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and joy write off oe's pride ar thieves





Capial Culture bids for Ganet

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thomas.brown@KRNmedia.co.uk By Thomas Brown ailed ex-leader yet to step down from Cliftonville seat

lowing his conviction for misconduct first week behind bars this week folcouncil leader Sandy Ezekiel spent his DISGRACED former Conservative

properties in Margate Old Town. guilty on four charges involving two in prison at Maidstone Crown Court councillor was sentenced to 18 months last Friday after the jury found him The 59-year-old Chitonville East

his sentence for perjury. Sheppey, where former Thanet Confour and half months at HM Prison servative MP Jonathan Aitken served Elmley, a category B jail on the Isle of Ezekiel is expected to serve at least

Hearing



sentence. had 28 days to appeal the conviction or yet to resign from Thanet council and As we went to press, Mr Ezekiel had

result of being sentenced to more than qualified from being a councillor, as a this. If he resigns or is ultimately diswho would also be in a position to do ward (Brian Sullivan and Martin Wise) course two other councillors for the priate council business but there are of period he could conduct any appro-A council spokesman said: "In this

NEW HOME: Elmley prison

to arrange a by-election for May 2." would begin, but he would have to resign by March 25 to make it possible three months, the election If Ezekiel does not resign by March process

be too late to coincide with the May bill for a separate election, as it would 25, the authority would have to foot the believes there needs to be some percounty council elections. Conservative leader group to fight the charges but current Ezekiel stepped down from the Tory Bob Baytord

reflects badly on all councillors. of Thanet council and, by association, undeniable that such a fall from grace spective. serves to further tarmsh the reputation Councillor Bayford said:

been critic

National

councillor positions that carry any sigtion being leader recognised that there are very lew using a position of power but it must be nificant influence, the obvious excep-"There can be no defence for mis-

■ Trial report/reaction pages 4-7 ■ Bayford's view page 16 value to the council. a rank and file councillor is not well service and a belief that they can add the plate do so out of a sense of public paid and most of those stepping up to "Contrary to popular belief, the job of

Street

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self-styled;

won a Gov SINCE SEVEL debate on th Inture of th Richard A later this m Called a say The new This will

in the bid negotiation and is still just £111 of get involve update on Several Key revealed th invite tradi The viab Thanet e

coordinato TOT THE SALE despite ben year's appr

members in or regenera street HAO1 Portas, whe came to file ber schools authorities Margate bu intrusive r TV retail

at Rokka on Thursda

GUILTY: Sandy Ezekiel has been sentenced to 18 and a half months ART YOU

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doom-monors that reconstitue a WE'RE told by the climate-change

right to know that the assets they own council's asset disposal programmo. Quite right. The taxpayors have a THERB'S been a lot of interest in the ly we have to se

The more open this process, becomes, the better. This year, for the first time, we've published a complete list of all the properties the list of the assets scheduled for sale. council owns. We've also published a are going to be sold at the best price.

from some, who really ought to know better. That's a story for another day, the opposition benches. vote. That includes the councillors on block a sale it's worth knowing that but before you sign a polition to the process was passed by manimous Sadly, this has triggored mischlef

for Labour, according to a poll last week, has sunk to the lowest level on Maybe this is why national support

I'm often asked why we need to



of good reasons, and also some sell assets. Well, there are a number

facilities in the area. Thanet's two The good reasons are to fund new swimming pools will largely be lunded by sales.

own, well, more or less, it's going to getting the best out the property we assessing the grant it receives from Westminster. If we're not seen to be assets are taken into account when requirement. The council's capital It's also a central government

> end up on your council tax bill and mine. And that's on top of the real budget round in successive years. terms cuts in funding we've had to

can be turned into much-needed organisations, but make sure we identify what isn't being used and keeping assets for non-profit lecisions. We have to balance This calls for some skilled

Each proposed sale goes out to all councillors, on all sides of the political divide, for comment. Nor is this new Properties, including some very iconic ones, were sold under Labour's last administration. There's no point in going back over which and when. People are simply tired of that stuff. The task is to look ahead. point in the council sitting on patches of land which have value, or other assets which aren't going to get used At the end of the day, there's no

Living tribute to

memory of past villagers. SEVEN trees were planted in Cliffsond last Saturday in

gathered for the tree planting and memorial service led by St Mary's vicar Rev Michael

donated to the people of Cliffsend on a 125-year free Chapman Meadow, which was additions to the Marjorie The trees are the latest

Chapman's mother Marjoric, adio station in the village prominent resident who ran a named the land after Mr

memory of villagers, including one of Cliffsend's first parish councillors John Kellands and the council's first chairman The trees were planted in

were dedicated to. who worked to prepare the ground and said: "It was family member that the trees particularly poignant that Rev Darby talked about each Harrison paid tribute to those "We plan to continue

some seals there, too," the meadow and hope to put planting flowering shrubs in But, while encouraging

treat the meadow with respect people walking their dogs will She said: "I do hope that

seven villagers

Their families and friends

lease by farmer Rob Chapman. Cliffsend Parish Council

Jean Dilliway. Vice-chairman Beryl

caution to dog owners. Clir Harrison gave a word of residents to enjoy the meadow

I'm disappointed that some