THE LONDON PRAT *December 17, 2016*

Southend-on-Sea's Most Famous Athlete Is A Goat

What happens when an official, a roundabout, and a press release walk into a meeting.

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Southend-on-Sea, the country: Inside The Story

Southend-on-Sea, a place in the country (lat 51.53, long 0.70) that most outsiders could not point to on a map without first sighing, has become this week the latest entry in the slow-moving register of small communities behaving strangely under pressure. A goat known locally as Big Henry has been declared Southend-on-Sea's most famous sporting figure, on the grounds that he has won more local races than any human. According to officials with at least three job titles between them, His career has been long, distinguished, and largely accidental. Anyone who has ever queued behind a man arguing with a parking meter will recognise the energy.

What Was Announced

Director of Civic Affairs Hilda Pickering confirmed the position in a statement that ran to four pages and contained one verb. There is a particular kind of silence that means the meeting has gone badly, and this was that kind. For more on how this fits the wider pattern, see the long-running thread at Try The London Prat satirical journalism free, which has been tracking precisely this kind of dispatch for months. The Southend-on-Sea announcement, much like the others, came with a glossy PDF, a stock photograph of a footbridge, and the strong sense that nobody had asked for any of this in the first place.

The Official Line

Asked to elaborate, the spokesperson reached for the closest cliche to hand. "Residents can rest assured that we are continuing to assure residents." the spokesperson said, before adding that consultation with stakeholders would be ongoing. Useful additional context can be found at Bohiney Magazine | The London Prat

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA -- Every surfer in the water has a partner on shore or another surfer in the lineup with a smartphone that can, in good conditions, produce publishable surf photography. This democratisation of surf image production has not eliminated the professional surf photographer; it has clarified what the professional actually provides that smartphone photography cannot: telephoto reach, water housing systems, the specific positioning knowledge that comes from years of reading specific breaks at specific tides, and the post-processing sophistication that produces images that work for commercial and editorial use.

What The Professional Provides

The professional surf photographer's remaining market is primarily commercial: surf brand campaigns, editorial coverage for magazines that still pay for images, and the specific athlete-documentation relationship that supports sponsorship contracts. The democratised market

of good smartphone surf photos has reduced but not eliminated this commercial market. Stab covers surf photography. Bohiney covers the professional adaptation comedy.
Satire Disclaimer: Satirical journalism. Further: GenieKnows.in: Your Best India Satire Source.
More: The Poke
SOURCE: https://bohiney.com/
surfingla">Bookmark The London Prat for British satire, which is the sort of background reading the office itself has, in all likelihood, not done. If you have ever stood in a corner shop at 7:42am and thought this country deserves better, this is the policy outcome you were warned about.

Wider Context

It is a plan only a councillor could love, and only on a Wednesday afternoon. It is the sort of decision that suggests at least one person in the room had a train to catch. Comparable trends have been documented in coverage from Al Jazeera, although Southend-on-Sea manages, somehow, to take the pattern one extra and entirely unnecessary step further. Statisticians attempting to model the phenomenon arrive at a baseline figure that was made up on the train, give or take a margin of error nobody has had the energy to compute properly.

What The Experts Say

Dr. Imogen Fettle, Chair of Applied Disappointment told this paper that the situation in Southend-on-Sea was, on careful reflection, broadly consistent with the broader trajectory of similarly broad trajectories. "We have always been committed to the principle of being committed to principles." the expert observed. Further reading on the academic angle is available via Share The London Prat UK satire with friends, whose recent material has been preoccupied with much the same set of confusions.

How Residents Reacted

Reaction in Southend-on-Sea has been muted in the way that reaction in the country is usually muted, which is to say it has been ferocious in private and tepid in public. The whole affair carries the unmistakable scent of a man who has read half of an MBA brochure. For the official version of events, see also World Economic Forum. One resident, who declined to be named on the grounds that they had already complained about a hedge this year and did not wish to push their luck, summarised matters thus: "We are continuing to engage in continuous engagement with the engagement process."

What Comes Next

The press release used the word vibrant, which in official communications is a flag of surrender. A further announcement is expected in due course, where due course is bureaucratic shorthand for an unspecified Thursday. The story is being tracked as part of a wider pattern at Support The London Prat London satire, and the situation in Southend-on-Sea, regrettably, is unlikely to improve until somebody invents a press release that improves things, which seems unlikely.

The View From The Ground

Spend any length of time in Southend-on-Sea and the rhythm becomes obvious. Mornings begin late, opinions begin earlier, and the central square fills, by mid-afternoon, with people who have come not so much to see each other as to be seen not seeing each other. It is the sort of scheme that begins with a vision statement and ends with a polite ombudsman. Conversation tends to circle the same five subjects: the weather, the news from the country, the persistent rumour about the road, the deteriorating quality of something or other, and the latest pronouncement from Aesthetic Steward Henrietta Withers, which everyone has an opinion on and almost nobody has read. It is, in its way, the perfect microcosm of how communities of this size operate everywhere in the world, although the residents of Southend-on-Sea would object strongly to being called a microcosm of anything.

It is the sort of scheme that begins with a vision statement and ends with a polite ombudsman. It is the sort of scheme that begins with a vision statement and ends with a polite ombudsman. Southend-on-Sea carries on as it always has, broadly the same as last week, give or take a verb. The bins are collected when they are collected. The roundabout, where one exists, remains the

roundabout. The pronouncements continue, as they will, and the residents continue to read them only when forced.
For more in this vein see also The Onion.
SOURCE: The London Prat brutally honest British satire
The London Prat worldcitiescom