

Minutes

Braintree Swimming Centre Sub-Group

16 August 2007



Present:

Members	Present
Councillor Anthony F Shelton (Chairman)	Yes
Councillor G Butland	Yes
Councillor Mrs Wendy Schmitt	Yes
Councillor Anthony V E Everard	Yes
Councillor Eric R Lynch	Yes

Braintree Swimming Centre Team		Present
Charmaine Dean (CD)	Head of Public Protection & Healthy Living	Yes
Barry Mills (BM)	Architects & Building Services Manager	Yes
Taiwo Ajayi (TA)	Community Manager (Leisure & Health)	Yes

Apologies:

None

In Attendance	
Allan Reid (AR)	Chief Executive
Councillor Dr Robert L Evans	

MINUTES/ MATTERS ARISING

DECISION: That the minutes of the meeting of the Braintree Swimming Centre Sub-Group held on 2 August 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor Lynch reiterated collection of souvenirs at Riverside.

PROGRESS OF BUILD

Progress

Members noted the progress of the build.

Labour on site and work being actioned

Councillor Shelton asked if there had been an improvement in labour working time, as, if not, this could be used as evidence of time delay. BM confirmed that a strong reminder has been issued to the Contractor to complete works on time, and this is being monitored closely.

Fun pool equipment

Councillor Lynch was concerned that the equipment had not been ordered to date and asked why, as it was in the original contract budget for it to be built. BM stated at the value engineering stage the funds for the fun pool was taken out of the budget and transferred to other works.

BM advised the earliest installation date for the fun pool equipment would be the New Year.

Members agreed that the order should be placed immediately and in the interim for officers to arrange temporary fun pool equipment to be installed.

Official Opening

It was agreed for a small opening to the public in November with an official opening for mid-February 2008 when all the fun pool equipment will be installed. CD will provide a report on any concessions and cost implications relating to the opening for the next meeting. **CD**

Renaming Pool

Members agreed for the Head of Public Protection & Healthy Living to have discussions with Freeport site owners on renaming the pool to Freeport Pool. **CD**

FINANCIAL UPDATE

DCL Proposal

The new pool is considerably larger than Riverside and there will be increased energy and staffing resources required. Current proposals from DCL have shown an additional budget requirement. BDC and DCL are discussing terms, and to minimise costs members agreed to a price increase of Adult £3.50 and pro-rata other groups. No price increase for clubs. Members also agreed these prices would be frozen for 18 months. This is subject to agreement with DCL, with a full retrospective review of income and costs to be conducted by March 2009.

Freeport has indicated increased service charges but these are subject to further negotiation with Freeport site owners.

In addition, BDC has appointed an external consultant from Strategic Leisure to give an independent assessment of DCL's proposals. DCL has been consulted and has given their permission to proceed. This should be complete by 30 August.

DCL Proposal for new gym

Members agreed to new gym facilities proposed by DCL at Braintree Leisure Centre, subject to final terms agreed for the operation of pool.

Creche Facility at Pool

Members agreed that no crèche facility should be created at the new pool and the space allocated be utilised for other purposes to raise further income. There is clear evidence that usage for such a facility would be very low and will not be cost effective. CD will discuss with DCL. **CD**

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Lynch asked about art display as BDC policy. CD informed the group that this had been looked at with the Cultural Services Manager. The artwork proposed was too costly and inappropriate. Councillor Shelton suggested getting local children to come up with some ideas for the formal opening, and perhaps having a competition. CD will take this forward. **CD**

DECISIONS: That it be recommended to Cabinet:

- (1) That members agreed for the Head of Public Protection & Healthy Living to have discussions with Freeport site owners on renaming the pool to Freeport Pool;
- (2) Swimming prices are increased for adults to £3.50 and pro rata for other groups (excluding clubs) to March 09;
- (3) That Cabinet support, as part of the 08/09 budget process a contingency sum to meet the additional operational costs of the new pool subject to further discussions with DCL, and between BDC and Freeport site owners regarding service charges;
- (4) DCL are allowed to invest and develop a new gym facility at Braintree Leisure Centre subject to final agreement with the Council for the operation of the new pool;
- (5) That no crèche facility be created at the new pool and the space allocated be utilised for other purposes to raise further income.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

INFORMATION: after 15 September, 7.30 am – Causeway House - TBA

Councillor A F Shelton
(Chairman)