

**LETCHWORTH COMMITTEE
8 MARCH 2017**

PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT

AGENDA ITEM No.

9

TITLE OF INFORMATION NOTE: NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE LEISURE CENTRE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

INFORMATION NOTE OF THE HEAD OF LEISURE & ENVIRONMENT

This note provides an update for Members on the North Hertfordshire Leisure Centre Development Project.

GENERAL PROJECT UPDATE

Construction work began on-site in April 16. Initial ground work investigations necessitated a ten week delay that related to remedial works to drains and cabling not identified prior to commencement of contract. The project is now due to be complete in Summer 17.

Recent usage figures show there has been a slight reduction in the use of the facility; the two areas mainly affected being the swimming pool and sports hall. Taking into consideration the scale and duration of the project this reduction has been minimal (3%).

A full update of the key project areas has been provided below and photos of progress are provided in appendix 1;

Car Parking

The car park improvements are now complete and open to users of all facilities. The project was funded by North Hertfordshire District Council, Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation and Letchworth Rugby Club. The project was delivered on time and within budget.

Wet Changing Rooms

The refurbishment of the swimming pool changing rooms has been completed. The works included a full strip out all items and the facility now provides a modern attractive changing facility for our users.

Following completion of the changing rooms we identified the need for some additional features that were not included in the original specification. A key item being a vanity unit for both male and female changing rooms, we are in the process of designing this with the aim to install by May 17.

Sports Hall Refurbishment

The lighting has been replaced with new LED lighting improving the customer experience. The old Granwood floor has been removed and new Gransprung/ Granwood floor tiles laid. These are currently in position awaiting sanding, line marking and sealing. Once this has been completed, new rebound barriers will be installed and the curtains and equipment re-instated.

The sports hall will re-open on Monday 3rd April 2017.

Learner Pool

The main structure of the teaching pool has now been constructed and treated with a specialist coating to protect it against the corrosive nature of the pool environment.

Concreting of the learner pool has been completed and water testing carried out, the pool surround area and the brickwork can now commence.

Hoarding is being erected in the existing pool hall to keep the construction site separate from the pool hall to ensure the main pool can stay open throughout the project.

The current programme indicates that the learner pool will be completed towards the end of the summer.

Café, Kitchen, Multi-Purpose Room & Staff Offices

The steel structure is in place for the new cafe and work has been undertaken to the centre's IT and communication infrastructure within this area. As with the pool area, the next phase of construction for the Café is the bricking and glazing of the area. Once the new area is completed, the existing Café will be closed to the public, and this area will be converted to a multi-purpose room. Work to the new multi-purpose room and staff officers is due to commence in May 17.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The Council's website provides information on the background and progress on this project at <http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/home/leisure/leisure-centres/north-herts-leisure-centre-development>

Vaughan Watson
Head of Leisure & Environment.

Vaughan.watson@north-herts.gov.uk
Tel: 01462 474641

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