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- Watchdog admits MP is right on dumped addicts
- Solution to Junction 21 misery 'by early next year'
- Minister promises flood protection for Congresbury Yeo

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The Gazette

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Fire guts pier but Weston is still super



MP John Penrose has praised local residents and businesses for rallying together after the shocking fire that ripped through the Grand Pier. Despite the fire, more people visited Weston than anywhere else in the country this summer

John said: "The Grand Pier is one of the icons of Weston. Anybody who has ever visited the town or lives here permanently

has probably strolled along the board walk eating candy floss to play on the amusements at the far end.

"The fire was a real tragedy, but the town took it in its stride and proved that Weston's spirit cannot be broken. It's amazing that the pier was open again just four days after the fire, and that the clear up has already begun. The owners have pledged to rebuild the pier immediately

■ John Penrose MP viewing plans for the new pier with chief architect Bob Hartland

and everyone in Weston is right behind them.

"That's not the only good news either. If you add up all the

renovation and new building that's happening on our seafront, from Knightstone Island to the promenade, the Pier and the Tropicana, Weston's regeneration

is picking up speed. There's still a long way to go, but we're moving forward at last. It's what local people have been wanting for years."



■ John Penrose meeting concerned residents outside Weston's Citizen Advice Bureau

MP turns up the heat on Energy Prices

With winter fast approaching, MP John Penrose has called on the Government to help local people with skyrocketing energy prices

John said: "We're all suffering from massively increased fuel bills and most people are, quite rightly, seriously worried whether they will be able to afford to stay warm this winter.

"The Government have come up with a package but it will only help half a million people across the entire country. That's only a small percentage of the poorest and most vulnerable people in fuel poverty.

"I believe we could do more. Poorer households have to use expensive prepayment meters for their gas and electricity bills because they either can't afford to pay regular monthly bills or don't have bank accounts. If we let people use their Post Office Card Accounts to pay utility bills by direct debit instead, they could get the same lower energy and water prices as everyone else. That would save each of them up to £100 a year on average. There'd be an extra bonus as well, because it would protect thousands of local Post Offices from any Government plans to close them in future too".

John Penrose MP - Working for you all year round