



# The countdown begins...

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Our new monthly supplement counting down to next year's Olympic Games featuring:

- all of our region's hopeful athletes
- tips on how you can still get hold of tickets
- ideas on how to make the event work for your business.

If you know someone who hopes to be going for gold this time next year or have an Olympic-related story call **Kate Scotter** on **01603 772326** or email **kate.scotter@archant.co.uk**.

**STARTS ON MONDAY**

### BRECKLAND

# Future of land set to be decided

The future of 10 parcels of land in towns and villages across Breckland will be decided by councillors next week.

The district council is carrying out a review of hundreds of areas it owns and every six months is considering 10 to dispose of.

The most contentious of the current pieces of land being considered is one at Castell Road in Dereham – between the old swimming pool and the Highfield Road estate.

Nearly 200 people have signed a petition calling for the 0.51 acre site to be kept as open space.

There would be scope to develop four or five homes on the land and the options being outlined by Breckland include selling it off for housing or offering it to the town council for public open space.

Fred Abrahams, who has led a campaign to save the site, said the response from local people had been "amazing".

Local councillor William Richmond said: "For many of the residents up on the Highfields Road estate the open space adjacent to Castell Road represents their green and pleasant land. It would be a terrible blow to them should the site be altered."

The other nine sites are:

- Blenheim Drive, Attleborough – a 0.24 acre site which has legal

By **IAN CLARKE**

restrictions and contamination issues

- North End, Snetterton – a 2.18 acre site outside the settlement boundary and part of the land is designated for open space.

- Tottington Road, Thompson – a 0.12 acre site which could accommodate housing

- Mill Road, Watton – a 0.32 acre site which is proposed to be designated as public open space

- Rougholme Close, Gressenhall – a 0.15 acre site which has issues of encroachment and power lines.

- Church Close, Whissonsett – a 0.55 acre site which is proposed to be designated as public open space and could have archaeological issues.

- Cubitts Close, Bintree – a 0.33 acre site which the ward representatives want to be improved.

- Waples Way, Dereham – a 0.46 acre site which the town council and ward representatives want to be retained as public open space.

- Howlett Close, Dereham – a 0.05 acre site which the town council and ward representatives strongly oppose being developed

- **The Breckland cabinet meeting starts on Tuesday at 9.30am at Breckland's offices at Elizabeth House, Dereham.**



**MONEY SPINNER:** Peter Wilson and Carl Lamb outside the Theatre Royal.

### NORWICH

## Panto's Fairy Godmother is announced

A Norwich business has been named as the financial Fairy Godmother of this year's Norwich Theatre Royal pantomime.

Financial adviser Almary Green has been announced as the sponsor of the theatre's annual festive show which this year is going to be *Sleeping Beauty*.

Carl Lamb, the founder and managing director of Almary Green, said the sponsorship was part of its aim to become more involved in local communities and that earlier this year it set up a £10,000 charity awards fund to help good causes in Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire.

He said: "Sponsoring the pantomime is another delightful way of developing that involvement."

News of the sponsorship comes as planning for this year's pantomime is gathering pace with many of the cast already confirmed. Former Hollyoaks heart-throb Kevin Sacre – who played Jake Dean in the hit Channel 4 soap – will take on the role of the Prince. Helen Fraser – best known for her role as the grumbling prison warden Sylvia Hollamby aka Body Bag in the TV show *Bad Girls* – is playing the Wicked Queen while Tom Beard will play her henchman.

John Bultitude, of Norwich Theatre Royal, said: "The long-established company will be featured within our pantomime content in print and on-line – and we will also work with them on their aim to encourage even more young people to enjoy live performances."

■ **Sleeping Beauty will be at Norwich Theatre Royal from December 14 until January 15. Tickets cost between £5 and £19. For more information or to book call 01603 630000 or visit [www.theatreroyalnorwich.co.uk](http://www.theatreroyalnorwich.co.uk)**



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