

Drink driving woman's ban

A WOMAN caught drink driving in Southend has been hit with a driving ban.

Sasha Downey, of Queens Road, Southend was driving a Honda Civic on Brighton Avenue when she was found with 150 milligrams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath on March 16. The limit is 80.

She admitted drink driving at Chelmsford Magistrates' Court on Wednesday where she was banned from driving for a year and eight months and fined £120.

The 26-year-old was also ordered to pay £85 in prosecution costs and a £48 surcharge.

Drink driver's 17-month ban

A DRINK driver caught above the limit in Southend has been banned from the roads.

Jonathon Lofulo, 36, was driving a Mitsubishi along West Road when he was found with 69 micrograms of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath on Sunday, July 6. The limit is 35.

Lofulo, of Manford Close, Chigwell, admitted the offence at Southend Magistrates' Court the following day where he was banned from driving for a year and five months.

He was also fined £150, ordered to pay prosecution costs of £85 and a £60 surcharge.

BP thief sent back to prison

A THIEF who targeted a BP garage in Basildon while he was subject to recall has been sent back to prison.

David Pitcher, of Jenner Road, Basildon, stole £390 worth of food, drink and alcohol from the service station in East Mayne between July 1 last year and June 27 this year.

He admitted seven counts of shop theft at Southend Magistrates' Court on Wednesday where he was sentenced to nine weeks in prison.

The 46-year-old was also ordered to pay £424.50 in compensation.

Shoplifter to pay back £1k

A SHOPLIFTER has been ordered to pay back more than £1,000 in compensation after targeting a BP service station.

Zak Ingram, of The Knarres, Basildon, stole food and drink from the garage in Eastmayne, Basildon, in 14 incidents between May 7 and June 12.

The 29-year-old admitted all counts of shop theft at Basildon Magistrates' Court on Thursday where he was ordered to pay a total of £1,121 in compensation.

He must also take part in up to 20 rehabilitation days over the next year.

All parts of Basildon borough set to enjoy lighting all night in safety boost

All-night street lighting could return in weeks



■ Determined - Gavin Callaghan

By **GEORGE PIZANI**
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ALL-NIGHT street lighting could be returning to Basildon sooner than expected as councillors seek to boost public safety.

Last month, the council voted through proposals to power the borough's street lights throughout the night, with the switch expected to take place in autumn.

However, Gavin Callaghan, Labour leader of Basildon Council, has now revealed that residents could once again see the benefits of all-night street lighting in a matter of weeks.

"Basildon Council originally agreed to turn the streetlights back on all night from the autumn," he said.

"Three weeks ago we asked if

it was possible for them to come back on immediately and were told "yes" by Essex County Council.

"Basildon Council has now completed all the necessary paperwork and we are waiting for Essex County Council to press the go-live button."

Essex County Council, which has control of the borough's streetlights, switched from all-night to part-night lighting in 2014.

The change initially saw lights turned off between midnight and 5am before being shortened to 1am to 5am.

Basildon Council took action to turn the lights back on for a four-year period starting in 2019, but the scheme was not renewed.

Castle Point Council is also car-

rying out a consultation with residents over the option of turning street lights back on overnight.

Mr Callaghan has repeatedly stressed the benefits of a return to all-night street lighting, which he believes will boost community safety across the borough.

"This is so important for shift workers especially, for the emergency services who struggle to see door numbers at night in emergencies and as a deterrent for car theft and car crime."

The return of all-night street lighting will be seen in all of Basildon's five towns - Billericay, Laindon, Wickford, Pitsea and Basildon - and is estimated to cost the council £120,000 per year.

Essex County Council has been contacted for comment on the plan.

SIXTH FORM STUDENTS ENJOY SPECIAL TRIP TO WIMBLEDON



■ Smashing - Sixth form students from Chase High School at Wimbledon

Image: Chase High School

PUPILS from a school in south Essex were able to watch some of the world's best tennis players at Wimbledon.

Sixth form students from Chase High School, in Westcliff, went on a two-day trip to London.

The group of 24 young people spent a day watching professional competitive tennis on Number Two Court at Wimbledon. They watched tennis stars including Ben Shelton, Lorenzo Musetti, Jessica Pegula and Iga Swiatek - who went on to win the women's title.

The next day, they visited the British Museum to see the Egyptian and Rome exhibitions.

Anthony Sturge, head of Year 12 and 13, said: "From the treasures of the British Museum to the triumphs at Wimbledon, this trip offered our sixth form students a unique chance to witness the power of history, culture, and human achievement - a journey of inspiration both past and present for our Chase High students."

Long-standing much-loved gay pub The Cliff set to close doors

AN ICONIC pub which has served as a staple of Southend's LGBTQ+ nightlife scene for more than half a century has announced its upcoming closure this weekend.

The Cliff Pub, on Westcliff's Hamlet Court Road, will shut its doors following a "final farewell" closing party on Saturday.

Bosses have thanked regulars for their support and said they believe the building's new owners will continue to run it as a pub.

A spokesperson for the Cliff Pub said: "It's a mix of personal reasons and the fact pubs in general are just not doing business like they used to."

"While the Cliff is still busy, things have quietened down a lot and I feel like it's a very hard industry regardless of whatever scene you're in."

The spokesperson said after 14 years of running the popular pub, the time had come for a change.

They added: "The landlords have sold the building and a new company has bought it."

"As far as I'm aware, the new owners intend to rent out the space as a pub and I hope that is the case."

The Cliff Pub will mark the end of its run with a closing down party this Saturday. The event will run from 5pm until 3am and has been described as "a night of music, memories and mayhem".



■ Fond farewell - staff and customers outside the pub