

## £500k work on 'asset' pier progressing well

THE potential for Deal Pier was discussed at a site meeting between the town's MP and the district council leader on Friday.

Council leader, Cllr Keith Morris, told MP Charlie Elphicke that the £500,000 refurbishment of the pier could be complete by late summer.

Dover District Council's cabinet gave the go-ahead for works at the end of last year, with resurfacing, seating replacement and concrete repairs to begin soon.

The restaurant unit at the end of the pier will become a temporary café – possibly run by students from East Kent College – while a long-term operator is sought. The council wants the operator to be able to run a café offering cups of tea and snacks like bacon sandwiches for visitors and fishermen during the day, and a restaurant in the evening.

North Deal councillor Bob Frost, who has pushed for the refurbishments, joined Charlie and Cllr Morris for discussions about the potential for the pier.

Mr Elphicke said: "The pier is such an asset. It's great the council are making much-needed repairs – and I think everyone in Deal agrees it has

real potential. We discussed having stalls offering food and drink during the summer.

"The views along the pier are simply stunning. We need to give people a greater incentive to use this fantastic asset.

"Our energetic and determined new council leader has done a great job getting things moving and is clearly ambitious about what we can achieve."

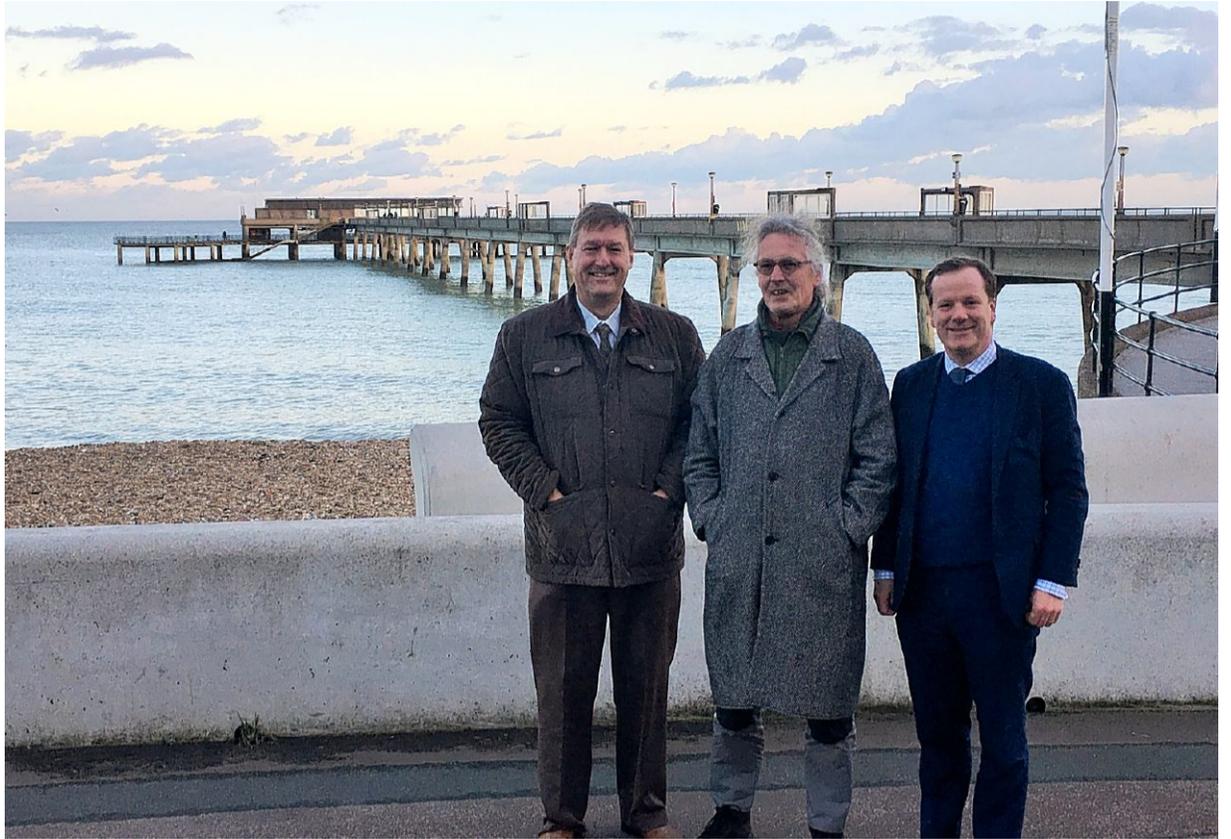
Cllr Morris said: "We're working hard to get Deal Pier ready for the summer season with a significant investment of half a million pounds.

"The pier should be something our whole community can enjoy – as well as visitors to the town."

Cllr Frost said: "With the money already put aside for a complete refurbishment and exciting plans for the café, the pier will make Deal even more of a must-see destination for those not fortunate enough to live in our town."

The unit at the end of Deal Pier was run as Jasin's Restaurant until the lease was terminated by mutual agreement on January 1.

"It was recently used for filming in ITV's hit drama Liar.



Charlie Elphicke, right, at Deal Pier with council leader Keith Morris, left, and Cllr Bob Frost

Thrill seekers invited to make a break for freedom in new adventure experience

# Have you got what it takes to escape from a serial killer's lair?

By **Lauren MacDougall**  
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DOVER'S very first escape room has flung open its doors to the public and owners have warned customers to expect "a roller coaster of emotions as frustration, elation and excitement" propel them through the experience.

Get Out Escape Rooms is the first of its kind in the town,

requiring players to solve small clues and puzzles leading to further mysteries, which eventually unravel as you get nearer to the exit.

Tickets cost from £16 and people are invited to play in teams of between two and six.

At the moment just one room is open at the Snargate Street attraction, created by a passionate team for "an immersive, engaging experience".

The room is set in Chicago, 1893. Here players mysteriously receive tickets to stay at the infamous Dr HH Holmes' World Fair Hotel.

But there's just one problem – he's America's first serial killer. Based on a true story, the room is creepy with many scares promised along the way.

Players will have just one hour to follow the clues to safety.

Owners have warned the room

isn't for the faint hearted. It is only suitable for children over the age of eight, while all children must be accompanied by an adult.

As well as group visits, Get Out also offers specific team-building exercises at the escape rooms.

To book visit [www.getoutescaperooms.co.uk](http://www.getoutescaperooms.co.uk), email [info@getoutescaperooms.co.uk](mailto:info@getoutescaperooms.co.uk) or call 07921 859291.



Can you break out of the serial killer's lair?

## Ska legends are coming to town

SKA legends Bad Manners are coming to Dover for an intimate gig.

Buster Bloodvessel and company are promising a show of aggressive and highly danceable good-time ska when they come to The Booking Hall on Wednesday, April 18.

The two-tone hitmakers spent 111 weeks in the UK Singles Chart between 1980 and 1983 with songs such as Lip Up Fatty, Special Brew and Can Can.

They also achieved chart success with their first four studio albums with Gosh It's... Bad Manners, Loonee Tunes! and Ska 'n' B being their biggest hits.

The Booking Hall is Kent's newest independent music and arts venue with a standing capacity of just 280.

It opened last summer and has already played host to big names like The Sugarhill Gang, Dragonforce and 1990s legends Dodgy.



Buster Bloodvessel is bringing Bad Manners to Dover

And the venue has already confirmed several other huge gigs in the coming months – including a performance from

Frank Turner. Tickets for Bad Manners cost £17 and are on sale now at [www.thebookinghall.com](http://www.thebookinghall.com)

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