



# SHIVERERS SWIMMING CLUB

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# Brighton Swimming Club

England's Oldest Swimming Club Founded 1860

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Shiverers Swimming Club  
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Councillor Phélim Mac Cafferty  
Leader of the Council  
Hove Town Hall  
Hove  
BN3 3BQ

Via Email: [phelim.maccafferty@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:phelim.maccafferty@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

28<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Phélim,

## **Re-opening of a Council Swimming Pool**

We appreciate that financing wet leisure facilities represents a challenge for any local authority. Your officers have asked the three Brighton swimming clubs (Brighton, Brighton Dolphins and Shiverers), to work together to enable the opening of one BHCC operated swimming pool, having been told that the preferred council option is King Alfred.

We have worked with Freedom Leisure to provide enough baseline club capacity to enable them to open King Alfred on a breakeven basis. We see this as an enabler to help provide public provision but also appreciate that there is natural tension between the balance of club and public provision. While expanding club provision on one site might require the revision of the present public availability clauses at King Alfred, we are also very mindful that without such baseload club provision, Freedom Leisure is unlikely to be incentivised to open a swimming pool unless BHCC supports a recapitalisation at significant additional cost to the local rate payer.

To this extent the Clubs believe we are offering a pragmatic solution to help get one BHCC operated pool open, from which Freedom Leisure can build the financial confidence to open other sites. We can assure the council that as soon as other sites become available the clubs will relinquish any additional short-term hours for public use. What we believe would be especially shortsighted is to see any wrangling over the ratio of club and public provision stopping the opening of any public pool in the City.

Given the import to the wider local community and some three weeks after the government's announcement that indoor pools can open, we do find it surprising that the affordability of leisure provision across the City is not on the special Policy & Resources Committee's agenda this Thursday. We cannot emphasise enough the importance of getting our swimmers back in the water. This is Shiverers SC's centenary year and they have been swimming on the site at King Alfred since the very beginning; Brighton SC has been swimming in the City for even longer.

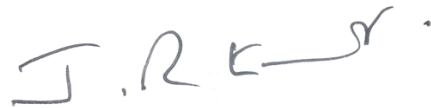
Attached to this letter is a compilation of some of our young members' heartfelt feelings of what it means to them. For some, who are used to training up to fourteen hours a week, they have seen their way of life, and in some cases national aspirations curtailed for 5 months now with all the physical and mental health pressures that entails. I urge you to read them; you won't fail to conclude that they deserve better. Let's get our pools open for our kids.

We are copying this to all the members of the Policy and Resources Committee, Chief Executive and Executive Director of Economy, Environment and Culture services. It will be made public on our respective websites.

Kind regards,



Justin Slater  
Chair, Shiverers Swimming Club



John Kent  
Chair, Brighton Swimming Club