

3rd November, 2021.

To: The Lord Mayor, Chairperson and Members of
North Central Area Committee

Meeting: 15th November 2021

Update Report on Northside Swimming Pool

The issue of staffing at Northside and across our recreation centres is not one of lack of funding. It is related specifically to the enormous difficulty DCC has encountered in the past few years in relation to recruitment of appropriately qualified staff to fill vacancies and posts. We have now put in place alternative arrangements for recruitment of additional relief staff which should improve availability of staffing numbers in 2022, which will in turn facilitate additional swimming hours.

City Architects are in the process of appointing a design team to bring forward to tender, proposals for the capital works including the much needed upgrade of changing facilities and the repair of the roof structure. Funding of €845,000 has been allocated in the Sports Capital Programme for 2022 to allow these works to be undertaken. It is unclear at this stage as to whether the pool can remain open during these works. This will be determined once the design has been completed and the full extent of the works programme has been agreed. While it will be our intention to minimise disruption to the services at Northside it is unlikely that some of these works will be able to be completed without temporary closure. In particular the repair required to the roof could not be completed while the public were using the pool, both in terms of health & safety concerns, but also in relation to programming the works in the shortest and most cost effective way possible.

Please see below the average numbers for Learn to Swim over a 5 weeks period from 31/08/21 – 10/10/21:

- Tuesday 3.45 – 6.15pm : 63 children
- Thursday 3-6pm : 65 children
- Friday 3-6pm : 70 children
- Saturday 2.30-5.30pm : 62 children
- Sunday 9am – 2.30pm : 79 children

We will keep the members updated on a regular basis as the programme of works etc. develops.

Regards

Donncha Ó Dúlaing
Sports & Recreation

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