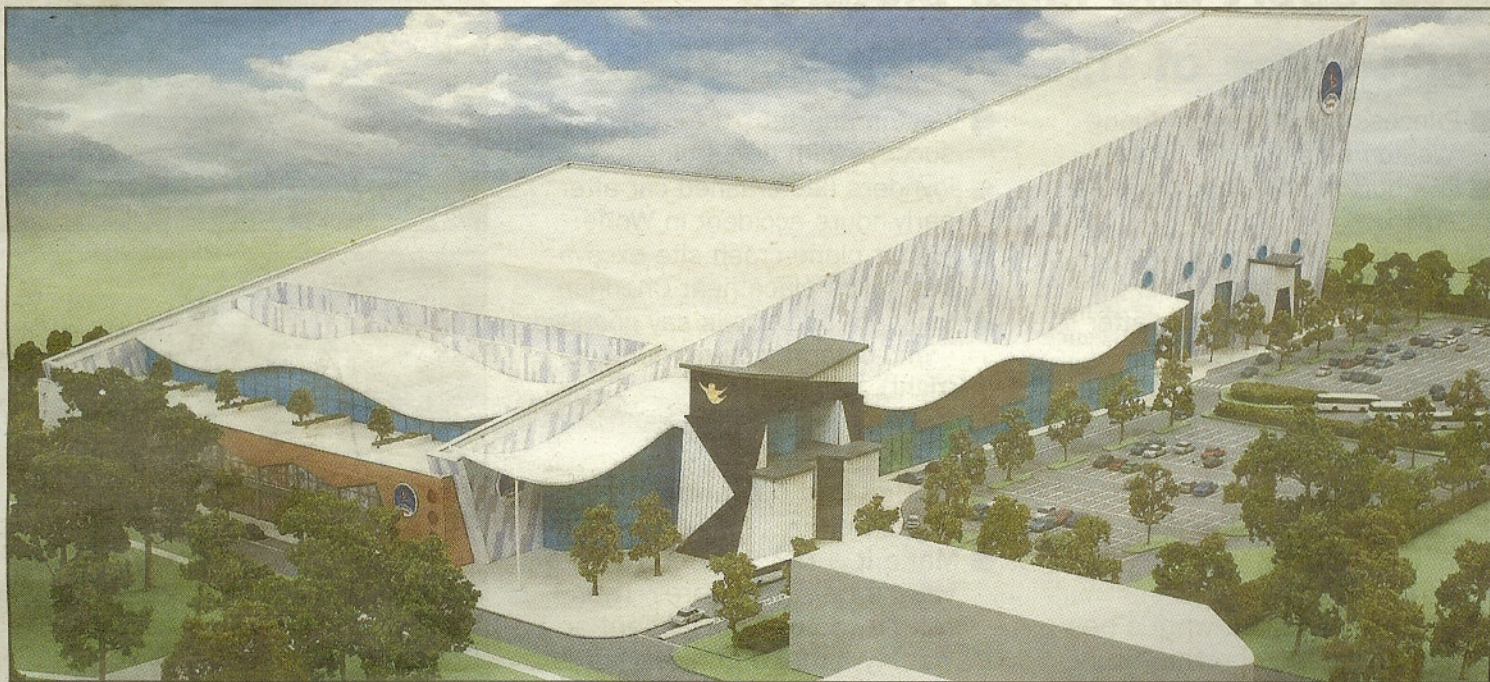


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Go-ahead for Leisuredome

TOWN leaders in Weston have described the approval of a £50million extreme sports attraction as 'a sign of exciting times' for the town.

Leisuredome UK was given the full support of members on North Somerset Council's south area committee at a meeting last Thursday for its proposal for a ski-slope centre.

The centre, called the Leisuredome, will feature a 210metre ski slope, a 40metre high climbing wall, indoor surfing centre and sky-diving simulator.

Built on the former RAF Locking site, it will also include a children's centre, BMX park, gym and shops and restaurants.

The developer, which has appointed Sir Robert McAlpine as contractors, says work

will start on the centre in December, with predicted opening in early 2013.

The plan was given approval by the committee councillors despite concerns over the centre's height, which, at 60metres, will make it the tallest building in North Somerset.

Councillor Elfan Ap Rees said: "Yes, it maybe visible from the M5, but providing the paneling of it is appropriate, I think this will be a good thing.

"It will encourage interest from the road and attract more visitors to the town.

Cllr Mike Bell said: "I think this is frankly a fantastic development and yet another sign of exiting things happening in Weston.

"I think back to when Puxton Park first opened and we followed that with the Grand

Pier and now we are talking about this, the Leisuredome.

"These are exciting times for everyone in the town."

Following approval, Leisuredome UK director, Clive Hamilton-Davies, said: "We're absolutely delighted that planning approval has been granted by the council.

"This decision is a major economic and leisure boost for the West Country and for the town of Weston."

The proposal now just has one more hurdle to get over before work on the site can commence.

It will now be considered by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government before final approval is granted.