

TO: **ECONOMIC OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 20<sup>TH</sup> July 2004**

SUBJECT: **SWIMMING POOL PROGRAMME REVIEW**

FROM: **LEISURE AND AMENITIES**

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1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To consider changes to the swimming programmes at the District's pools in order to deliver an effective and varied range of swimming activities.

2. **BACKGROUND**

2.1 The districts swimming pools operate a programme of activities and sessions which are designed to appeal to a broad range of users. The programme includes a large number of "open sessions" for members of the public to turn up and swim, schools swimming, adult and junior lessons, and club bookings for swimming, canoeing, sub aqua etc. Members of the public are able to book the pools for childrens birthday parties and a limited number of special events take place at the pools each year including the national Swimathon fundraising event, local and regional galas and church fun days.

2.2 Officers keep the programme under ongoing review in order to continue to maximize participation and increase the effectiveness of the services we deliver. Two years ago members approved some small changes which are now integrated into the current programme. In making the recommendations included in this report, officers have considered their pool timetables in the light of customer comments and levels of usage of the pools. A number of proposals for alterations to the programme were summarized in a consultation document for users during May and June 2004. The results of the consultation (Appendix 1) have lead officers to make the following recommendations:

2.3 Abbey Fields Swimming Pool

2.3.1 Alteration of the start time for public swimming on a Monday from 2.45pm to 3pm.  
*Rationale:* to avoid a clash with a school in the changing areas.  
100% of consultees were either in favour or had no views.

2.3.2 Introduction of a Splosh fun session Mondays 4 – 5pm in school holidays.  
*Rationale:* Currently no "childrens fun sessions" on a Monday at this pool  
95% of consultees were either in favour or had no views

2.3.3 Open the outdoor pool at 12 noon Mon – Thurs during summer  
*Rationale:* to coincide with indoor pool times.  
100% of consultees were either in favour or had no views

2.3.4 Introduce Sunday Splosh 11.40am – 12.40pm.  
*Rationale:* No other pool in the district offers a Splosh session at this time  
82% of consultees were either in favour or had no views

## 2.4 Newbold Comyn Leisure Centre

- 2.4.1 Add a further Ducklings class (pre school children) in the Leisure pool on a Friday afternoon.

*Rationale:* A very popular class currently runs on Saturday teatime. This new class would increase the capacity for further youngsters to attend.

91% of consultees were either in favour or had no views.

- 2.4.2 Add a further Water Babies session in the Leisure pool Mondays 10 – 11am.

*Rationale:* To build on the success of a similar Friday session and increase the capacity for further youngsters to attend

86% of consultees were either in favour or had no views.

- 2.4.3 Introduce a lane rope into the Main pool during a weekend.

*Rationale:* To offer swimmers the opportunity during a weekend to swim lengths in the main pool which is often relatively quiet at these times (whilst the leisure pool is often full to capacity)

82% of consultees were either in favour or had no views. There was however some strong opposition to there being a lane rope in the pool **all** weekend. Officers will consider which sessions are most appropriate and trial some options in the coming months.

## 2.5 St Nicholas Park Leisure Centre

- 2.5.1 Start Public swimming at 1.10pm on a Saturday instead of the existing 2pm.

*Rationale:* Offers a further 50 mins swimming at a time when there is no other pool open in the district.

94% of consultees were either in favour or had no views.

- 2.5.2 Change the times of the pool party on a Saturday to 5.50 – 6.50pm rather than 5.40 – 6.40pm.

*Rationale:* Related to recommendation 2.5.3 – the extra 10 minutes would be required for set up and public to vacate the changing rooms.

96% of consultees were either in favour or had no views.

- 2.5.3 Change Splosh from 2 – 3pm to 4.30 – 5.30pm on a Saturday.

*Rationale:* To avoid a clash with the popular Splosh session at Newbold Comyn and to attract more users.

89% of consultees were either in favour or had no views.

- 2.6 Proposals to introduce a Sunday Splosh session at Newbold Comyn and to alter the 50+ session by 10 minutes at St Nicholas Park Leisure Centre to introduce a new junior class received strong opposition from customers and therefore are not being pursued at this time.

## 3. **POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK**

- 3.1 The Corporate Strategy includes targets to increase participation in sports and physical activity and to contribute to promote a healthier community (CO.5.2 and CO.3.3). The Leisure and Amenities Service Plan includes a target of achieving 60% of residents participating in sport or physical activity in facilities or through activities run or supported by the Council by 2007, and a target of maintaining swimming attendances at current levels despite recent declining trends.

**4. OUTCOME(S) REQUIRED**

4.1 Before the arrangements are finalised by Officers under delegated powers, comments from the Committee would be welcome.

Rose Winship  
Sports Facilities Manager

**BACKGROUND PAPERS:** Nil

**Areas in District Affected:** All.

**Executive Portfolio Area and Holder:** Cultural Services – Cllr Cheryl Flanagan

**For further information about this report please contact:**

Contact Officer: Rose Winship  
Tel: (01926) 456223 (Direct Line)  
E-Mail: [rose.winship@warwickdc.gov.uk](mailto:rose.winship@warwickdc.gov.uk)

**Results of Pool Programme Consultation (April/May 2004)****Abbey Fields Swimming Pool**

Proposal 1: Change in Monday public swimming times

Total Responses:	58
In favour	70%
No views	30%
Against	0%

Proposal 2: Sunday Splosh

Total Responses:	58
In favour	48%
No views	34%
Against	18%

Proposal 3: Monday Splosh in holidays

Total Responses:	57
In favour	51%
No views	44%
Against	5%

Proposal 4: Outdoor pool opening times

Total Responses:	57
In favour	70%
No views	30%
Against	0%

**Newbold Comyn Leisure Centre**

Proposal 1: Sunday Splosh

Total Responses:	69
In favour	29%
No views	50%
Against:	21%

Proposal 2: Ducklings class

Total responses:	64
In favour	43%
No views	47%
Against	10%

Proposal 3: Lane swimming at weekends

Total responses:	64
In favour	60%
No views	22%
Against	18%

Proposal 4: New Water Babies Class

Total Responses:	57
In favour	37%
No views	49%
Against	14%

**St Nicholas Park Leisure Centre**

Proposal 1: New 4yrs+ class

Total Responses:	46
In favour	48%
No views	41%
Against	11%

Proposal 2: Saturday swimming times

Total Responses	47
In favour	70%
No views	24%
Against	6%

Proposal 3: Change Splosh times

Total Responses	46
In favour	39%
No views	50%
Against	11%

Proposal 4: Change Pool Party time

Total Responses:	47
In favour	30%
No views	66%
Against	4%