

Stroud Lido Update (AKA Stroud Outdoor Pool)

Stratford Lido was opened in the summer of 1937 and is situated in Stratford Park, adjacent to the Leisure Centre which opened in May 1975. Although initially heated before World War II, the lido is now a cold-water pool, open for around 100 days a year during the summer months (end of May to the beginning of September)

This briefing paper covers the lido project for the 2022 season.

The work to ensure the opening of this historic facility has been completed in partnership with SLM (Sports and Leisure Management Ltd) current leisure provider, Friends of the Lido, SGS (Stroud College) and Stroud District Council.

A task and finish group consisting of SDC staff, Councillors, SLM and friends of the lido was set up to look at what could be achieved in the short term to improve the appeal of the outdoor pool.

The three elements which were agreed.

1. Review heating options for the pool
2. Work with volunteers, SGS and SLM to improve the aesthetic of the changing rooms
3. Improve access to the facility for everyone to enjoy

Heating the pool (initial stage 2022-2025)

We were successful in securing funding from CIL which enabled us to explore and secure a local contractor to install a heat exchanger and associated pipework in May 2022. The power to heat the pool comes from the excess heat generated by the CHP (Combined Heat and Power) unit located in the leisure centre and its two-gas fired condensed boilers.

Further work is being undertaken to review how the temperature can be further increased to around 24°C when the outside temperature is at 15°C. We are looking at sustainable ways to do this which will be factored into wider plans which include the redevelopment of the Leisure Centre.

Ange Gillingham, Project Manager Leisure, Health and Wellbeing
Angela.gillingham@stroud.gov.uk

Changing Rooms (2022 – 2025) first phase.

This project has only been possible with the help from volunteers, students at Stroud College, SDC officers and various contractors.

The work completed so far includes:

Removing the false ceiling to expose the original 1930's glass roof which can be seen from inside the changing rooms.

New sensor lighting, hand dryers, extractor fans, emergency lighting, exit signs and an emergency pull cord (in the accessible toilet), repairs to showers, leaking roofs and lots of other remedial work to update the tired area.

The grounds have been weeded and grass cut.

More work will be conducted throughout the season and beyond.

Improve accessibility to the Outdoor Pool (2022-2025)

Working with Barnwood Trust and various other organisations we will be conducting a number of consultation events in order to understand the issues faced by local residents which will include but not limited to:

1. Physical access to the site and changing facilities
2. Entry and exit of the pool
3. Programming limitations including barrier to participation

The consultation will be conducted with key identified focus groups and part of a wider consultation which will include the development of Stratford Park as a key destination of place within the district.

The task and finish group will continue to work on the 3 areas with the aim of increasing participation year on year.

Ange Gillingham, Project Manager Leisure, Health and Wellbeing
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