

## Generating Revenue at expense of heritage

In its '10-year Maldon Masterplan' on the Maldon District Council website the following statement appears;

*"Promenade Park and Hythe Quay offer a unique land-based and estuarine landscape for leisure and recreational facilities and activities for the community and visitors alike." It further adds that "...environments must be carefully managed to ensure that competing demands are balanced to take opportunities from increased visitors whilst maintaining their historic integrity and natural landscape".*

Could the Council therefore please explain why it wishes to forcibly remove after 40 years at the end of the Prom a club which actually needs access to and uses the river for dinghy sailing and kayaking. In addition, a club which has offered an inexpensive, appropriate and healthy amenity and has existed in this riverside town for the last 70 years.



**BIG ISSUE:** *Last week's front page led on the yacht club news.*

Is this not a piece of Maldon history worth preserving?

The answer is of course the need for increased revenue, but it would now seem that the needs of the visitor are far overriding those of the local residents. The Promenade Park has changed vastly during the past few years, with more and more visitor-attractions being installed. However, the area at the end of the Prom has, until now, always been a more tranquil part, in keeping with the natural river environment. The land and saltings here are also areas of marine conservation and special protection. To build yet more beach huts and a toilet block (and at huge expense as the land is reclaimed) would be a totally out of keeping and would completely change the character of the end of the Prom. Trying to create a faux beach area along what is in fact a muddy, tidal river estuary seems sadly lacking in taste. Also, this area can be quite inhospitable in winter so these huts would only be gaining revenue for, at the very most, 5 months of the year and may well suffer the same fate as the bird watching installation close by.

This plan could not be more at odds with the Council's own statement about maintaining historic integrity and natural landscape.

I sincerely hope that the MDC will reconsider this scheme and I would like to think that the majority of Maldon residents will share this hope.

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