

# LEISURE MATTERS

Latest team update on the transformation of leisure services in Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon

Issue 3 // 29 August 2019

Welcome to your new look newsletter *Leisure Matters* which will be issued every two to three weeks to keep leisure teams updated on what's happening with the transformation of leisure services throughout the borough.

**Introducing: Mike Dix // Interim Programme Director // M: 07708 319191**

"Hello! I'm Mike Dix and I've just started working with Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council as Interim Director for the leisure transformation project. I worked in local government for 30 years leading and supporting a wide range of services through change before setting up my own company. I've already met some of you, and I'll be out and about over the next few weeks, so please introduce yourself if you haven't already! The transformation of leisure services is an exciting project that I'm thrilled to be part of, working alongside you to make it a success."



## Movers and Shakers

It's been a few weeks since you last had an update on the leisure transformation project, and there have been some important changes to the team since then:



**Stephen Tully** has been appointed as the new **Indoor Leisure Manager**. Stephen will have a leading role in delivering elected Members' ambitious expectations for the service.



**Dwyer Henderson** has been appointed **Area Operations Manager**, responsible for Craigavon Leisure Centre, Cascades Leisure Centre and Waves Leisure Complex, and supporting the transformation project more widely.



**Myra Wilson** is stepping back from her current operational role to work full time on the transformation project, focusing on developing the swim school programme, school swimming and the wider aquatics plans for South Lake Leisure Centre.

Congratulations Stephen, Dwyer and Myra and best of luck in your new roles!

Regretfully, Kevin Schofield, Sam Goodwin, and Mark Fairclough from Volair are no longer able to work on the project because of other commitments which were unforeseen when they started. They have been replaced by **Joanne Martin** and **Laura Fish** who are both highly experienced, most recently in Parkwood Leisure, one of the largest and most respected leisure operators in the UK. We're all looking forward to working with them.



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## Responding to your feedback

Many of you very helpfully took the time to complete the Staff Opinion Survey. You'll have seen the results in the last leisure update, and the key actions following your feedback are listed below. Specifically the actions are aimed at improving team communication around South Lake Leisure Centre (SLLC) and the broader leisure transformation plans, and how you can be more involved.

The changes planned are:

1. **Leisure Matters:** this will be issued every few weeks to keep you updated on what's happening with the transformation of leisure services throughout the borough.
2. **Social Media:** You'll also receive informal updates via your usual team WhatsApp groups if you're part of one. Please contact the Communications team on ext 1556 if you have any other suggestions!
3. **Communication Events:** over the next 12 months, information sharing events will be held around key milestones. The first of these is being planned for the autumn where the draft SLLC structure, the new roles required and the new ways of working will be shared. All of this is currently being discussed with your union representatives.

## Leisure Champions

In the Opinion Survey many of you said you wanted to be more involved in the leisure transformation project, so we're hoping to get *Leisure Champions* across the service to give the leisure team an opportunity to become more directly involved in making this exciting project a success.

These are not new roles, rather development opportunities which are fully supported by management and your union representatives. It is important that the Leisure Champions represent all roles and locations.

Some of the things you might be asked to support are:

- Ensuring colleagues see and understand communication updates
- Sharing colleague feedback, thoughts or ideas
- Being a champion for change, providing feedback and helping implement successful change
- Supporting a range of communication initiatives (e.g. periodic photo or video updates on SLLC progress)

So, if you're up for a challenge and want to put your name forward, or if you want to know more, please speak to your line manager or contact any of the following:

Stephen Tully  
**Indoor Leisure Manager**  
ext: 4507  
M: 07917 432023

Dwyer Henderson  
**Area Operations Manager**  
ext: 1567  
M: 07801 292864

Greg Ferson  
**Outdoor Leisure Manager**  
T: 02837 515920  
M: 07713 083022

Declan Brown  
**Watersports Centre Manager**  
M: 07778 980555



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