



**Armagh City
Banbridge
& Craigavon**
Borough Council

Leisure Transformation Programme

Staff Engagement

Weekly update from the 'Leisure Transformation Project Team

13th November 2020



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Staff Engagement

As you are aware that despite the disruption, the 'Leisure Transformation Project Team' continue to plan for the opening of SLLC, and to move forward with the Transformation Programme as far as is practicable.

The team have committed to communicate with our indoor leisure staff as effectively and as regularly as we can.

In this update, we will focus on a number of issues: Covid-19, 'Leisure Transformation Project Team' update and staff questions/queries.

Moving forward this publication will be done every two weeks instead of weekly.



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Covid

As pupils return to school after the extended Halloween break, everyone including young people are being urged to play their part in the fight against Covid-19 by downloading the StopCOVID NI app.

Almost half a million people in Northern Ireland have now downloaded the app since its launch three months ago. To date, more than 21,000 users have received an exposure notification telling them to self-isolate, including the Health Minister.

At the start of October, the StopCOVID NI app achieved a world first when a new version was launched, making it available to the 11-17 year old age group. With more young people testing positive for Covid-19, the app is a vital tool to help curb the spread of the virus.

It was also announced earlier this week that the Stop COVID NI App will soon provide individualised recommended end date for self-isolation.

The updated version of the App will be released before the end of November and will confirm the date when a user's self-isolation period will end.

This will mean that, rather than isolating for 14 days from receiving the notification, those who are alerted will be given the date when their contact occurred and when their isolation period can end. For example, if an alert relates to a contact with an infected person that took place 5 days ago, your end-date for isolation will be 9 days from receiving the notification (14 days from when the contact occurred).

Once testing is completed, and subject to successful conclusion of discussions with the Information Commissioners' Office it is planned to release version 2.3 to the app stores later this month.



The StopCOVID NI app is available to download from both Apple and Google app stores:

- ☐ <https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/stopcovidni/id1519404160>
- ☐ <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=net.hscni.covidtracker>

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South Lake Leisure Centre opens its doors amidst huge excitement

Monday 2nd November marked a landmark day for Council as we opened the new South Lake Leisure Centre to the public.

Our main aim for the opening was to safely open the building in line with current public health guidelines, to provide access to users during these extraordinary times. The Centre is home to a brand new 50-metre, eight-lane swimming pool and 1,000m² gym, the largest on the island of Ireland, and is now open seven days a week on a pre-booking basis for everyone to enjoy.

As some restrictions on the use of the facility are in place in line with public health guidelines, advanced booking is required to safely access the gym and to enjoy lane swimming in the pool at this time. All other facilities will remain closed temporarily until coronavirus restrictions are lifted.

Located overlooking the stunning Craigavon Lakes, the impressive sports and leisure provision also features a multi court sports hall, squash courts, a dedicated group cycle studio, dance studio, a health and wellbeing suite and an onsite café in a cutting-edge building specifically designed for people with disabilities providing accessibility for all users.

Last month, the Council appointed leading local service provider and social enterprise incredABLE to operate the new café and a suite of hospitality services at the new centre. The café is now open for takeaways only and until current restrictions are lifted. Café incredABLE@ South Lake will occupy a prominent position on the ground floor within the expansive, multi-access reception area and will be an integral part of the complex.

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For more information about South Lake Leisure Centre, how you can join as a staff member (to avail of free gym and swim sessions which is open to permanent and temporary staff member this is not available for casuals), and how to pre-book your visit for lane swimming and the gym, visit www.getactiveabc.com or phone **0330 056 4411**.



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Click the link to view the launch video: <https://vimeo.com/473584921/08eccc438b>

New Community Support Helpline Launched

Council launched a new pilot Community Support Helpline to make a difference to the lives of local residents this week. The helpline, which is open from 9.00am - 5.00pm, Monday - Friday, will provide information and support to local people covering a range of issues including training and employment, health and wellbeing, advice services, volunteering and food support.#

Individuals will be able to call, leave a message or email the new Community Support Helpline and the query will be dealt with by the council's experienced community support team within 48hrs.

With information on key services available from Council and partner agencies including advice services, food banks, Jobs & Benefits, Southern Regional College & Southern Health & Social Care Trust - the helpline can assist you with a range of queries or questions you may have.

Lord Mayor of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Kevin Savage commented:



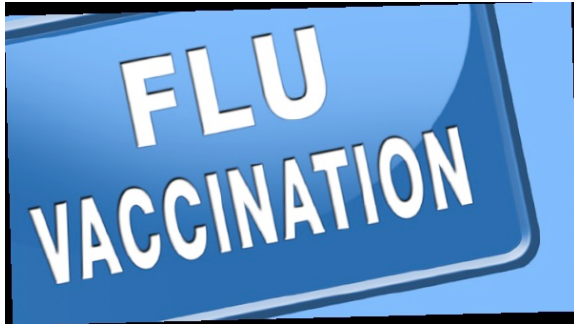
"As part of our commitment to supporting our local community we are pleased to be able to launch the new pilot Community Support Helpline to support our local residents during this difficult time."

"The helpline aims to make life easier, better and more rewarding for individuals and their families, whatever their needs or situation."

This project is managed by Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council and part-funded by Together Building a United Community through the Executive Office.

To get in touch with the helpline: p **02838 312 417** or E [**abccommunitysupport@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk**](mailto:abccommunitysupport@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk)

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Flu Vaccination Update



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At the moment flu vaccinations are not available for Council Staff, but when more supplies are available staff will be able to avail of them

November 2020

This month Council is supporting Movember, an annual month long campaign that strives to help men live happier, healthier and longer lives. From mental health and suicide to prostate cancer and testicular cancer, the campaign is taking them all on. Starting from humble beginnings with just 30 participants, the Movember initiative has grown to be a truly global one, inspiring support from over 5 million people around the world.

You can help raise funds and awareness by growing a moustache, running or walking 60km over the month or hosting a virtual event.

Learn more about the campaign here: w uk.movember.com/?home or for further information on the health and wellbeing of men and boys visit: w mhfi.org

And the winner is...

The winner of our creative face covering competition is **Rebecca Bingham.**

Rebecca is part of the Dog Licensing team and is clearly passionate about what she does! Rebecca said she was inspired by her 25 years in the Dog Licensing team to create her masterpiece.



Rebecca said; I don't think I have ever entered a work competition before! This is totally out of my comfort zone, but I had lots of fun and laughs at home with my mummy and sister helping to make it!"

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Update from the 'Leisure Transformation Project Team'

The 'Leisure Transformation Project Team' would like to give information regarding some of the projects that we have been working in relation to indoor leisure across the Borough;

Dromore Community Centre Re-opening

This week the Dromore Community Centre reopened to the public on Thursday 12th November following the completion of an extensive refurbishment/extension building programme; which is an investment by Council in excess of £2million, the second largest to date outside of SLLC.

To raise public awareness of this re-opening;

The Lord Mayor, Chief Executive and Chair/Vice chair of Committee, Party Leaders and Local Members were invited along to meet the staff and see the building as it reopened to the public on the 12th November.



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We released a pre-recorded video on our various social media channels on the morning of the 12th November, we would ask staff to please view and share this video;

<https://vimeo.com/477767276/932d2186a9>

A press release was sent to the local papers to highlight the re-opening and the refurbishment work; details below;

Newly refurbished Dromore Community Centre re-opens following £2.4m investment by Council

Dromore Community Centre has re-opened its doors to the public following an investment of over £2.4m by Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council. This refurbishment project is part of Councils Leisure Transformation strategy developed to upgrade and improve leisure facilities across the borough.

This significant investment has modernised the centre, creating a spacious, multi-purpose fitness facility, suitable for all ages and fitness levels, with full disability access throughout.

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Lord Mayor of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, Cllr Kevin Savage, said:

“I am absolutely delighted to see this wonderful facility re-open its doors following months of extensive work and redevelopment.”

“A real hub in the community, this centre opened to the public in the 90’s with local residents embracing all it had to offer. I have no doubt users of the centre will be delighted when they see the refurbishments and I am certain it will serve a growing community for generations to come.”

Refurbishment works took just under 10 months and included the development of a two-storey extension to accommodate a new purpose built fitness suite, fitted with state-of-the-art exercise equipment on the upper floor, and new football changing facilities with capacity for four team rooms provided on the ground floor.

The squash courts have been converted into a dual-purpose mini bowling alley and children’s party and community room, while the old gym will now be used as an additional multi-purpose exercise studio.

To accommodate an increased number of visitors, more car parking spaces have been provided and works have also been carried out to bring the building, which was built in 1993, up to modern energy efficiency and sustainability standards.

Restrictions on the use of the facility are currently in place in line with public health guidelines, with advanced booking required to safely access the gym at this time. All other facilities will remain closed temporarily and until coronavirus restrictions are lifted.



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For more information about Dromore Community Centre and information on how to pre-book your visit to the gym, visit www.getactiveabc.com. Alternatively, phone 028 9269 9070.



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Continuing the Transformation of Indoor Leisure

Staff are aware that during 2019 and at the start of 2020 a number of engagement meetings were held in facilities across the Borough to discuss the 'transformation of indoor leisure'.

Unfortunately plans to continue with these engagement sessions were halted by Covid-19 and subsequent lockdowns.

We are now in a position to concentrate on completing the '**transformation journey**' for the other indoor leisure facilities which includes OLC, BLC and the dry centers across the Borough.

We will follow the same process used in SLLC; however, we may need to make some adjustments to ensure that we are adhering to Covid regulations.

The next steps are:

- Consultation on IL structures with union representatives and management.
- Consultation on IL structures with staff.
- Consultation on JDs with staff.
- Opening hours changes for BLC and OLC.
- Principles of shift patterns/ rotas.
- Final Shift patterns/ rotas.
- Small Group and Individual Meetings as required.

Further information on these steps will be given to staff as soon as it is available with regular updates provided in this publication.

Staff Questions/Queries

The 'Leisure Transformation Project Team' are interested in hearing from you, if you have any questions/queries or have a specific issue that you would like us to address during this unusual period of closure, please contact: joanne.grattan@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk with the detail.

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