

Morden Leisure Centre

Welcome to the ninth 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 CONTINUES

The construction of the new Morden Leisure Centre is moving at a pace. It remains on time for building targets and on budget. This is all good news for the project and so this newsletter seeks to start introducing you to some of the people from Pellikaan, the appointed contractors, who are working to make this happen.

Joost van Dijk is the Design Manager and Coordinator. Joost has been working for Pellikaan for several years and has been involved in the design and construction of many leisure centres, including two in Surrey at Tadworth and Horley.

Joost has the unenviable task of checking all the drawings and the details. He needs to have an acute attention to detail as he coordinates many complex items to ensure buildability and compatibility so that the final design ensures a high quality leisure facility.

This is a job that is full of checks and challenges, but when Joost was asked about these he replied...

“Leisure centres construction is full of challenges that we just have to embrace and I am fortunate that within Pellikaan I am surrounded with a whole team of knowledgeable and experienced people so there is really nothing that can’t be overcome.”

On the Morden Leisure Centre project I have a very good local team around me both from Pellikaan and from the client-side at Merton and from the operator, Greenwich Leisure Limited.

Any time we have a challenge... we all embrace it and then find the best way forward. In many ways it is the challenges of this of facility construction that excites me and overcoming the challenges is a very rewarding experience.”

Joost shares with us that his current challenge for the Morden Leisure Centre is the design and construction of the deep, large secondary pool with the moveable floor. This part of the overall facility requires a significant amount of engineering in the design and all this then needs to fit within the overall engineering design for the building.

This challenge aside, Joost has positively influenced the internal layouts to increase and improve the community offer. When Joost completes this project, he will know his work has made a difference for the local families of Merton.



Joost van Dijk
Design Manager & Coordinator
Pellikaan



PROGRESS UPDATE

Piling works to support the creation of the deeper, secondary pool got underway and have been completed.

The secondary pool structural surrounds have been established and the removal of the first 2 metres of soil from within the pool is complete with a further 2 metres to go to achieve the required 4 metre depth.

The main pool deep end is fully concreted with recesses and access holes already formed for the fittings and pipework to be added in the future.

Structural components were put together on site and then used within the main construction or set aside for future use.

Land levels were raised under those parts of the construction currently underway and some of the sub-soil has been set aside to be used in raising the rest of the site levels as the project progresses.

Top soil that has been removed is currently stored on the construction site for re-use both on this site and the Morden Park Pools site, once the old centre is demolished. Permission has been gained to store spare top soil near to the Morden Park Pools site and the spare soil will be moved at a convenient time in the future.

The steel frame arrived on site and the construction of this steelwork is well underway. The site now shows us the height of the building.

The roof frame is also starting to show the structure for the four triangular roof light windows.

Preparation for the construction of the first floor slab is also underway.

Sourcing of the materials and products needed is well underway and procurement of the goods and services is being carried out in a timely manner.



View from the café

ECOLOGY

The newt breeding pond in the Park appears to have held water for longer than in previous years, following restoration works in autumn 2016 to deepen the pond by creating a sump in the middle.

It is hoped that this will allow newt larvae to develop during dry summers, when the pond had previously dried-out by the end of June.

The newt protection fence around the construction site has been maintained and repaired following several breaches as a result of animal damage (dog or fox).

LANDSCAPING

Revised landscaping plans have been approved by planning for the new Morden Leisure Centre and the area of land that will be created following the demolition of the existing Morden Park Pools.

The new building has permeable paving to the entrance, with more durable tarmac roads for access and services. Informal seating and cycle storage will be provided by the main entrance alongside accessible parking.

Tree and planting species have been selected following discussions with the arboriculturalist and local authority to ensure they reflect the existing character of the area, and maximise biodiversity with minimal maintenance requirements. Low mounding, trees and boulders provide a natural amenity area for visitors whilst preventing unwanted parking on site.

ARBORICULTURE

Some tree works have been completed on the ponds in accordance with the requirements of the ecologists monitoring the Great Crested Newts habitats within the EU Protected Species Licence.

Hoarding has been erected to protect retained trees adjacent to the construction sites development area. The appointed consultant arboriculturalist, Patrick Stileman, has attended site to ensure that all of this was correctly positioned during the installation phase. The next key work phase from an arboricultural perspective shall be immediately prior to and during the creation of the temporary spoil pile close to the existing Morden Park Pools is to be established. During this period temporary barriers shall be required to protect trees around the existing Morden Park Pools.



Tree works completed adjacent to Pond 2

MORDEN AREA FORUM

A photographic presentation was made at the Morden Area Forum on 12 October and detail of works and activities already undertaken were shared with the community and councillors in attendance.

The community requested a viewing space to be made in the hoardings so that those walking in the park can view the progress for themselves and also that, in building the centre, an area outside the café would have the necessary fixtures to tie up dogs, whilst the owners used the café facilities.

Both of these will be progressed as part of the project.

The photographic presentation is available online at:

<http://www2.merton.gov.uk/MordenLeisureCentreOct2017.pdf>

NEXT STEPS

Construction Works – Coming Up...

- Steel Structure Work
- First Floor Slab in situ
- Utility supplies installations – note: This will cause some disruption on the Morden Car Park access road so please be patient
- Delivery and installation Diving Tower
- Delivery of roof materials and installation commences
- Completion of secondary pool structure
- Commencement of wall cladding insulation

Operational Management Contract

- Ongoing contract variation discussions with GLL

Next newsletter due end December 2017



**Morden Leisure Centre
Architectural Impression
(May 2017)**