

## PRESS RELEASE - BOSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Municipal Buildings, West Street, Boston, Lincolnshire, PE21 8QR  
T (01205) 314200 F (01205) 364604 W [www.boston.gov.uk](http://www.boston.gov.uk)



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**Press release**

**Training pool re-opening**

Plans for the reopening of the training pool at Boston's Geoff Moulder Leisure Complex are moving ahead, and children could be celebrating with a swim in the first term of the new school year.

Talks are now at an advanced stage between Boston Borough Council, the Witham Schools Federation and Boston Amateur Swimming Club to form a partnership which will see the pool back in use this September.

Boston Borough Council leader, Cllr Peter Bedford, said: "I received one of the biggest petitions the council has ever had when the training pool closed. We have listened to public opinion and acted as quickly as possible to reopen the pool. And we will have done it at no extra cost to the council tax payer."

"Partnership working is the way forward," added Cllr Bedford, pointing to another recent partnership agreement which will see Boston College taking over the running of the Peter Paine Sports Centre with £1 million to invest in refurbishment and public access assured. If all goes according to plan youngsters from Haven High Technology College and St Bede's Catholic Science College and Staniland and Carlton Road Primary Schools will have access to the training pool to learn to swim and hone their swimming skills.

Cllr Yvonne Gunter, Boston Borough Council's portfolio holder for leisure services said: "As leisure comes under my portfolio I have been involved with this exciting project with the training pool. I am delighted that we are almost there in being able to open the pool for the children when they return from their Summer holidays".

Boston Amateur Swimming Club's Guy Dix said: "Boston Amateur Swimming Club was devastated with the closure of the training pool."

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“The swimming club has always had a good relationship with Haven High Technology College. Over the past few months the swimming club and the Witham Schools Federation have sat down with the council to discuss the re-opening of the training pool. It has been agreed that we form a three-way partnership. As a result of this, the swimming club has agreed to pay increased pool hire. In addition, the swimming club will offer support to the ‘learn to swim’ programme. Locals schools will once again have a dedicated pool in which to learn to swim, with the Witham Schools Federation offering a swimming teacher for this purpose. The federation will also help with costs of repairs and maintenance of the training pool.”

“The club have dreamed of returning to the training pool ever since it was shut and it is thanks to the continuing support of our committee, members, other pool users and friends that this is at last happening. The councillors have been very supportive of this partnership, so the club would like to thank them and also say a big ‘thank you’ to Adrian Reed (Executive headmaster of the Witham Schools Federation) and his Governors for making this possible.”

Guy Dix added: “Everybody will gain from this. The schools once more have a safe environment for their lessons, the swimming club will have more pool space in which to train instead of the two/three lanes they currently have, and the public will have more of the pool to swim in.”

Boston Amateur Swimming Club will also be able to improve the abilities of their members. The three organisations are considering a service level agreement which will cover the £100,000 a year cost of running the pool and lead to cash generation to help fund the facility. The club will take more of a lead in the swimming programme across the borough, meeting curriculum objectives and offering children a lifelong skill which may be a lifesaver as well as helping improve fitness levels. Generations of children will also discover that swimming is a fun leisure pursuit.

The swimming club will also have a guaranteed facility available for those who want to take their ability to the next level.

As part of the deal the federation and the club will enter into a five-year agreement which will see them jointly investing a total of £30,000 a year to help with improvements and refurbishment at the pool.

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The pool has been mothballed since June 2009 as a money-saving measure.

Note to editors: The £30,000 being jointly invested each year for five years by the federation and the club is capital monies towards improvements and refurbishments in the training pool. The £100,000 a year running costs will be met by the swimming club paying additional fees, partnering in the delivery of extra swimming lessons and teaching.

Ends

Contact

Andrew Malkin,

Communications Manager

Tel 01205 314308.

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