

Odeon sold to leisure company

The former Odeon Cinema in Ipswich, which has been standing empty since autumn 2005, has been sold to Premier Leisure in a complicated deal completed through agents Douglas Duff, part of the Erinaceous Group

PREMIER Leisure plans to re-develop the site as a family leisure complex with a variety of entertainment and sporting facilities including a bowling alley, indoor play and activity areas for children, specialist sports bars and night clubs, and even a spacious arena suitable for product launches and boxing tournaments.

"It is very satisfying to see the iconic Odeon building being put to good use once more," said Vanessa Penn of Douglas Duff's Ipswich office. "It stands in the town centre on the edge of Ipswich's 'golden mile', and local businesses have been looking for a scheme to regenerate their rather neglected area. So this is, literally, a ship-shape boost to the town's economy!"

When the multi-screen Odeon closed, the distinctive nautical-style building, which extends to 29,900 sq ft (2,870 sq m) on a site of 0.38 acres, was sold to Colwyn Developments Ltd. After extensive discussions and meetings with local architects and planners, the company formulated a plan to make the best and most practical use of the building. As a result, purchasers Premier Leisure obtained the necessary planning permission and consents for an exciting multi-use leisure-orientated facility.

A spokesman for Colwyn Developments commented: "I am absolutely delighted this landmark building is to be put to such an exciting and beneficial use.

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The Ipswich Odeon.

businesses so it's good news for local traders. The former Odeon benefits from a prime location and is conveniently positioned for the town centre, the waterfront and the new University complex which is due to open in the near future. Certainly, Ipswich needs more leisure facilities for its growing number of residents and visitors."

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An economic success for Suffolk

ORION Business Park at Great Blakenham, is one of the most successful trading site in mid Suffolk. Since planning permission was granted in early 2000 this development has steadily progressed and is now virtually fully occupied and contributing significantly to the economic well being of the area.

Braceforce Sales Director, John Di Carlo commented: "We now have more than 20 businesses based in Orion Business Park and their combined turnover exceeds £300m. These include Medite Logistics, Magnus Group, Town FM, Foot Function Clinic, KeConnect and RS Scan Labs to name a few. Equally important for the economy of this area is that these businesses directly employ over 250 people. There are also numerous other companies supplying products and services to these businesses that are also benefiting from this development. The

support we have had from Mid Suffolk District Council has been quite exceptional. Their ability to recognise from the outset the economic potential for this development has been the catalyst for the success of Orion Court."

He added: "When you discuss with the businesses that occupy Orion Business Park they are all unanimous in their reasons for locating here. The easy access to the A14 comes high on the list, as does the quality of the building specification. It has always been our policy to build to the highest standards as this satisfies customer expectations. This combined with the unique architectural style of the buildings has created a very pleasant operational environment. This I believe is a testimony to why we have achieved nearly full occupancy in just over two years."



John Di Carlo, right, with visitors to Orion Business Park.