

Morden Leisure Centre

Welcome to the thirteenth Morden Leisure Centre newsletter, keeping you fully informed about the exciting new leisure project being delivered by Merton Council.

Further updates can be found at: www.merton.gov.uk/leisureformorden

OPENING DATE CONFIRMED...

TUESDAY 06 NOVEMBER at 4.00pm...

The time has arrived... the moment will soon be here...when the doors of the new Morden Leisure Centre open to the public and the old Morden Park Pools closes and is prepared for demolition.

Councillor Stephen Alambritis, Leader of Merton Council, is proud to announce...

"We asked the community what they would wish to prioritise as the facilities they most wanted in the Morden Leisure Centre some time ago now and we set out a budget to achieve their ambitions. We are now on the cusp of delivering the promises we made then on the time scales we expected and within budget."

"The centre will include a café, a diving facility, more water space, a 100 station fitness suite and a studio / community room. The building is light and airy and in our beautiful Morden Park setting. It is now there for the community, families and friends, to come and enjoy your leisure time"

Nick Draper, Cabinet Member for Community and Culture, added...

"Both the Leader and myself have been closely involved throughout this project with all the people from within the council, Pellikaan and various professional experts that have brought this project to its successful outcome. We should applaud all that have made this happen thus far and look forward now to seeing all of our community benefit from this wonderful addition to our culture and sports facilities in Merton."



Councillor Stephen Alambritis, Councillor Nick Draper and Andrew Laslett of Pellikaan share the enjoyment of the new centre being built

Pellikaan completed their construction 17 days earlier than expected on 4 September and since then Greenwich Leisure Ltd have been undertaking training and also been fitting out the centre with the brand new fixtures, fittings and equipment in readiness to open to the public.

As Pellikaan finished off we took the opportunity to speak with Richard van Emmerik, Director, with ultimate responsibility from Pellikaan for the delivery of the high quality Morden Leisure Centre on time and budget, just to find out how he thinks the project as gone.

Richard has found this project particularly special as it has been delivered through a shared effort with the client team from the start all the way through to the finish. The challenge that faced Pellikaan and the client team was the budget constraints, whilst still retaining the high quality without compromising the aesthetical performance.

Savings were made by rationalising the foundations and superstructure which also allowed a shorter programme; re-designing the mechanical and electrical services to more efficient, easy to operate compliant alternatives and choosing different manufacturers. This whole process took about five months but brought the budget back to an affordable price, reducing costs by £650k and maintaining the original design concept.

Richard has been supported on site by a really good team from Pellikaan and Richard would especially like to thank Vic Povey, Joost van Dijk, Andrew Laslett, Christ Swinkells, Rachael Pankhurst and last but not least our local Merton resident, who joined Pellikaan during this project Frenk Areza, for their hard work and dedication in delivering this beautiful new build Morden Leisure Centre.

If Richard was starting this project now there is one big item he would do differently...

"We would prioritise the design of the retaining wall and the diving tower to avoid delays that were an issue at the beginning of the project."

And in finishing the project one item he would like to do differently...

"The Pellikaan Morden Team agreed to jump off the 5m diving board when the building gained Practical Completion... they did, but sadly my fears defeated me ... I would like to have done it and I hope one day I will"

Richard van Emmerik, Director, Pellikaan hands over the building to Christine Parsloe, Merton's Leisure & Culture Manager



There has been some very special Morden Leisure Centre moments for Richard, when he has felt proud to be at the helm...

“The first moment of pure pride was just as we put a spade in the ground and the realisation that Merton Council had trust and confidence in me and my team to deliver their new leisure centre. The second proudest moment was when the diving tower was completed and the roof finished making the building watertight and then, of course the proudest moment of all is when Practical Completion is awarded and our job is almost done.”

When Richard toured the centre recently with Pellikaan owner Gerard Pellikaan, Gerard remarked *“This facility is a beautiful building in the most beautiful setting. The Morden community are so lucky to have this facility on their doorstep. I hope they are as proud of it as we are for building it.”*

And Richard added ... *“This is the one project we really would like to show to all our clients!”*

There are some key features that the architects, GT3, designed and Pellikaan enhanced and built out which makes Morden Leisure Centre very unique.

- ~ The shape of the roof in the pool hall with the integrated curved roof lights
- ~ The orientation of the building with the London skyline on the horizon
- ~ The diving tower and larger secondary pool with the moveable floor – such flexibility for use.

As Pellikaan leave and GLL take over to operate the centre Richard believes that the community will be delighted with the access route to the front entrance and once inside they will enjoy the contemporary design with all of the leisure spaces that were promised ready and waiting for all to now enjoy for decades to come.

Richard is looking forward to seeing the families enjoying themselves, taking part in an array of activities and also the one moment in any project when he feels truly proud and that is in one years time when he will return to meet the people, see how the centre has performed and who knows, maybe that is the day that Richard will be proud enough to take a leap of faith off the 5m board.



Pellikaan, GLL and Client Team

PROJECT MANAGEMENT – CURRIE & BROWN

Annette Tetlaw of Currie & Brown shares her recollections of this project with us ...

“My role on the project is employer’s agent and project manager on behalf of the London Borough of Merton. Employer’s agent means that I am responsible for administering the contracts between the council and the contractors. As there are two phases to this project (the new build centre and the demolition of Morden Park Pools), there are two separate contracts.

Having replaced a colleague who was going on sabbatical on the project in September 2017, when the structural frame was being installed on site, it was imperative that I integrated quickly into the already- established project team in order to ensure continuity.

I remember my first site visit and thinking what an incredible facility and team to be part of. This project, to create a high-quality facility with large spaces for community use, is special because of its unique location and incredible views.

During the project the most challenging aspects have been ensuring that the London Borough of Merton and GLL’s expectations are met and that the centre fulfils the public’s requirements. As project manager I had to manage all parties so that they work together to get the best outcome. I believe that this has been achieved through regular meetings and building good working relationships with all team members.

As we move into the next phase of the project, I am looking forward to seeing the new facility being used by the public and to commencing the demolition of Morden Park Pools.

Working with a great team of consultants and contractors to deliver a top-class leisure facility for local residents to use has been extremely rewarding and enjoyable. It has been a fantastic opportunity to work on this facility with the London Borough of Merton and I hope the public enjoy using it as much as I have enjoyed being involved in building it.”



Christine Parsloe, Gerard Pellikaan, Annette Tetlaw

Next Steps:

- Tues 6 Nov, 12 Noon
Closure Morden Park Pools
- Tues 13 Nov
Demolition Morden Park Pools starts
- Spring 2019
Demolition completes
Landscaping starts
Official opening Morden Leisure Centre