

Bulletin Board Extra: News from BQRM

Leisure Centre Closure



As mentioned in our May 2006 Bulletin Board, the Board has been working on plans to refurbish and extend the Leisure Centre. The pool and upper gym were built in the late 1980s and the lower gym was added in the early 1990s. In view of its age, the Centre has survived remarkably well but the time has come to improve the entire facility as its current condition does not reflect its true value to the estate.

As previously stated, the Board is of the firm opinion that the most economic and efficient way forward is to close the Leisure Centre for the duration of the planned works. This bulletin sets out the timetable for the project. We apologise in advance for the inevitable inconvenience but believe the resulting improvements will be more than worth it.

Liz Aitken, Chair, on behalf of the Board

Contract

We are pleased to announce that, after a rigorous tender process, the contract for the Leisure Centre project has been awarded to Paul Crow of Crow Design+Build. Many of you may know Paul as he has been a resident since the development opened. He is passionate about Bow Quarter and the Board is confident that he will complete the work to the highest standards.

office. We will also be redecorating throughout the facility and tackling all outstanding maintenance issues.

Extension: The Board have agreed to extend the gym (see May 2006 Bulletin) and it is hoped that this will happen at the same time as the refurbishment work. However, this project is subject to London Borough of Tower Hamlet's Building Control approval.

Timetable of closure

We will close the Leisure Centre for five weeks from Monday October 9th. If all goes accordingly to schedule, we plan to reopen the Leisure Centre on Monday November 20th.

Spa: As you are aware, we have had major problems with the spa and it has been out of commission for some months. Although the replacement of the spa does not form part of the planned refurbishment, and is a major piece of work on its own, we are replacing it and the replacement will take place during the planned closure. This will minimise disruption to the poolside area and ensure that all the work is undertaken at one time.

Scope of works

Refurbishment: As mentioned in the May Bulletin, we will be refurbishing the changing rooms. We also will be upgrading the wall and floor tiles in the pool area, as well many of the fittings. The rusted metal and glass frames encasing the stairs and the office will be completely removed and replaced with a new glass structure. There will be a new Reception Area and some work in the Leisure Centre

Leisure Centre Membership:

During the closure, a member of the Leisure Centre team will be based in the Estate Office and will be working on updating policies & procedures and membership administration.

The Bow Quarter, BQRM Ltd, Fairfield Road, LONDON E3 2UB

Telephone: 020 8983 0947 Fax: 020 8983 6495

Registered Office: 53 High St, Saffron Walden, Essex CB10 1AR Company Number: 2997668

Alternative Fitness Programmes

We are conscious of the fact that many residents will want to continue their fitness regime during the closure, and so we have been working with the Leisure Centre team to organise an outdoor fitness programme which, weather permitting, will offer residents some alternative activities.

This will include: A Running Club and Circuit Training as well as the usual off-site autumn activities of Wall Climbing and Football. We hope to add additional activities as and when we can.

Further Information

If you would like to discuss any aspect of these plans, Estate Manager, Janet McAvinnie will be holding two information sessions in the Leisure Centre. These will be on Wednesday October 4th between 6.00 and 7.00 p.m. and Saturday October 7th between 10.00 a.m. and 12.00 noon.

FAQs

Access: the schedule of works includes repairs to the security and entry systems.

Closure: The Leisure Centre will be closed for five weeks from October 9th.

Equipment: The proposed works do not include new equipment, but Estate Manager, Janet McAvinnie, is working on a programme to replace and upgrade the equipment.

Service charge rebate: this work falls under the planned maintenance cycle in the service charge forecasts and therefore no rebates of service charges will be offered.

Spa: yes, the spa is being replaced.



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