

Morley Leisure Centre Working Group

**Minutes from meeting held on Monday 14th January 2008
6 – 8pm**

Present:

Ray Ashcroft, Area Manager
Helen Evans, Sport PFI Manager
Ben Kearton, Assistant Project Manager
Sharon Gard, Centre Manager
Katy Elliott, Disability Sports Development Officer
Janet Fox, Community Sports Development Officer
Roger Boyde, Media Relations Officer
Cllr Grayshon
Cllr Finnigan

Representatives from the following groups –

2 x Leisure Centre staff
1 x Monday Owls
3 x Thursday Owls
3 x Freedivers
2 x swimming club
1 x Midway Watersports
8 x users / residents

1. Ray Ashcroft introduced the meeting and thanked the people who attended the last working group. He outlined the facilities now included in the plans and emphasised that the facilities were now fixed and for reasons of low usage and cost, the squash, and sauna will not be included in the plans.

1.1. Questions were raised regarding:

1.2. The diving pool. It was confirmed that there is no diving pool in the plans due to the recently opened Aquatics Centre being nearby. Sharon Gard is to contact the centre manager at the Aquatics Centre to discuss fitting the Morley diving clubs in here.

1.3. If it is possible to add facilities at a later date – this is possible after the building has been built, dependant on available funding.

2. Ben Kearton updated on the project:

- 2.1. development of the plans
- 2.2. planning approval due this summer
- 2.3. New Project Procedure stage 1 (NPP1) approval due in February
- 2.4. NPP2 with more detailed designs due in March
- 2.5. contract signed in late summer 2008
- 2.6. contractors due on site in late summer 2008

- 2.7. Current building closing in late summer 2008. New centre to open in early 2010
 - 2.8. the plans shown tonight were outline plans and showed the layout of facilities, but the detail is still to be finalised and the more detailed plans will be brought to the next meeting on 10th March
3. Sharon Gard updated the group on her proposals to relocate users during the closure period:
 - 3.1. She highlighted that these are only proposals and she will be arranging meetings to go through individual group requirements over the next 4 – 6 weeks
 - 3.2. The 6 main sites looked at are South Leeds, Middleton, Kippax, Rothwell, Morley High School and John Charles Centre for Sport.
 - 3.3. At South Leeds Sports Centre, they will be extending their opening hours to accommodate the additional amount of customers wanting to use their facilities. The centre will be open from 7.30am till 10.30pm 6 days a week and with an earlier close on a Saturday. This can be achieved as a percentage of Morley's staff will be transferring down to South Leeds during the period of closure of Morley L C.
 - 3.4. Middleton L C is able to accommodate some five a side, some fitness classes, striker classes, gym minis and gyminkins classes.
 - 3.5. Kippax L C will hopefully be able to accommodate the gymnastics programme. Various sites had been approached but it was felt the whole programme should go to one site due to the instructors, the equipment and the availability. Time slots were better at Kippax.
 - 3.6. Morley High School is a possible venue for some block bookings.
 - 3.7. The John Charles Centre for Sport is extending its Bodyline gym
 - 3.8. Rothwell Sports Centre has a 110 station gym.
 - 3.9. South Leeds Sports Centre has a small unmanned gym at the moment but this will be changed to a manned gym where inductions, programmes etc can be undertaken on a more regular basis.
 - 3.10. Lessons. (Swimming, striker, gymnastics). Sharon will be speaking to parents regarding their preference of centre during the closure.
 - 3.11. Currently it is possible to relocate approximately 85% of the programme, depending on user preferences.
 - 3.12. Swimming – much of the programme can be accommodated at the Aquatics centre and South Leeds Sports Centre with casual swimming being available at a number of centres across the city.
 4. The working group looked at specific areas on:
 - 4.1. Site layout and landscaping:
 - 4.1.1. Minimise the landscaping and amount of trees in the car park – security issue and to allow as much parking space as possible
 - 4.1.2. The PFI team were asked to consider the extension of the car park towards the main park area. There are still issues regarding parking across the road at Morrison's.

This issue has been looked at and we are not able to build nearer the park area. Architects are aware of the car parking issues and have worked to include as many spaces as possible on the site – more than on the current site

- 4.1.3. Look at thinning trees at the rear of the centre as this has been a bit of a drug issue here in the past
- 4.1.4. The large expanse of wall opposite the car park. Don't want a plain wall e.g. breeze block. Can this be made a feature perhaps using dry stone from a locally sourced supplier Whitkirk?
This area is subject to change within the plans as the landscaping is finalized. The finish for this area has also not been finalized and requires planning approvals; however, the option of local stone may have to be precluded due to cost.
- 4.1.5. Public crossing – can it go into a proper path – rather than just end at the pavement. Pelican crossing preferred. HE explained that we had to wait for guidance from highways and would need to source further funding for a crossing to reduce the burden on the leisure centre budget.
- 4.1.6. Seating area needed for people waiting outside the centre. E.g. waiting to be picked up meeting area
- 4.1.7. Direction of path from leisure centre to town centre queried – needs to be more direct.

4.2. Inside facility layout:

- 4.2.1. Would there be food allowed on poolside? – this would be determined by the centre manager
- 4.2.2. Spectator seating on poolside. Is 100 too many? This has already been reduced from the proposed 150 seats.
- 4.2.3. Mustering for competitors in galas. Is there enough room on poolside? It was suggested that the small pool surround is used. Dimensions of pool surrounds to be confirmed at the next meeting
- 4.2.4. More cubicles required in dryside and group changing rooms
- 4.2.5. Discrete showering required in wetside changing
- 4.2.6. Extra disabled change required. Only 1 on plans – should be 2 dryside and 2 wetside
- 4.2.7. Storage for owl's equipment required. Also for 4 TT tables. To be discussed with centre manager
- 4.2.8. Give figures on how many toilets are in each area. Also cubicles /showers. So when public view the plans it is clearer – to be provided at the next meeting
- 4.2.9. Illustrate how many stations are in gym – to be provided at next meeting
- 4.2.10. include individual areas dimensions on the plans so the public viewing the drawings can fully appreciate the size of the centre– to be provided at next meeting
- 4.2.11. Query re: energy saving measures – what do we have – too early to say at this stage – the team will update the group when the options come through
- 4.2.12. Bar/café – can this cater for 70 owls? Yes, if using catering area and multi purpose room
- 4.2.13. Assurance was required on how much wet side storage would be available; in particular would there be the provision to store clubs equipment as they do currently? Storage is to Sport England recommendations. Centre manager to confirm position on storage of club equipment

4.2.14. Would there be any benefit on providing storage under the pool hall seating? *This query was passed to our technical team who have confirmed that the under seating area was part of the ventilation system so not available for storage*

4.2.15. Is there the ability to separate the learner pool from the main pool? If not, then they could not be used at the same time if the main pool is scheduled for water polo due to the ball going into the small pool. The pools will be separated, but the method (fence / wall etc) has not yet been established – we will feed this information back at the next meeting

5. Any other business:

5.1 Further consideration to be made of energy saving measures

5.2 When displaying plans to public - emphasise that these are indicative drawings- not set in stone, although the facility mix has now been set.

6. Ray Ashcroft thanked the group for their work. The plans will be updated and brought back to the group at the next meeting

7. Helen Evans asked the group if they can make sure she has the up to date contact details for minutes / information to be sent through

Date of next meeting: Monday 10th March 2008 6 – 8pm