

Dear Residents

We hope you all continue to keep in good health through these difficult times. We at the Board of Herne Farm Leisure Centre would like to update you on the current plans to make this facility available again.

Prior to Tier 4 restrictions and previous lockdowns, we had managed to open the leisure facility under very limited circumstances and have now had to completely close due to lockdown. However, the majority of the groundwork for opening again has now been done, this has to be updated immediately prior to re-opening to incorporate government criteria and protocols. At the moment we are waiting on the national roadmap and are keeping a close eye on local developments.

Adherence of the previous COVID restrictions placed on leisure facilities for opening, has proved extremely difficult with our usual staffing of the site. We acknowledged this and tried to implement various solutions.

It is recognised by the board that additional staff may need to be available so that we can open the pool. We will implement this as soon as the pool is allowed to open again. On this topic we are happy to say the essential works on the pool has been completed in January and now tested so that this is in good repair and ready for reopening. Once the pool has a date we will raise the temperature up again as currently we are conserving energy by limited heating.

We continue to reassess what can be done based on the latest advice; the air conditioning and ducting systems for the building were cleaned and serviced. We now have a valid TR19 Certificate, which improves our COVID risk assessment mitigation, and in general fire risk measures for the hall and wider facilities, keeping it in line with current safety guidance.

Ongoing work continues by both the Financial Director and the Centre Manager to identify, apply for, and process the paperwork for available grants, concessions and financial relief available to us. The nature of our facility means we do not qualify for all the grants publicised. We aim to responsibly reduce the financial effect of the situation as much as possible. We do not intend to or foresee the need to take on some of the available loans (debt). Our current cost reducing measures and our cost projections show us on track to weather the income downturn.

As at Herne Farm Leisure we have more than just the centre with on-going commitments to house move share transfers and other estate activities such as the green spaces to also keep us hard at work.

We the Board and Management of Herne Farm Limited are as desperate as you the shareholders and fellow users of the centre to get back in and enjoy the pool, courts and hall at the Leisure Centre.

Gordon McKinnell

On and behalf of the Board