

Paper Petition Details

Re-instate Free Swimming Sessions for Over 60s – Langley Leisure Centre

The free swimming sessions at off-peak times at Langley Leisure Centre use to provide the Over 60s the opportunity to socialise, make friends and learn a new skill. It also gave the Over 60s a chance to get some gentle exercise to improve their mobility and strength. These sessions were vital for our Over 60s community's quality of life and well being. This has been all taken away from them.

Please sign below so that Langley Leisure Centre offers this facility again.

This petition was received on 16th August, 2018.

This petition was passed to the Leisure Strategy Manager on 16th August, 2018.

This petition was responded to by the Leisure Strategy Manager on 12th September, 2018.

Final Results

Number of Signatures	274
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Council Response

I am writing to formally respond to your paper petition which was received on 16th August, 2018.

In May 2017 Langley Leisure Centre closed to the public to undergo a substantial refurbishment programme. At the same time the council was involved in a competitive tendering process to appoint a new leisure provider to operate and manage the council's new leisure facilities for the next ten years. Everyone Active was appointed as the Council's preferred leisure operator and took over the management of the council's leisure facilities in June 2017. It was always the intention of the council to stop paying any subsidy to a new leisure operator as this was not financially sustainable in the current financial climate. Therefore the ongoing provision of free swimming sessions, which were previously subsidised by the council at a cost of £20,000 per annum, was not an option when Langley re-opened to the public in July 2018.

One free session a week is still being offered at Montem Leisure Centre on a Thursday 11am-12pm for the over 50's ('Young at Heart' session). This was a goodwill gesture from Everyone Active but will end in March 2019 when the centre closes.

At Langley, Everyone Active has agreed to offer a reduced rate of £2.00 for an over 50's swim on Tuesday 10am-11am (the normal price for this type of session is £3.50 for a concession & £4.95 adult) and this is proving popular as it also includes use of the spa and steam room facilities.

I note that your petition contains signatures of individuals who live in various areas of the borough (and some who do not live in Slough) therefore the session at Montem would be a valid alternative for those unable to afford the subsidised rate of £2.00 at Langley Leisure Centre. The free and subsidised swimming sessions at Langley and Montem are for Slough residents only as we are unable to offer subsidised activity to people who

do not live in the borough.

I know it is disappointing that Slough Borough Council is no longer financially able to support a free swimming session at Langley but hope that the reduced cost of £2 will not be a barrier for residents to continue taking part in this popular swimming session.

In response to your petition, I will be working in partnership with Everyone Active to look at further opportunities to enhance programmes and sessions for older residents in the borough at subsidised rates. I will also ensure that local people are given the opportunity to contribute to these discussions and would welcome your input into this.

Can I also bring to your attention a diverse programme of alternative activities that run regularly, at various venues across the borough, delivered by my 'Active Communities' team. Many of these sessions are free to participants. Details of this can be found on the following link:

<http://www.slough.gov.uk/leisure-parks-and-events/active-slough.aspx>

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further enquiries.