

Report to Portfolio Holder for Housing, Health and Wellbeing

Subject: Queen's Platinum Jubilee Opening for Leisure Facilities 2022

Date: 29th April 2022

Author: Leisure Manager

Wards Affected

Borough Wide

Purpose

To seek approval on the opening hours for the Council's leisure facilities over the Queen's Platinum Jubilee holiday period in June 2022.

Key Decision

This is not a key decision

Recommendation

THAT:

- 1) Approval is given to the proposed opening hours for the Council's leisure facilities over the Queen's Platinum Jubilee holiday period 2022, as set out in the report.**

1 Background

- 1.1 Previously, reports have shown relatively poor income and attendances at the leisure centres over bank holiday periods as most regular and block booking customers do not attend. As a result of this low usage and an increase in costs associated with opening on bank holidays, leisure centres normally close, with the exception of Carlton Forum Leisure Centre, which has usually operated between 7.00am – 3.00pm. Opening Carlton Forum on a bank holiday has allowed customers, especially those on a monthly or annual membership, to have access to a leisure facility to

exercise.

- 1.2 Both the Richard Herrod Centre and the Bonington Theatre have traditionally remained open on bank holidays. Compared to an average day, usage of the Richard Herrod Centre is modest and usage at the Bonington Theatre is dependent upon the films available and showing at the cinema.
- 1.3 By operating a reduced service over bank holidays it allows staff to take annual leave, where required, without having to provide full replacement cover. It therefore seems sensible in both operational and business terms to limit the number of facilities and opening hours available on bank holidays.
- 1.4 The Spring Bank Holiday Monday in 2022 has been moved to Thursday 2nd June, to be adjacent to the bank holiday for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Friday 3rd June, resulting in a 2-day bank holiday.

2 Proposal

It is proposed that:-

- 2.1 Arnold, Calverton and Carlton Forum Leisure Centres are opened on Thursday 2nd June and Friday 3rd June from 7.00am – 4.00pm. This allows day-time availability of pools, especially for children and families as the bank holiday falls during the school holidays.

Redhill Leisure Centre to close both days.

The Bonington Cinema and the Richard Herrod to remain open as usual on both days.

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 Leisure Centre opening hours to those contained in the proposal could be considered. However the proposal takes into account previous usage levels on bank holidays, but also recognises that there may be increased pool use by children and parents as the bank holidays

fall in school holidays.

- 3.3 The Richard Herrod Centre and/or the Bonington Theatre could be closed on these days. Although usage has traditionally been low on bank holidays, the facilities have customarily been opened to provide a service to those residents wishing to utilise the facilities that these two venues provide.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 Staff contracted to work at the sites which are opened on these two days will be expected to attend work, otherwise they will need to utilise leave, as is normal practice on closure days.
- 4.2 Where appropriate, employees working on agreed closure days will have appropriate rates of pay applied to them.
- 4.3 Although there will be an increase in costs by opening on the bank holiday days, compared with normal days, the approved base budget will be utilised to pay for staffing at those sites which are open on the Queen's Jubilee bank holidays.

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 There are no appendices with this report.

9 Background Papers

None identified

10 Reasons for Recommendations

10.1 To allow for a continued, daytime leisure provision over the Queen's Platinum Jubilee bank holiday period to ensure that a level of customer service is provided at the Council's leisure facilities.

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

10.3 To ensure that the centres are operating within the approved base budget.

Statutory Officer approval

Approved by:

Date:

On behalf of the Chief Financial Officer

Approved by:

Date:

On behalf of the Monitoring Officer