

# Packham hits out at homes

WILDLIFE presenter Chris Packham has lashed out at plans to build 5,000 homes in countryside near where he grew up as "a grotesque act of eco-vandalism".

The BBC Springwatch host, 56, said developing the rural area near Eastleigh, Hants, was a "vanity of short-term thinking".

He urged council chiefs to consider available brownfield sites instead.

But Keith House of Eastleigh Borough Council insisted: "We're committed to getting the right homes in the right places."

# Pants only taxi man ban

A LABOUR councillor caught at the wheel in just pants was banned from working as a taxi driver.

Gurpal Atwal, 45, also made racist comments and had unlicensed drivers at his firm, a court heard.

Atwal, councillor for Oadby and Wigston in Leicester, said: "I am not a racist. They [the statements] were all fabricated to discredit my character."

Loughborough magistrates refused to renew Atwal's taxi licence, saying

DMIST

# Leah rolled the dice with a 'legal high' & paid ultimate price

## Parents warn of drug danger as their girl, 15, dies



**BY ADAM HASTWELL**  
THE 15-year-old girl who died after taking a "legal high" knew the danger but thought she was invincible, her family said.

Loved ones said Leah Kerry "rolled the dice" by taking a new psychoactive substance with two friends on a night out.

They hope her story will prevent other teenagers taking the same fatal chance.

Leah fell unconscious at 4am in a park but could not be saved in hospital. Two other girls survived after treatment for taking the same drug, formerly classed as a legal high.

The teens' family released a statement through police saying: "Leah had the benefit of good information and advice at various intervals of her adolescent life and was well aware of the nature of different illicit substances and the risks."

"Sadly, despite being well aware of the risks, she thought she was invincible and she rolled the dice and has paid the ultimate price."

"If there are any young people who have known Leah, or who have heard about her story, I would urge them on Leah's behalf to not make the same mistake."

### CARING

Leah had been living with her family in Salisbury, Wiltshire, but returned often to visit friends in Torquay, Devon.

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