for an application to change the use of the ground floor area of the vacant premises at 1 to 5 High Street, Sittingbourne.

The Old Bank building became Gerald Lukehurst's showroom in 1983 and remained there until the business moved to Sittingbourne Retail Park in Mill Way in July.

Martin Lukehurst, owner of the store, applied to Swale council for a change of use of the premises after there was a lack of interest from retailers to occupy it.

Within the report, Mr Freeman said the Sittingbourne Society had no objections to the proposal although it pointed out that there was already an adequate supply of restaurants and wine bars in the town. Concerns were also raised about car parking.

A letter of support submitted by a resident of Riverbourne Court, Bell Road, Sittingbourne, noted that most people were in favour of the proposal "as it would enhance the derelict looking area surrounding the site".

■ **Planning committee members are expected to make a decision when they meet at Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, at 7pm on Thursday.**

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