

EXECUTIVE – 5 OCTOBER 2023

QUESTIONS

Executive Summary

The following question regarding disabled swimming facilities has been received under Section 3 of the Executive Procedure Rules. The reply by the Portfolio Holder is set out below.

1. Question from Mr Brian Matthews

“Where and when will you let disabled people swim in Woking? Currently you let Dolphins swim club use Pool in the Park Tuesday lunchtime and Friday evening. Perhaps Sheerwater pool? Some physically disabled people cannot move on land but can exercise safely in water. This is essential for our health and mental wellbeing.”

Reply by Councillor Ellen Nicholson

“The Council recognises the significant health and wellbeing benefits of swimming, particularly for our residents with disabilities. The Dolphins group does already use Eastwood Leisure Centre as well as Pool in the Park. Whilst the availability and range of facilities may reduce if the Pool in the Park closes, we really do want to try and protect the most vulnerable.

However, the proposed phased closure of the Pool in the Park is under consideration due to the severe financial position of the Council and the level of subsidy the facility requires. The Council’s position means that we are unable to subsidise non statutory services, and we currently are subsidising Pool in the Park significantly. It is important that residents respond to the public consultation on the future of Pool in the Park, which went live on Monday.

Sessions will continue to be available at Eastwood Leisure Centre. The Eastwood Leisure Centre was designed with accessibility in mind and includes a high tech moveable floor and hoist within the teaching pool, flexible use changing facilities, two Changing Places Toilets and wheelchair accessible facilities throughout the building.”

Background Papers:	None.
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