

Supermarket giant to start new retail park

By **MAX ORBACH**
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A MAJOR supermarket is set to begin work on a new Canvey retail park for big name stores.

Morrisons has asked Castle Point Council for permission to start groundworks for a new DIY centre and three other shops on land next to its Northwick Road superstore.

It is thought Homebase will run the DIY store, but this has not been confirmed.

A Morrisons spokeswoman said:

Planner concerned development may undermine revamp of town

“We are not able to say what stores will be there, but we are very hopeful there will be some major names.

“At this stage we will start landscaping and earthworks, but we hope to start building within a year.”

Morrisons was granted planning permission for the 5,378sqm retail park in January 2009.

The company will also expand the car park at its existing store and build a new delivery area.

The council imposed several conditions on the application, including drainage requirements.

The store is now notifying the authority the requirements have been fulfilled so work can begin.

Councillor Barry Dixie, head of planning at Canvey Town Council,

is concerned the new development will undermine plans to redevelop the island’s town centre.

He said: “It doesn’t make sense to focus on expanding the town centre and also encourage an out-of-town retail park at the same time.

“It’s got to take away a bit of business from local traders, but what can you do against the power of the supermarkets?”

However, Mike Machin, chairman of the Canvey Traders’ Association, does not believe local businesses will be affected.

He said: “I wouldn’t think it

would worry any traders at the moment, but we don’t know exactly what stores will be there yet.

“We tend to find if people are going to shop in big chain stores like that, they tend to go off the island anyway.”

“It’s got to take away a bit of business from traders, but what can you do against supermarkets?”

CHILDREN CELEBRATE LEARNING IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS



■ Planting area – artist Jo Hartle, Jodie Lane, ten, and Alfie Banks, nine, work on the garden **Picture: MAXINE CLARKE BA43053_01**

PUPILS at a primary school have helped to construct an outdoor classroom area.

Children at Winter Gardens Primary School, in Hilton Road, Canvey, spent the day yesterday putting together the outdoor learning unit, which they also had a hand in designing.

Before construction, the pupils were also asked for their ideas about what they would like to see in the special area. These ideas were then added to the final plans.

Each class was given its own section of the 48m x 25m open-air space to help work on. It will be up to each teacher to decide what lessons will be carried out outdoors.

Locally-sourced materials were used in the work, including seashells from Leigh beach and stones collected by year six pupils three years ago.

The project was run alongside the Royal Opera Creative Partnership, to creative thinking among schoolchildren.

Break-ins: Burglars target farms

FARM owners are urged to stay vigilant following a string of opportunistic raids.

Crooks have targeted three Canvey farmsteads in recent days, breaking into locked sheds and a parked car in the process.

Canvey councillor Jane King discovered her farmyard had been raided when she went to feed her chickens on Monday evening.

The thieves had found nothing to steal but smashed a lock on her chicken shed, which allowed a fox to get in and kill two of the birds.

She said: “It was quite sad. I’d had one of the hens for almost 20 years, and she was one of my favourites.

“I can’t understand it, because there’s nothing of value up there. “You would have thought

they’d have had the manners to close the door behind them, but I suppose that’s the way people are these days.”

A neighbouring farm was also broken into between Sunday night and Monday morning, although nothing was reported stolen.

In a separate incident at 3pm last Sunday, crooks broke into a black Vauxhall Corsa parked in

Monkswick Farm, off Northwick Road, Canvey, while the owner was out riding her horse.

They stole a mobile phone and a handbag containing credit cards.

A police spokeswoman said: “We are looking into these incidents and would urge all farm owners to remain vigilant and report anyone acting suspiciously to the police.”

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