

*Future plans for
the replacement of
the **Memorial Hall**
and changes at
Moss Farm*

Issue 2 - March 2012

www.weavervalley.org.uk/

The Council is committed to providing high quality entertainment and leisure facilities in Northwich; which will also contribute to the major regeneration proposals for the town. Cheshire West and Chester Council has decided to replace the Memorial Hall with a new facility on the site of the Memorial Hall and Magistrates court. The new building is planned to open in January 2015.

Cheshire West and Chester Council met with users and neighbouring residents at the Memorial Hall and Moss Farm in mid February to discuss the implication of the Memorial Centre proposals on the Memorial Hall and Moss Farm.

A public consultation will commence this April through May on the draft proposals for the scheme which currently includes a pool, events and entertainment venue, gym, space for sports, dance studios and squash courts. The outline design currently includes a permanent stage, dressing rooms and bars and kitchen.

Only once the new facility has opened and is fully operational will the Pool, gym and squash courts at Moss Farm be decommissioned. The future use of the pool building at Moss Farm will be decided following consultation with users but the Council is clear that Moss Farm is to continue as a top quality outdoor facility.

Security arrangements will be put in place to protect the building from vandalism following closure.

There are no plan for any changes at Moss Farm in connection with the new facility prior to its opening in January 2015.

Between March and July this year we will consult with user groups at Moss Farm to see if there are ways in which we can improve operation or facilities of the site post-January 2015.

If there are to be any changes then a decision on the options will be taken by December 2012. The Council is open to suggestions on operations but the assumption at this stage is that Brio Leisure (a company wholly-owned by Cheshire West and Chester Council) will continue to manage the site.

Some key indicative dates for the proposals are:

- First round of public consultation on current proposals April – May 2012
- Demolition of the Magistrates Court between July and September 2012
- Second phase of public consultation on design December 2012 to February 2013
- Memorial Hall closes February 2013
- Site preparation (asbestos investigations, service disconnection etc) and construction of the new building March 2013 – Dec 2015
- The new building opens in January 2015
- Pool, gym and squash courts decommissioned at Moss Farm Jan – Sept 2015

The Council will keep you informed and consulted from now until the new building is open through the Northwich Guardian, Weaver Valley Partnership and council websites, leaflets, exhibitions and meetings.

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Frequently asked questions

- Q.** Will the pool be bigger and better than the one at Moss Farm? Will it be big enough for competitions?
- A.** The current proposal is for a 25 metre pool together with a learner pool. The standard of the pool (competition or not) will be determined as a result of the consultation process.
- Q.** What funding is available for any changes at Moss Farm?
- A.** Funding will be explored following consultation and the decisions on which option for the site is to be developed further.

For further information go to weavervalley.org.uk/ which will be updated with answers to frequently asked questions as the consultation progresses.

Information boards will be updated at the **Memorial Hall, Moss Farm, the Information Centre and Northwich Library**. Staff at the Memorial Hall and Moss Farm may also be able to answer your questions and if not will take your contact details and someone will get back to you.

Memorial Hall: 01606 814 640 **Moss Farm:** 01606 783 835
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