

Report to Portfolio Holder for Housing, Health and Wellbeing

Subject: Bank Holiday Opening for Leisure Facilities 2023

Date: 13th March 2023

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Wards Affected

Borough Wide

Purpose

To seek approval for opening hours for the Council's leisure facilities for bank holidays in 2023, up to and including the August Bank Holiday.

Key Decision

This is not a key decision

Recommendation

THAT:

- 1) Approval is given for the bank holiday opening hours in the Council's leisure facilities in 2023.

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. It also provides for children and families to use a facility, should

they wish, as schools are closed on the bank holidays.

- 1.2 The Richard Herrod Centre has traditionally remained open on bank holidays. Compared to an average day, usage of the Richard Herrod Centre has been modest, although opening does enable the Gedling Indoor Bowls Club to use the facility, which is part of their agreement. The centre has previously opened 12 midday through to 9.30pm. As the centre was generally very quiet in the evenings on bank holidays, a change to the opening times was trialled over the Christmas and New Year period 2022/23, with the centre opening 10.00am until 7.00pm. This has appeared to be more successful than having a later opening and is proposed for the bank holidays in 2023.
- 1.3 Usage at the Bonington Theatre is dependent upon the films available and showing at the cinema, but usage levels on bank holidays are typically what would be expected for the films that are shown on any other days.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 Typically Calverton Leisure Centre has always closed on bank holidays, although it was opened for the two-day Queen's Jubilee Bank Holiday. Usage at this site was considerably lower than expected over both days.
- 1.6 There are no planned maintenance works expected at any of the sites on any of the bank holidays.
- 1.7 Due the coronation of King Charles III on Saturday 6th May 2023, there is an additional bank holiday on Monday 8th May 2023.
- 1.8 Bank Holidays in 2023 are as follows:

Good Friday	Friday 7 th April
Easter Monday	Monday 10 th April
May Day	Monday 1 st May
King's Coronation	Monday 8 th May
Late May Bank Holiday	Monday 29 th May
August Bank Holiday	Monday 28 th August

2 Proposal

It is proposed that:-

- 2.1 Carlton Forum Leisure Centre is opened from 7.00am – 3.00pm on all bank holidays. This allows day-time availability of a wide variety of

activities and sessions at one site.

- 2.2 Arnold, Calverton and Redhill Leisure Centres to close all bank holidays.
- 2.3 Richard Herrod to remain open, with opening times of 10.00am-7.30pm (bar to close at 6.30pm).
- 2.4 The Bonington Cinema to remain open as usual.

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.
- 3.3 The Richard Herrod Centre and/or the Bonington Theatre could be closed on these days. Although usage has traditionally been low at Richard Herrod 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, as well as enabling the bowls club to operate.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 Staff contracted to work at the sites which are opened on these 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 holidays, compared with normal days, the approved base budget will be utilised to pay for staffing at those sites which remain open.

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 bank holidays in 2023 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