

Morden Leisure Centre

Welcome to the eighth 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

CONSTRUCTION COMMENCES

Site preparation got underway at the beginning of July and whilst outwardly, little seemed to change, final surveys and checks took place and the development land was mapped out and made ready. The perimeter hoarding posts then went in under the watchful eyes of the project's tree consultant and ecologist. Once accepted, the hoardings went in and the site was prepared to create the access. This entrance will stay in-situ at the end of the project and become the access road to the centre's service yard.

Throughout the rest of July, site preparation continued with the site offices arriving and the access road created. In addition the revised work plan for the project's EU Licence for the Protected Species of Great Crested Newts was approved. Following this approval, the protective newt fence was then able to be installed. This fence reduces the likelihood of newts entering the site and coming to harm.

Behind the scenes, planning conditions needed to be discharged and final design considerations needed to be agreed.

Bit by bit, stage by stage, all the different parts came together and in early August, construction work commenced.

Pellikaan's Project Manager, Andrew Laslett, was pleased to be taking over the site and is looking forward to leading and co-ordinating all the specialist workforces and companies that will now come together at the right time, in the right place to deliver our new Morden Leisure Centre.

Andrew said:

"Pellikaan Construction Limited is extremely excited to be constructing the new Morden Leisure Centre and I am personally proud to be the Project Manager that will bring all of this together on the ground. Already, after only a few weeks in, we have established a secure and safe site for the construction process to take place. Thanks to a favourable summer to date, works are on programme and the foundations of the new centre are well and truly in place with some 500+ piles being installed. The main 25 metre pool is also formed, with casting due imminently.

Councillor Draper, Christine Parsloe and Millad Yousif (Pellikaan)



It is also pleasing to note that whenever we have the good fortune to meet the neighbours they are all thoroughly in favour of the new centre. It's a great feeling to be delivering something that is so eagerly sought.

Over the next few months you will be able to see steelwork coming out of the ground and into the air and soon after a roof will go on. This stage is fast moving and very visual as changes take place. After that, the speed of the visual changes appears slower but I assure you we will all be working just as hard and as fast as we can, building walls, putting in glazing, and then onto the internals ... I look forward to telling you more about this in a future newsletter."

Update from: MORDEN PARK PLAYING FIELDS COMMUNITY TRUST (MPPFCT)



Trustees are grateful for the full statement of our aims in the June newsletter from Merton Council, and are pleased to see that the new Leisure Centre building has begun.

This picture reflects an artist impression of the Trust's current proposal to build eco changing rooms for outdoor sport, alongside the Leisure Centre and linking to its services.

Further information from Ray Skinner: skinhicks@tiscali.co.uk

Great Crested Newt



MUSEUM OF LONDON ARCHAEOLOGY (MOLA)

An important part of the Morden Leisure Centre Project will be the demolition of the existing Morden Park Pool and re-instating the land on which that building stands to public open space.

Although Morden Park Pool is not a designated heritage asset it is a building that has made a positive contribution to the character of the Conservation Area. To ensure that its existence and its contribution to leisure and the community is not lost, the Council commissioned MOLA to undertake a Standing Building Survey of Morden Park Pool.

This study has now been completed and the site archive of original records will be deposited in accordance with the site-specific Written Scheme of Investigation (MOLA, 2016) in the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) of Museum of London within 12 months. These will be stored under the site code MPK16.

The study surveyed the exterior and interior of the complex taking photographic evidence and compiling documentation in respect of construction and architectural details. Several archive materials were consulted which provided the following historic background to the site:-

“Morden Park Pool was constructed in 1967 as a public bath complex comprising of two swimming baths, associated services and utility areas, a gymnasium and office areas and a boiler room. A modern boiler and filtration building replaced the former boiler building. The swimming pools and the associated buildings have also been subject to many internal and some external alternations in the 1990s.”

Although constructed in the third quarter of the twentieth century the background of the Morden swimming pool goes back to the early twentieth century. The Local Authority had faced demands for a public swimming pool from 1913 onwards. The initial plans for the development were halted by the pressures of two World Wars and the depression.

On the 23rd of October 1964 the Borough engineer and surveyor outlined the scheme for constructing the Morden Park swimming bath in the Councils libraries and baths committee meeting. Due to the reorganisation of government the programme of the scheme was revised and construction finally commenced, as reported at a Council meeting on 8th March 1965 and scheduled to be open to the public in September 1966. Construction was still in progress in 1966 and the building was eventually opened to the public after the Easter Holidays in 1967. Lord Hunt opened the baths on the 2nd May 1967; Lord Hunt in his speech described it as a “wonderfully imaginative project.”

Morden Park Pool, shortly after built (Goodman, 1995)



NEXT STEPS

Temporary Spoil Store

In the coming weeks, Pellikaan will be moving spoil (excess earth) from their construction site and taking it along the access road, past the existing centre and placing it in a heap ready for use on that site once the existing centre has been demolished. This won't take too long to do, but there will be some disruption and potential mud along the access road whilst this task is completed. We will work with Pellikaan to ensure disruption is kept to an absolute minimum

The footpath in the park alongside the pool will be out of use during this period, but will be re-opened once the spoil heap is in place and the clean-up is done. The temporary spoil heap will also be grass seeded.

The trees within the area will also have temporary protection put in place whilst this work is undertaken and the project's tree consultant will be on hand to ensure that all works are carried out in accordance with the approved plans.

Operational Management Contract

When the Council entered into an operational management contract with Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) in 2010 it ensured that the opportunity for GLL to move to operate a new Morden Leisure Centre in lieu of Morden Park Pools was included within that contract.

Discussions with GLL have now started and later this year the changes to their contract will be put in place in readiness for a seamless transfer between the two centres once the Morden Leisure Centre is complete and ready for occupation.

Construction Works – Coming Up...

- Concrete base formed in the main pool
- Structural piling completed and tested
- Diving Pool excavated
- Spoil transported for re-use
- Foundation works on all areas
- Pad foundations and strip footings created.

Next newsletter due end October 2017

Morden Leisure Centre, architectural impression (May 2017)

