



MP Charlie Elphicke, right, visited Deal Pier with council leader Keith Morris and Cllr Bob Frost; £500,000 will be spent on repairing and improving the landmark

# Summer target for pier facelift

The half-million pound refurbishment on Deal Pier could be complete by late summer, according to district council leader Cllr Keith Morris.

Dover District Council's cabinet gave the go-ahead for works in November, with resurfacing, seating replacement and concrete repairs set to begin soon.

The council has assured people that the landmark – recently used for filming in ITV's hit drama Liar – will remain open throughout these works.

The restaurant, recently vacated by Jasin Kaplan after claims of a disagreement over opening hours, will be run by a temporary staff.

This could be students from East Kent College while a long term operator is sought, it has been revealed.

The council wants the operator to be able to run a cafe offering cups of tea and snacks like bacon sandwiches for visitors and fishermen during the day, and open it as a restaurant in the evenings.

Cllr Morris's update came during a site meeting with Deal and Dover MP Charlie Elphicke and North Deal councillor Bob Frost, who has pushed for the refurbishments after its poor state was revealed by this newspaper.

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."

Deal Pier – the town's third – is 60 years old. It was opened on November 19, 1957 by the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip.

Cllr Morris said: "We're work-

ing 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 cafe, the pier will make Deal even more of a must-see destination for those not fortunate enough to live in our town."

## IN BRIEF

### Fair bookings

Bookings are now being taken for this year's Brocante at Walmer Green. Organised by Walmer Parish Council, the popular antiques, collectables and crafts fair attracts thousands of visitors each year. Items on sale will include vintage clothing, furniture and homewares, musical and military memorabilia, toys, jewellery, and local arts and crafts. It is on Bank Holiday Monday, May 7, from 8am to 4pm. Pitches start at £35 and booking is essential. Contact 01304 362363 for a booking form or visit [www.walmercouncil.co.uk](http://www.walmercouncil.co.uk)

### Musical bill

An evening of West End and classical musical entertainment is on the bill in aid of Pilgrims Hospices. Numbers from My Fair Lady, Les Miserables, Bohemian Girl and many more will be performed by trio 3's Company. It takes place on Saturday, February 10, at The Great Hall of Dover College. The ensemble includes soprano Judith Smith, tenor Peter Whibley and, on piano, Julia Mook. All the money raised will go directly to Pilgrims Hospices. Doors open 7.30pm. For tickets, costing £10, contact Peter Whibley on 07590 916574 or [peterwhibley@btconnect.com](mailto:peterwhibley@btconnect.com)



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