

£150m Halal produce park may bring major jobs boost

Post and LC help give club a break

YOUNGSTERS in a Swansea Valley community have taken possession of a new pool table thanks to the LC and the Evening Post.

Bosses from the £32 million city sports complex approached the Post last year to help find a new home for the pool table.

An expansion of the centre's gym meant the equipment could no longer be accommodated at the venue.

Councillor Linet Purcell, who represents the Cefn Llan estate and the Pontardawe area, wrote in to the Post appealing on behalf of the residents to be considered as a possible recipient of the table.

She said: "I was delighted to hear the LC and the Evening Post had selected the youth club to be the recipient of the pool table, and I can assure the LC it has gone to a good home.



GOING POTTY Marion Comaskey and councillor Linet Purcell with Nicholas Wyldman, aged six, Rhian Jones, aged 10, Dale Harris, aged 10, Jordan Wyldman, aged nine, and Akysa Howell, aged seven, with their pool table.

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"I never fall to be impressed by what the small band of very hard-working women from the Residents Association achieve on the estate with very little funds. Marion Comaskey, who is largely responsible for driving the project forward, does some remarkable work

in the community, and I know she is extremely grateful to the LC and the Post for this fantastic pool table."

Nic Beggs, marketing manager at the LC, said: "We're pleased to see the pool table is being appreciated, and taken care of by the Cefn Llan Youth Club."

A £150 MILLION Islamic produce business park could bring a share of 3,000 jobs to the Swansea area.

The UK managing director of Halal Industries is due to meet landowners close to junction 48 of the M4 for discussion on a possible site for the Super Halal Industrial Park.

Mahesh Jayanarayan is on the lookout for around 100 acres of land to house the park, which would be entirely self-contained.

Mr Jayanarayan said: "Wales is already involved in Halal with abattoirs, but what is missing is the contained industrial park.

"We are looking at land around junction 48 on the M4 and the Rhondda Cynon Taf area.

"Retailers in this country are already into Halal products.

Authenticity

"Most of the retailers do not want to use their own brand because they have issues with traceability and authenticity of Halal.

"A park such as this would give that authenticity and credibility, and in a completely contained park where you have certification in-house.

"The products will be certified by Muslims and that will allow a number of chains to get into the sector.

"I will appeal to the Assembly and the Welsh Development Agency to work with us to make this happen. We have approached the Assembly and they have been very helpful."

Halal Industries has held one

BY RUPERT HALL

meeting with the Assembly Government over the project which would provide services such as a storage freezers, a product packing centre and raw material storage manufacturers for food production.

It will also be turning to the Malaysian state of Penang, which has its own Halal-related industries, for advice and development support through the project.

An Assembly spokesman said: "We are aware the company has expressed an interest in investing in Wales and have met them to hear their proposals.

"However, these are tentative proposals at their very early stages of development. As ever, the Assembly will work closely with any company which wishes to invest in Wales."

Swansea Council leader Chris Holley said the local authority had not been approached by Halal Industries, the group behind the project, but said the council would be "on it like a shot" if it received an enquiry.

He said: "The first that any of us knew about it was when we saw it on the news. If we were approached we would be delighted to talk and help in any way we could. We have a number of sites that could be available including Velindre and Cross Hands if food were involved."

Mr Jayanarayan said the project could be replicated across Europe if it was successful in the UK.

● rupert.hall@swmmedia.co.uk