

Poll proves 'negative' EU impact

REGIONAL MEP

Godfrey Bloom has welcomed "evidence" that animosity towards the European Union in Britain remains high. An Angus Reid public opinion poll has found that of a representative national sample of 2,003 British adults, a majority of respondents (57 per cent) believed that EU membership has been negative for the UK.

Only one third thought it had a positive effect and respondents aged 18 to 34 were more likely to express positive feelings about the EU (45 per cent) than those aged 35 to 54 (31 per cent) and those over the age of 55 (22 per cent).

Mr Bloom said the figures proved the Government would lose a referendum on the issue.

"The results of this survey have not come as a surprise to me," he said.

"And this is why the Government, which like its predecessors kowtows to Brussels, will not give us a referendum, as they know they would lose."

In the courts

Andrew Michael Wynn Gray, 19, of Frodingham Road, Scunthorpe, pleaded guilty at North Lincolnshire Magistrates' Court to failing to comply with the requirements of a community order. His order was varied with the addition of 20 hours' unpaid work and he was ordered to pay costs of £40.

Seeking a spectacle?

STAFF at the Specsavers store in Scunthorpe are continuing their search for a bespectacled customer who could become a top model.

The deadline for entries for the company's annual Spectacle Wearer of the year is Saturday, July 30.

The winner will receive a modelling contract, a fortnight abroad and a makeover with TV celebrity hairdresser Andrew Barton.

The competition is open to men and women aged 16 and above.

Andrew Mortimer, the Scunthorpe store director, said: "We see so many people in the store who look absolutely amazing in their glasses."

FREE SWIM: Three-year-old Caitlyn enjoys a swimming session at The Pods. Picture: Carl Gac. Buy this photo at www.thisisphoto.com/sales.co.uk/scunthorpe



Have a splashing summer for free

Council sets aside £41k for under-16s to go swimming

SCHOOLCHILDREN can enjoy free swimming in all of North Lincolnshire's pools throughout the summer holidays.

by Sam Russell

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Youngsters aged 16 or under can head to any council-run pool, including The Pods, from Monday to take advantage of a free dip.

The offer is available after council bosses set aside £41,000 to allow children six weeks of free summer holiday swimming.

And delighted parents have welcomed the move.

Vicci Skinn, a mother-of-three from Brigg, said: "I think free swimming for under-16s is a fabulous idea."

"It will be a big help for me. My two eldest have had swimming lessons since they were old enough to, and it's important that kids learn to swim. Not every parent thinks the same, and if there's free swimming it will help encourage them to get their kids swimming."

She said her three children Jessica, 12, Adam, 7, and Brendan, 2, have all taken well to the water.

"All of my kids love to go swimming, but a lot of people can't afford it nowadays," said Vicci.

"Had it not been for paid-for swimming lessons, Jess's ability and talent would not have been recognised. With free swimming, everyone will have that opportunity."

And youngsters are excited about the prospect of heading down to the pool on a hot summer's day.

Kirsten Calland, a full-time mum from the Lakeside Estate in Scunthorpe, took her three-year-old daughter Caitlyn to The Pods.

Caitlyn said: "I want to come swimming lots in the summer. It's nicer at The Pods than at the old pool."

Her mum said: "We're very happy that there's going to be free swimming and we will be down at The Pods a couple of times each week."

Michael Cooke, an electrical engineer of Manor Road, Scunthorpe, took his three-year-old son Rhys to The Pods.

Mr Cooke said: "I think it's a good idea and it will encourage me to bring Rhys swimming more often."

"Rhys really likes swimming and we're impressed with The Pods."

Under-16s can visit Ancholme Leisure Centre, Brigg, Riddings Pool, Scunthorpe, Baysgarth Leisure Centre, Barton, The Pods,

Scunthorpe and Epworth Leisure Centre for free swimming.

Council bosses are anticipating high demand, and a banding system will be used to guarantee swimmers at least 40 minutes in the pool when it is busy.

John Briggs, cabinet member with responsibility for leisure, said: "I'm delighted we can provide free swimming for young people in North Lincolnshire. "Swimming is a marvellous activity and the scheme will help keep them fit during the summer holiday."

Free swimming was first proposed in the council's February budget.

Christine O'Sullivan, Labour's shadow cabinet member for leisure services, said: "As a Labour group we felt it was only right money should be made available so young people can swim for free for the duration of the school summer holidays."

Free swimming sessions are available during casual swim sessions.

These are the light blue shaded areas on the pool programme leaflet.

For details, visit www.northlincs.gov.uk

'It's great - the kids think it's brilliant'

I think free swimming for under-16s is a great thing.

It's good to guarantee kids can swim in a safe environment, and it will give a few people the opportunity to swim at The Pods.

We go there three times a week and the kids all think it's brilliant. They really enjoy swimming there.

The pool area's fantastic

In your words



Zoe Newton, who chairs Scunthorpe Anchor swimming club

and we're looking forward to hosting galas there.

Brigg MP slams injustice in school funding system

BRIGG MP Andrew Percy has slammed school funding in North Lincolnshire, saying the region is an example of the injustice in the funding system.

Mr Percy, a former teacher, was speaking in a debate with

Secretary of State for Education Michael Gove.

He said: "There could be no greater evidence of the inequities in the funding system than the situation in the East Riding and in North Lincolnshire,

where per pupil funding is well below the national average.

"Having been through the BSF (Building Schools for the Future) process both as a school teacher and as a local councillor, may I have an assurance that

there will be an end to all these expensive airy-fairy vision statements and massive consultancy fees.

"While perfectly functional buildings in one local authority area are being knocked down only to

be replaced with butterfly-shaped schools, others in more affluent or more rural areas do not receive any money at all for their schools."

The Tory MP was praised by Mr Gove for the "blast of good sense".

In Brief

Tories hit back at Labour party plans for meeting

CONSERVATIVE councillors have criticised their Labour counterparts for refusing to take part in a meeting today.

As reported, the controlling Conservative group on North Lincolnshire Council called an extraordinary meeting of the council to discuss the future of the Scotter House and The Lilacs care homes.

The opposition Labour group indicated it would take no part in the meeting, saying it was not necessary to hold it before starting a new consultation and the group had already stated its view that both homes should be saved from closure.

But council leader Liz Redfern said: "I am very disappointed that (Labour leader) Councillor Kirk and his former cabinet member Councillor Pauline Carlile are fundamentally opposed to coming to discuss the views of concerned residents."

"This is no way to treat residents and they should be ashamed of themselves."

"The council's constitution clearly states that a petition of this magnitude has to come to full council."

"They have been summoned to attend. Therefore they are neglecting their duty by simply not turning up."

"I sincerely hope that they will think again and decide to represent their constituents."

The meeting is scheduled to take place at Pittwood House in Ashby Road, Scunthorpe, from 6pm.

Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Your news

Members of the Humber Keel And Sloop Preservation Society are holding an open day to celebrate the society's 40th anniversary on Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 4pm, at South Ferry Lock on the River Ancholme. Visitors can see the barges Amy Howson and Comrade, joined by Spider T, Phyllis and Southcliffe. Entry is free and there will be food and drink on sale.

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