

Report to Cabinet/ Portfolio Holder for Housing, Health and Wellbeing

Subject: Christmas and New Year Opening for Leisure Facilities 2020/21

Date: 9th December 2020

Author: Leisure Manager

Wards Affected

Borough Wide

Purpose

To seek approval for opening hours for the Council's leisure facilities over the Christmas and New Year holiday period 2020/21.

Key Decision

This is not a key decision

Recommendation

THAT:

- 1) Approval is given to the opening hours for the Council's leisure facilities over the Christmas and New Year holiday period 2020/21, as set out in appendix 1 to this report.**

1 Background

- 1.1 Previously, reports have shown relatively poor income and attendances over the Christmas and New Year Period as most regular and block booking customers do not attend. Generally usage is low which is why leisure centres reduce their normal opening hours around the bank holidays.
- 1.2 By operating a reduced service over this period it allows staff to take annual leave where required, without providing full replacement cover. It

therefore seems sensible in both operational and business terms to reduce the opening hours.

- 1.3 The opening times at Arnold, Calverton, Carlton Forum and Redhill have been reviewed holistically in order to offer customers access to the full range of leisure activities on a reduced opening basis. Opening later in to the evening from 27th – 30th December has always proved unpopular and therefore a daytime-only operation is proposed.
- 1.4 Over the past two years, opening Carlton Forum until 3pm on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve proved successful and it is proposed to continue this in 2020.
- 1.5 The Richard Herrod bars and the Bonington Bar remain closed due to the tier 3 restrictions in place at the time of writing this report. However, the Millennium Suite at the Richard Herrod Centre will be open as it is being utilised as a Community Vaccination Centre on a daily basis, except Christmas Day.

2 Proposal

It is proposed that:-

- 2.1 The Christmas and New Year opening hours of the leisure facilities, as shown in appendix 1, are authorised.

3 Alternative Options

- 3.1 The council could do nothing and continue to open the leisure facilities with the normal operating hours. This option would mean a waste of resource in terms of heating, lighting and staffing of the facilities for extremely low levels of customer use.
- 3.2 Alternative opening hours to those contained in the proposal could be considered. However the proposal takes into account previous year's usage levels and customer feedback of wanting to access facilities from 6.30am until the evening.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The proposed closure days are in accordance with a schedule previously agreed with the unions. However, for the reduced hours staff will be

expected to take this time as annual leave or lieu time.

- 4.2 Following consultation with employees at the centres, all sites can be adequately staffed on the days and at the times proposed for opening. Where appropriate, employees agreeing to work on agreed closure days will have appropriate rates of pay applied to them.
- 4.3 The closures are consistent with the approved base budget.

5 Legal Implications

There are no legal implications associated with the revision to the opening hours.

6 Equalities Implications

There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

7 Carbon Reduction/Sustainability Implications

There are no carbon reduction/sustainability implications arising from this report.

8 Appendices

- 8.1 The Christmas and New Year Opening and Closure Schedule for 2020/21 is attached at Appendix 1.

9 Background Papers

None identified

10 Reasons for Recommendations

- 10.1 To allow for a reduced provision in customer service at the Council's leisure facilities over the Christmas and New Year period, as has happened in previous years. This is based on customer usage and

feedback from previous years.

10.2 To allow staff to take annual leave without the need to provide cover.

Appendix 1

	Arnold	Bonington	Calverton	Carlton Forum	Redhill	Richard Herrod *
Wednesday 23rd December	Normal opening	Closed	Normal opening	Normal opening	Normal opening	8am – 8pm
Thursday 24th December	Closed	Closed	Closed	7am – 3pm	Closed	8am – 8pm
Friday 25th December	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Saturday 26th December	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	8am – 8pm
Sunday 27th December	7.30am – 3pm	Closed	Closed	7am – 3pm	8am - 4pm	8am – 8pm
Monday 28th December	7.30am – 3pm	Closed	7am – 3.15pm	7am – 3pm	6.30am – 4pm	8am – 8pm
Tuesday 29th December	7.30am – 3pm	Closed	7am – 3.15pm	7am – 3pm	6.30am – 4pm	8am – 8pm
Wednesday 30th December	7.30am – 3pm	Closed	7am – 3.15pm	7am – 3pm	6.30am – 4pm	8am – 8pm
Thursday 31st December	Closed	Closed	Closed	7am – 3pm	Closed	8am – 8pm
Friday 1st January	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	8am – 8pm
Saturday 2nd January	Normal opening	Closed	Normal opening	Normal opening	Normal opening	8am – 8pm

* The Richard Herrod will be open as a Community Vaccination Centre only.

Statutory Officer approval

Approved by:

Date:

On behalf of the Chief Financial Officer

Approved by:

Date:

On behalf of the Monitoring Officer