

# Morden Leisure Centre

**Welcome to the first Morden Leisure Centre newsletter, we will produce newsletters as the project progresses, our aim is to keep you as up to date as possible with the development.**

## **Site selected!**

In early November, Cabinet selected the site know as MLC3.



This site is close to London Rd (A24) and opposite the College on the other side of the access road to the car park. This site has some great advantages, such as;

- The new building would be in a more prominent location facing onto a strategic road (A24)
- With considered landscaping, the setting of the listed buildings in the area of the Morden Park Pools site, will be improved, when the pool building is demolished and the land is returned to open space.
- This is the only site not immediately adjacent to a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC).
- Only partially within an area of Archaeological Priority.

- Car park continues to operate until the new build opens.
- The land is in Council ownership.
- Location is closer to Morden Town Centre, the location would assist in realising the council's Core Planning Strategy objectives of improving links between the town centre and the park.
- There are existing utility services to the College, Register Office and existing Pool, which would also be able to best serve this site and reduce utility connection costs.

### **THE GREAT NEWS IS !!!**

Morden Park Pools will remain open and operational until the new one is built.

Merton Council's Cabinet member for community and culture, Councillor Nick Draper said: "I knew it was essential for the current centre to remain open for local people, and especially local schoolchildren while the new leisure centre is being built, so I am glad this was agreed at Cabinet.

The existing site of Morden Park Pools (MLC1) was also identified as the back-up if for any reason we ultimately are unable to build on the preferred MLC 3 site.

### **CURRENT ACTIVITY**

Several surveys are already been commissioned and experts are carrying out;

- A ground condition survey – this will test for any contamination or soil erosion. Boreholes have been dug to assist with determining the soils shear strength/relative density as well as soakage testing.
- A Topographical survey – this survey identifies and maps contours of the ground and existing features on surface of the earth or slightly above or below the earth's surface (i.e. trees, buildings, streets, walkways, manholes, utility poles, retaining walls, etc.).
- An Arboricultural survey – looking at the impact of a new facility on the trees and hedgerows on and near to the site.

- A Phase 1 Ecology survey which highlights, Habitat mapping to indicate habitat types on a Phase 1 Habitat map, characteristic plant species and a description of features of ecological or nature conservation interest.

All of these surveys and recommendations will be used to inform the next steps of the development of the new leisure centre.

### **PROPOSED ACTIVITY**

- We will be appointing a Project Manager who we expect to be in post by the end of January 2015. We will be looking for a person who has recent experience in project managing the building of new Leisure Centres. Once they are in place, we will be bringing in other experts to build a project management team, who will support and advise the council through the procurement and build phases.
- Newsletters will be produced quarterly in the first instance and will become more regular once the project progresses.