

# Morden Leisure Centre

Welcome to the twelfth Morden Leisure Centre newsletter, keeping you fully informed about the exciting new leisure project being delivered by Merton Council.

Further updates can be found at: [www.merton.gov.uk/leisureformorden](http://www.merton.gov.uk/leisureformorden)

## COMPLETION IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER...

Completion of the construction of the new centre is now just around the corner, so in this edition we learn more about the work of Andrew Laslett, Pellikaan's Project Manager and staff from the leisure centre's operational company Greenwich Leisure Limited, who have been working on the project team throughout the inception, development and delivery phases and are now preparing to take over the new centre later this year.

Andrew shares some of his thoughts on this project and some from his long career in building leisure centres in a question and answer session...

You have done lots and lots of leisure centre builds, what top 3 items makes this project stand out above all the others?

*"The main 'stand out' item for me is just how well received this project has been by all parties, the client, the advisors, the operator and, most importantly, the neighbourhood. Other highlights include the technical challenge of a 5 metre deep dive pool and the great location. A view of the London skyline, especially the Shard, is most welcome."*

On this project you have had Merton's Great Crested Newts to deal with... how have you managed this, and how easy / difficult has this been?

*"Dealing with the finer points of the ecology, fauna and flora has proved 'tricky' at times. To try and change the mindset of those on the workforce who have little or no experience with these items took a while but, as Pellikaan picks its subcontractors carefully, all have come round to protecting our little friends...When Gareth Matthes, the project's ecologists and Great Crested Newt expert came to site and presented one of the newts to the workforce there were genuine gasps of excitement! Seeing a Great Crested Newt and learning all about them was extremely interesting and I think all the staff were genuinely surprised at what they did learn."*



**Andrew Laslett**  
Project Manager, Pellikaan

In delivering projects like this, what is the one thing that makes your job worthwhile that makes you want to get up in the morning and come to work?

*“My children! They love the projects that we deliver and are the first to ‘test drive’ the end result. My eldest, aged 9, asked me out of the blue recently... ‘Daddy, why do you get to build such fun things?’”*

You recently hosted visits of construction students from South Thames College. How did that go?

*“The visits were very well received.”*

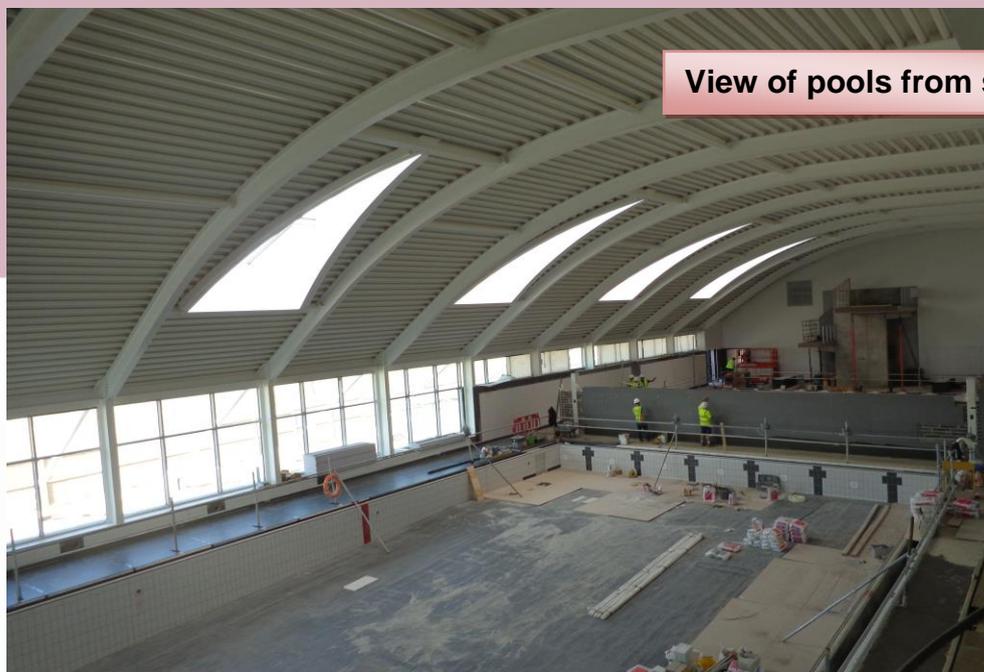
*“We were able to demonstrate the latest computer software for developing designs and models. We also had some of our specialist sub-contractors available to talk about specific industries and careers in those specialisms. The students asked some challenging technical questions and heard back from our experts just how they manage to get everything to work and combine with different trades. To see the interest, experience and interaction from the students and staff was very rewarding. The students’ visit was a true pleasure.”*

Looking back on your career, what advice would you give to any youngsters wanting to get involved in the construction industry?

*“Keep an open mind... Construction is ever evolving, embrace what’s new, accept certain inalienable facts ... It’ll always rain when you want to paint outside ... the generator powering the site will always breakdown when you need it most ... the broadband will always be too slow ... and so on and so on... Most of all, though, always make sure you create and keep a good team around you ... this underpins any successful project.”*

When you get to the end of the project – what are you hoping that you will look back and reflect on and say ... positively of course?

*“Great Project, Great Team, Great Client, all in all a very good year and a leisure centre to be proud of.”*



View of pools from spectator seating

## PROVISION FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

Some concerns have been expressed about whether or not a specialist 'Changing Places' facility will be included within the new leisure centre. To allay all concerns we can confirm that a 'Changing Places' facility is included. This facility is a specific room containing an accessible toilet, shower, changing bed and hoist.

As well as this facility there will be 6 accessible toilets; 3 accessible toilets with showers and 1 accessible shower. There will be a pool pod provided for access into and out of the pools. There will also be 10 disabled parking bays at the front of the building.

## GREENWICH LEISURE LIMITED (GLL)

GLL have three representatives on the Project's Management Team...

Lucy Murray-Robertson, Project Manager – Corporate Technical Services; Jennifer Seale, Development Manager; and David Hughes, Partnership Manager for the Merton Contract.

Lucy currently specialises in the design and construction of new leisure centres and is particularly keen to ensure the correct facility mix goes into the centre so that the customers get the best possible experience once the doors are opened. She has worked in Leisure Centres and therefore knows all about the operational management and has also been a user of leisure facilities for many years.

Lucy, Jenny and David have all been involved in the project from the early design stages. Lucy has worked with the team to ensure all technical aspects such as the plant room and moveable floor in the secondary pool are installed using only the best equipment that have proven robust track records to minimise future maintenance issues.

Lucy said ... *"I want to make sure that we deliver the best centre within the timescales and budgets available so local residents have the best leisure facilities possible"*

Jenny's role is to strategically support the delivery of the Merton Leisure Contract with GLL, but on this particular project Jenny has been focussing on ... considering customer flows; adjacencies of facility spaces; use of technology in the centre and to ensure the look and feel of the centre fits in with the surroundings, the local community and GLL's operational management requirements.



**Secondary Pool – Moveable Floor**

Jenny's key aim for Morden is to ensure the facility really is a great place for families, meeting the needs of the local, diverse community whilst reflecting latest leisure trends and making the facility as operationally efficient as possible.

Jenny commented:

*"GLL are proud to be part of a project that will provide local Merton residents with a new and attractive leisure centre. It's been great seeing the construction of the centre coming to life from the plans that we have all been working so hard on. GLL are looking forward to welcoming customers through the doors as soon as possible once the building is complete"*

David oversees all the local leisure operations, so he knows all of the borough's centres very well. David has been ensuring that the facility being built can be operated best by the local staff for the best benefit of the community and users. David has the responsibility for making sure the fit-out of the centre is carried out to the highest standards, whilst staying within budgets. He also has to ensure that all the staff are trained on the new equipment in the new centre...

*"The staff from the Morden Park Pools facility will transfer to the new Morden Leisure Centre and they will need to be trained on the modern equipment that the new centre has installed as well as familiarising them with new operating procedures in the new facility. At the same time we also need to bring in new equipment from bins to toilet rolls to health and fitness equipment, etc. So much to do so please be patient with the staff as they endeavour to keep the Morden Park Pools open and operating as well as getting ready to open the new centre."*

*"The staff are very excited and looking forward to welcoming you very soon into the new Morden Leisure Centre."*

### NEXT STEPS

- Construction – hoardings to come out; landscaping works; etc.  
Centre still on target to complete September 2018
- Training and fit-out by GLL – Sept / Oct 2018
- Operational Management Contract changes conclude by October 2018
- Opening to public – end of October / beginning of November 2018
- Demolition contract to be awarded in August for commencement of works as soon after Morden Park Pools is vacated as possible.

**Next newsletter due September 2018**



Front entrance under construction