

# Leisure Centre Statement

A Statement by  
Cllr Jeremy Berridge  
as Chair of  
Southwell Leisure Centre Trust



Southwell's Leisure Centre has developed around the swimming pool which was constructed in 1965 by local residents who raised the necessary cash for it to be built. The Centre is held for the town by way of a Charitable Trust under the overall control of the Charity Commission in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

All Trustees hold office with the sole duty to act in the best interests of the beneficiaries (the residents of Southwell and district) and always within the law.

At our last meeting, all the Trustees supported a new pool and leisure centre for Southwell, and have not taken any action which might delay this from happening.

The Cabinet at N&SDC approved the funding for a new pool, in principle, on 19 December 2023 and on 15 January 2024 made a formal proposal to the Trustees, which made the provision of a new pool conditional upon the gifting of the existing Centre from the Trust to the Authority at nil value.

At an urgent meeting held on Friday 19 January 2024, Trustees recognised that whilst they could not agree to the proposed terms which would have caused a breach of Charity Law, they had a duty to the town to thoroughly investigate all lawful options available to them in respect of a possible sale of the Centre. This work has already been started.

There are two key issues. Firstly, any sale has to be lawful (therefore at value) and secondly, it can only proceed with the general consent and authority of the people of Southwell, who own the Centre.

**The Trustees are united in their commitment to providing a fantastic health and leisure provision and in representing the wishes of local residents.**



## Is Repair an Option?

**District Councillors for Southwell, Peter Harris and Karen Roberts, point out that it is entirely possible for the pool pipework to be repaired in far less time than building a new pool.**

**The District Council have obtained an estimate for repair but the figure seems to include additional items, thus inflating the price. Peter is investigating further as he considers that the figure could be much lower than the one quoted.**

Keeping in Touch

