

BLU Public Meeting Minutes 19th Jan 2002

Approximately 100 in attendance.

Mary Hill (current Chair)

Welcome. Background to the group, introduction of current steering committee.

1. What BLU has done so far

User surveys, database of members, Cheque account, Public meetings, meetings with councillors, investigation into other Lidos, established a network with other groups.

2. Presentation of the Constitution for acceptance

Have had this seen by a lawyer and an advisor to local groups.

Amendments

Para 1 Change 'use' to 'enjoyment' e.g. 'Community-based centre for the enjoyment of creative, health...'

Is it a legal requirement for members to be 17 or over? 12 or 13 year olds can have an opinion? Is this an insurance issue?

MH Do you want an amendment on it?

YL Propose we take out reference to age - omit the phrase completely.

Vote on constitution - passed.

Voting on the new Steering Committee

Giles explains purpose of the steering committee. Asked for someone to propose and second that current members Mary Hill, Yvonne Levy, Linda Daly, Susan MacDonald and Tristram Sutton be retained on the committee.

Passed.

Asked for other volunteers to join the committee - the following names were taken: Melenaie Mauthner, Gerhardt Boomgaarden, Rosie Freemantle, Harry Eyres, Annabel Markova, Ros Price, Jan Phillips, Marisa Lee, Kate Ann de Wiel, Mike Thacker, Judy Holman, Nicky May, Andy Walker.

Asked for someone to propose and second that volunteers being voted onto the committee. **Passed.**

3. Consultant's report

Swimming does not pay its way – other activities do. We have 4 options:

1. Demolish the pool and grass it over
2. Create an alternative use (5 aside football)
3. Run it as it is with a council subsidy
4. Establish another activity that can subsidise the pool (e.g. using the football changing rooms as a fitness centre)

Paddy and Casey spoke of their experiences running the pool and their views on how it should proceed in the future. They agree pool is not viable as it is, only solution is to turn football changing rooms into fitness centre. Will run it over next two years while long-term future is sorted out. Will invest in yoga and whippersnappers group which pay their own way but cannot put much into swimming.

General discussion on the costs of maintenance of the lido.

General discussion on the recent history of the lido and Council funding thereof. Council is in cutback mode – it is a political decision whether to subsidise the pool or not.

General discussion on funding options – Lottery, English Heritage.

Paul Harvey We will have a public meeting on 31 Jan where a working group will be appointed to look at the options on how to move forward with the Lido. Meeting will discuss all 4 options – Lambeth want to keep the pool open.

TS The consultant's report says it will take up to 2yrs to put into place the new structure – what will happen in the interim?

PH need a short-term solution – should discuss this on the 31st.

General discussion on the need to emphasise the special atmosphere of this lido, the community point of view and the need for a creative and imaginative solution. We must stress the age ranges, gender and ethnicity who enjoy the current facilities. It is an election year so we must get our councillors to get the lido on the agenda till May.

Criteria

We want any proposal for the future of the Lido to meet the following criteria:

1. Retain the large open-air swimming pool with at least the present opening hours and season.
2. Retain and expand the existing community use, e.g. health and learning activities like yoga, whippersnappers, meditation.
3. It should be in keeping with the park and local neighbourhood.
4. There should be community representation in future management of the Lido.
5. Any plan must provide for the long-term sustainability of the Lido.

Finances

£330 taken in various collections

£270 spent on stamps etc.

£123 left in total.

We expect to increase our spending as activities pick up this year.

End