

## Ware Town Council: Motions and Resolutions re Lido Project phase 2

The purpose of this report is to summarise the key decision points related to the phase 2 Lido refurbishment in particular decisions around the changing rooms and to agree the next steps.

### 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024 Full Council

The Lido Project Group (LPG) working with the project manager created three options for consideration based on the specification approved at the March Full Council meeting (Minute reference WTC723)

**Resolved:** To approve the outline specification, to be managed by the Clerks Office/ Single storey refurbishment.

- *There is a need for Improved drainage across whole site - all of the drains/toilets are easily blocked*
- *Higher roof/ shape that is less easy to break into/get over for trespassers*
- *Increased Access to poolside – there currently isn't any which means its difficult to get plant equipment/machinery to the pool if needed*
- *Changing Village / Mixed sex changing with Cubicles and cubicled showers*
- *More showers*
- *Sauna*
- *Smaller front office*
- *Need for toilets separate to changing rooms to facilitate whatever else goes into the building*
- *Cleaning cupboard(s)*
- *Storage facilities*
- *Function room/mixed use room about the same size as the current*
- *Treatment rooms – e.g. sports massage, physiotherapy*
- *Vending Machines- coffee?*
- *Solar Panels- potentially to help with power/utilities*
- *Whatever we do must be eco friendly - we do not want to use Gas in the new building, all the walls must be insulated, if we use electricity it must be subsidised by ASHP and Solar PV.*
- *Building should be able to achieve a B rating (excluding existing plant room)*
- *Potential for a gym*
- *Reduced circulation- lots of dead space/corridors*

The options based around the provision of Changing Village / Mixed sex changing with Cubicles and cubicled showers plus one of three options detailed below

- Treatment rooms
- Studio space (for exercise or social events)
- Gym

Drawings were created by the project manager / architect and were used as the basis for the public consultation online and onsite 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

### Survey results

The survey produced the following results which were considered by the LPG.

Question 1: Do you support Ware Town Council making further investment in the future of the lido ?

Yes= 333 , No = 4

Question 2 : Do you support our plans to expand what services are on offer at the lido to help cover its operating costs?

Yes = 331 No = 6

Question 3: One of our proposed plans is for private cubicles for showering and changing, within a mixed sex changing village. Do you support this new way of operating?

Yes =232 No= 103

Question 4: Would the lack of a single sex changing area stop you visiting the lido?

No = 254, Yes= 79

Question 5: Do you think we should consider having a sauna?

Yes = 220 , No = 112

Question 6: How much would you pay to visit a sauna as a standalone facility?

£6-£10 = 101 , Less than £5 =90 , £11+ = 3

Question 7: Do you think we should consider having a gym?

No = 236 , Yes = 98

Question 8 =If we had a gym, what equipment would you like to see in there? Free text

Question 9 = If we had a gym what monthly fee do you think would be an acceptable charge?

Less than £25 = 89 , £25-£30 = 67 , £36-£40 = 43 , Over £40 = 5

Question 10= Do you think we should consider having a multi use studio type space?

Yes = 208 , No = 124

Question 11= What activities would you like to see us offer in a studio space? Free text

Question 12= Do you think we should have some treatment rooms which could be hired out by practitioners for sports therapy/physiotherapy/sports massage?

Yes = 207 , No = 122

Question 13 =What kind of treatment rooms do you think we should explore? Free text

Question 14 =Please rate the below options in order of your favourite proposal?

Sauna 1<sup>st</sup> = 160 , Studio 1<sup>st</sup> = 75 , Treatment 1<sup>st</sup> = 54 , Gym 1<sup>st</sup> = 38

Question 15 = How do you normally travel to the lido?

Car = 179 , Foot = 116 , Bike = 29 , Bus = 4

Question 16 = If you drive, where do you normally park?

Free text analysis by AI: Common Themes:

- Strong desire to maintain the core swimming pool/lido experience and community feel, without losing the charm and affordability
- Improving changing rooms, showers, and bathroom facilities is a top priority
- Mixed views on mixed gender vs single-sex changing areas, but many want single-sex options preserved
- Interest in adding a sauna/steam room, especially for winter/cold water swimming
- Some support for a basic cafe/snack bar, but differing opinions on having a full restaurant
- Parking and accessibility are important considerations
- Various suggestions for kid/family friendly additions like splash areas, soft play, etc.
- Both support and opposition towards adding a gym - some see it as redundant with nearby gyms

#### Other Notable Suggestions:

- Studio spaces for classes like yoga, aerobics
- Therapy/treatment rooms
- Heated pool for winter months
- Open later in evenings during summer
- Events, fun activities like aqua aerobics, races
- Partnerships with groups like swim clubs
- Environmentally-friendly initiatives

Overall, there seems to be an eagerness to enhance amenities in a thoughtful way that complements rather than overshadows the core lido experience. Modernise changing areas and adding opt-in extras like saunas appears broadly supported, but there are differing views on larger additions like gyms. Maintaining affordability and accessibility emerges as important considerations as well.

#### **Feedback from the LPG**

The LPG met on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024 immediately before the Full Council meeting and agreed the key points to be confirmed by Full Council at the meeting on the same day. On the basis that the recommendation from the LPG did not include any significant changes from the March Full Council meeting the proposals were put to council for ratification.

Key points:

Focus on changing village rather than single sex changing

Focus on inclusion of studio space

Introduce a sauna

Do not include Café / Gym / Treatment rooms

**20th May 2024 Full Council**

On the basis that the recommendation from the LPG did not include any significant changes from the March Full Council meeting the proposals were put to council for ratification.

During the meeting the issue of the Changing Village was debated with varied views from Councillors present.

In hindsight the any resolution should have been deferred to a future meeting as its inclusion failed to meet the following elements from the Ware Standing Orders adopted on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

#### **RULES OF DEBATE AT MEETINGS**

- a Motions on the agenda shall be considered in the order that they appear unless the order is changed at the discretion of the chairman of the meeting.

There was no motion on the agenda for the revised scheme, the agenda stated

#### **WTC770: Feedback from members of Ware Lido Project group (TP/TD)**

To receive verbal feedback from the LPG following their meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

#### **PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS**

- a A resolution shall not be reversed within six months except either by a special motion, which requires written notice by at least 6 councillors to be given to the Proper Officer in accordance with standing order 9, or by a motion moved in pursuance of the recommendation of a committee or a sub-committee.
- b When a motion moved pursuant to standing order 7(a) has been disposed of, no similar motion may be moved for a further six months.

There was no request to reverse the decision made at the March Full Council meeting.

At the Ful Council meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> May the following resolutions were passed (minute reference WTC770)

**Resolved:** To instruct the architect to work on 1 x Male 1x Female changing plus family changing be adopted.

Proposed to have a sauna at the Lido, options to site to be agreed with the project manager.

**Resolved:** To have a sauna at the Lido site

Proposed: To include a studio / function room

**Resolved:** To brief the architect to include a studio / function room

Proposed: To include treatment rooms

**Resolved:** To brief the architect to include treatment rooms

Proposed to not include a café and gym

**Resolved:** to not include a café and gym

A subsequent meeting with the project manager led to a meeting of the LPG plus additional councillors on 28<sup>th</sup> May where it was informally agreed to work on the basis of a changing village and not the 1 x Male 1x Female changing plus family changing.

To change the decision the council will need to debate the matter again, to facilitate this 6 councillors need to write to me (email is OK) asking for the resolution to be reversed. This will allow the proposal to be debated again at Full Council and put to new vote. The details from the Standing Orders are detailed below. If this is the intent of councillors please write to the Clerk by 5<sup>th</sup> June.

Despite an agreement at the meeting with the architect that six councillors would write to the clerk to request that the issue of changing rooms was redebated and a decision made at the June Full Council meeting (or other meeting tbc) six councillors have not submitted a request. This request would not reverse any decision but merely allow the issue to be debated and a resolution agreed.

### **Proposed next steps**

On the basis that the resolutions passed at the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024 did not appear on the agenda the decision should be regarded as void.

The initial decision at the March 2024 meeting and the agreement at the 28<sup>th</sup> May 2024 meeting with the architect should be discussed by Full Council with a view to submitting a planning application. Agenda item WTC790.