

Unanswered Questions From The Meeting

Due to limited time there were several questions raised from the floor which could not be answered. We hoped to have these to include in these notes but they have not been done as yet. The Department of Leisure and Community Services have committed to responding to these by the 16th August. We should have copies available at our office after this date.

Public Consultation Process Timetable

(Summary Of A Paper provided by Councillor John Taylor)

Done & Ongoing:

City wide surveys : including Mori/On-Line survey - completed April 1999. Household survey in Sneinton & Forest Fields. Leisure Strategy 2000 review questionnaire survey.

Information in the Nottingham Arrow and The Evening Post. Partnership Council Meeting and other meetings organised through Area Committees etc.

Mailing to schools, youth groups, sports clubs etc. Citizens panels. Desk research exercise. Contacting existing user groups at Noel Street and Victoria Leisure Centres, Forest Multi Activity Pitch etc.

Specific questionnaire designed for clubs to assess 'value added' in line with current proposals to change criteria for club affiliation to City Council.

The Leisure Services Committee will begin final decision making in November.

Focus Group

A Focus Group is to start meeting to develop the questionnaire which will help in the consultation process. Its first meeting will be on Monday 16th August at 2.00pm at the Partnership Council office, 47, Gregory Boulevard.

Please contact Martin on 9 708200 if you would like to take part in the Focus Group or if you can't make the meeting but have ideas for the questionnaire.

The Partnership Council will also be beginning discussion on how any final decisions will be made and on what basis information will be judged.

What happens next?

The Partnership Council will keep its Forum members informed through its normal communication channels, and will also endeavour to assist in enabling those interested to access information about this issue.

Contacts:

The Department of Leisure and Community Services are happy to answer queries directly. Please telephone 0115 - 9152704 and ask for Chris Moriarty or his team.

Partnership Councillor: See below.



Other Information



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If you require any more information contact Martin Curtis on 970 8200. Please also tell us of any information you receive which might help clarify issues or concerns.

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Partnership Council  **970 8200**

July 99 . Baths Special 1
Partnership Council

10582 P
one sheet

Baths Special

Proposed New Leisure Centre? Notes from public meeting

**Held at Forest School, Gregory Blvd.
on Saturday 12th June 1999**

The present process of developing the City's Leisure Amenities started in 1992 with the Leisure 2000 plan. In 1995 a Revised facilities strategy was put in place, followed by various lottery bids, one of which was successful in respect of the Ice Stadium. The Strategy included proposals for the new Leisure Centre, for which a suitable site was then sought by the City Council. A summary of the proposal is that a large new city leisure complex is built on the Forest and that two smaller local baths are closed.

Worries over the closure of Noel Street Baths lead to the setting up of a local campaign group. They have raised a number of issues including the loss of existing local facilities and concerns about building on limited local green space.

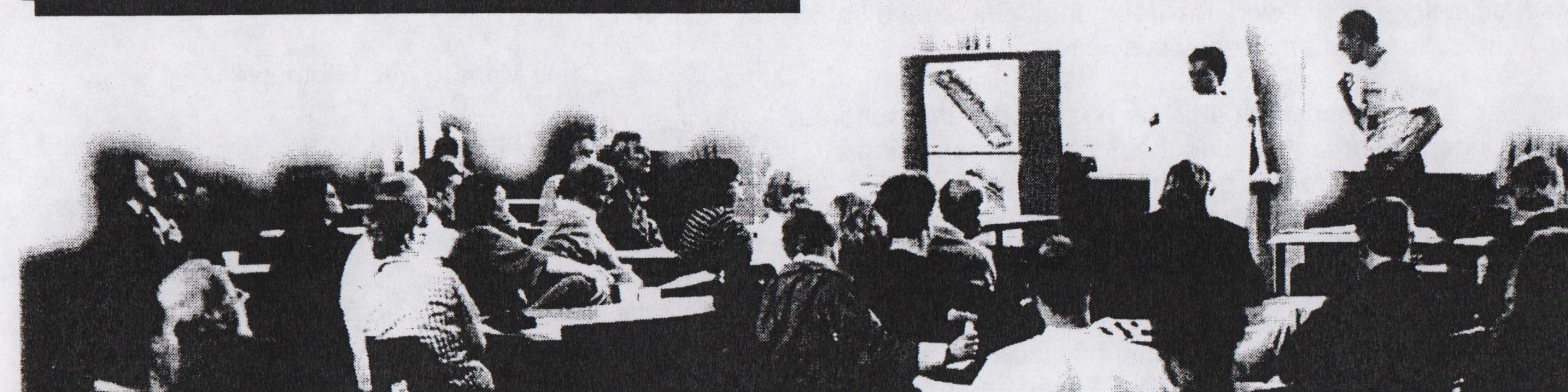
The Partnership Council initiated the meeting to discuss the plans for the new Leisure Centre in order to facilitate wider discussion, and enable all of those interested in the issue to be able to ask questions directly to those involved and to air their own views. The meeting forms part of a consultation process which will be ongoing until final decisions are made in November.

The meeting was facilitated by Beryl Whitehead, who introduced those who were to give presentations, setting the scene. These were: Alan Somerville - (Dept. Leisure and Community Services) Chris Thompson - (Open Spaces Society) Sue Warriner - (Nottingham Community Health Trust) Leo Keely - (Forest Fields Independent Residents' Group).

She then asked those elected representatives present, those representing Public Sector agencies and voluntary groups to identify themselves. These included:

John Heppell - (Member of Parliament, Nottingham East) Coun. John Taylor - (Forest Ward) Coun. Jon Collins - (St. Ann's) Coun. Georgina Culley - (Wollaton) Coun. Mohammed Aslam - (Lenton) Coun Gary Long - (Robin Hood) Coun Phil Spear - (Radford) Coun. Leon Unczur - (Leisure Services Chair) Michael Williams - (Director of Leisure Services) Chris Moriarty - (Team Leader Leisure Strategies) Bob Cullen - (Nottingham Civic Society) Ken Brand (Nottingham Civic Society) Noel Winter - (Amateur Swimming Association) Julian Adams - (Hyson Green Traders Association) Roger Williams - (Nottingham City Primary Care Group)

The remaining participants represented all sectors of people and organisations in the area - a total of 81 people attended the meeting, with some 59 residents included.



Further interest

If you are interested in finding out more about the Residents Forums or the Partnership Council contact Martin or Shirley Anne on 970 8200 or at.

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Alan Somerville

Alan Somerville outlined how the proposals for a new Leisure Centre to serve the City had come about, and how in his view Victoria Leisure Centre is reaching the end of its life, whilst Noel Street baths are old and needing expensive repair and replacement. Some Nottingham City residents are travelling to places like Water Meadows at Mansfield, and Nottingham's swimming facilities amount only to a number of pools servicing schools.

He gave a full presentation with illustrations of what the facilities would include and how they would appear.

Reasons for selecting the Forest site as a main candidate included:

- * The requirement for 5000 square metres of space + parking and public transport.
- * The suitable site being close to the City Centre.
- * Central to both St. Anns and Forest Fields.
- * The site is owned by the City Council, and therefore no expensive new site would be bought.
- * Other sites considered were:
Manvers Street, King Edward Park, Victoria Park, Broad Marsh, Ashford Street, Lower Parliament Street, Victoria Leisure, Hyson Green Boys Club.

A feasibility study and consultation of all City Departments concluded that the Forest site fitted most of the criteria. Alan described the planned amenities. Details are available from Leisure Services.

Leo Keely

Leo's main thrust was that without public pressure consultation would have been inadequate, and it was very difficult to obtain information. (Local Councillors had been helpful when approached). Residents were not all generally opposed to good leisure facilities. He also felt that the MORI poll questions were leading and unrepresentative, and not to be relied upon. Main objections to site were environmental - increased traffic flow and pollution at an already busy site.

Leo also spoke about the particular health problems suffered by the inner city area adjoining the Forest, causes being a stressful environment with poor housing, pollution, unemployment and diet. These should be taken into account when planning for this area. It was felt strongly that good community leisure facilities are essential. He said that whilst there is no objection in principle to a new leisure centre, it would not reflect the range of community facilities available at Noel Street and these should be developed and retained.

Figures were produced that Leo said showed that the new proposed 25 metre pool would not be able to cope with the present demand met by the four pools scheduled for closure. He suggested that exercise available locally would contribute to better health.

Discussions followed the presentation on the 1995 Labour manifesto, and how its promises match up to what is happening today.

Chris Thompson

Open Spaces Society is a national group with Nottingham representation. Chris spoke from a personal point of view only, as he had as yet received no official plans. Plans would initially go to his Head Office.

He pointed out that from 1865 Forest had been a protected open space. The intrusion of the Park and Ride site, although not originally passed through committee is now legal. The proposed smaller Park and Ride site would restore some of the open space. His personal point of view was that the Forest site was not the right site, although he was not against a Leisure Centre Development. His experience was that once development encroaches on to a site, that is lost for ever as an open space.

Sue Warriner

Sue is based at the Mary Potter Health Centre in Hyson Green and is familiar with all the health problems associated with inner city areas such as heart conditions, stroke and diabetes. People need accessible leisure facilities, especially in areas with a high ethnic mix coupled with poverty, where health is poor. Attractive, convenient, warm, safe and comfortable facilities are needed, which are also fun. There is also the mental benefit of people feeling good about themselves, and being helped to deal with stress. The planned facility would provide the fun, easy access venue.

Workshops

There followed workshops on the following topics, during which there was the opportunity to raise queries. Each workshop was attended by at least one city Councillor, and a city council officer.

Workshop notes

1. Consultation questionnaires, and Young People's issues.

Facilitators - Chris Moriarty, Alan Somerville

Young People's Consultation

Form of consultation not yet thought out, but could be carried out via City Education Dept.

- * individual schools within catchment/locality
- * Partnership Council Children's Forum
- * Youth Centres/Play Centres

Young people may feel restricted in stating views if carried out in schools. Timescales for November Committee report very tight due to summer break.

There is a need for funding a professionally conducted exercise. Schools could be consulted to determine the content/format of a resource pack.

Draft Questionnaire

Sampling. Who to ask & how to ensure the right people are reached.

Catchment area - 20 minute walk time
 * perhaps 66% drawn from 10 minute walk
 * perhaps 33% drawn from 10 -20 minute walk
 * 2 possible catchment areas - Noel Street & Forest Recreation Ground

Response rate needs to be recorded - many people may not answer for a number of reasons other than that they have no opinion. Careful consideration is needed of sampling techniques.

- ensure random spread throughout area
- ensure interviews at different times of day
- Multilingual interviewers
- scepticism surrounding wording of first MORI survey
- not to repeat mistakes.

Workshop notes

2. Health and Environmental Issues.

Facilitators: Sue Warriner, Chris Thompson

Issues to consider

- use of Forest
- closure of existing pools
- people feel disempowered
- Open green spaces have benefits, free space to mess about
- mental health.
- Siting on Forest

Good

- * Use of wider money (Brings it in)
- * Trams more environmentally friendly
- * Improvements for access might occur - access to whole Forest
- * "Desirable" Too glossy.
- * Public transport existing.
- * Cheaper running costs.
- * Fun
- * Visible - people know about it.

Bad

- * Roads - vehicle pollution and traffic
- * Gregory Boulevard too busy already - safety concerns
- * Once built, do more creep in?
- * Noise and air quality to play area
- * Local comfortable familiar pool easier to access - new one off-putting, too anonymous and not owned by community.
- * Expensive
- * Reports and documents do not support it or mention it, & not in local plan. Change of direction of presentation on local tram bill.
- * Unpopular
- * Do we need it - why not update what we've got.
- * Visible

Workshop notes

3. Community Leisure - how to consult.

Facilitator: Chris Hunt

Many people in the community cannot identify what they need e.g. siting on the Forest - is it a need?

Question is how to generate an accurate picture. Also what is the definition of "local". Is the priority to develop the city or local facilities - this is a key concern.

Main Points

- * Ability of community to articulate own needs and processes.
- * What is local? What is City?
- * What is leisure?
- * Priority in use of funds.

Workshop notes

4. Alternative Sites.

Facilitator - Noel Winter

This workshop explored possibilities but did not reach definite conclusions except that alternatives do need to be explored.

Two issues:

- Leisure facilities for City
- Community leisure facilities

- The provision each year for improvements to Leisure centres across City is £2million. £12million would be needed on a new facility.
- the choice is one or the other, cannot afford both.
- cannot afford site not owned by City. Financial parameters.
- equally accessible for Forest Fields and St. Anns, Running costs for Noel Street and Victoria because they are old and too small refurbish old pools.

Health Issue not answered by 'Leisure' only pool

How to build something different to serve a wider area. Can this be done without building on Forest open space/park.

ASDA car park? Hucknall Road other end of Forest Hyson Green Youth Club site car park/tram
 Refurbish Victoria use car park/market area - Victorian interest.
 Costs £25m. + teaching pool 2m. 4 lane
 Use some of money for 2 local small pools.