



Media release

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pr 1104. Nidderdale Pool now in council's possession.doc DATE: 20 January 2005

photo opportunity – see below

NIDDERDALE POOL AND LEISURE CENTRE NOW IN COUNCIL POSSESSION

The hand over of Nidderdale Pool and Leisure Centre will finally take place on Monday, 24 January 2005, giving Harrogate Borough Council control of the building. Allenbuild, the main contractors, have now given senior leisure officers the 'keys to the doors', thereby bringing an end to the building process. Now the commissioning and snagging work will begin in earnest.

This new £1.6M facility, which includes a 20m by 8m swimming pool; 100 square metres of fitness facilities and associated changing and reception areas, has been beset with problems during its construction. Hand over of the pool was originally scheduled for June last year with the facilities opening for the school summer holidays.

Councillor Pat Jones, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Amenity Services, said: “The delay to the project has been very unfortunate and mainly out of our hands. The people of Nidderdale have been very understanding. They have waited for over ten years for this facility and we are grateful for their continued patience as well as their valiant efforts in raising £200,000 towards the costs. Now that we have the building in our possession it will be all systems go to get it ready for an early opening. ”

Commenting on the prospect of getting an opening date in the dales' diary, Councillor Jones added: “There is still a lot of work to do. Anyone who has bought a new property will be familiar with the term the 'snagging process'. That is where we find out if there are any final small problems with the building and ask the contractor back to put them right. And we have to furnish the facility and train all the staff before we can finally open the doors. We won't do that until we are definitely ready and with a bit of luck this may be before the end of February. We will keep people informed of the opening date.”

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: 2.30 pm, Monday, 24 January at Nidderdale Pool and Leisure Centre, Low Wath Road, Pateley Bridge. Allenbuild will be presenting the keys to Councillor Pat Jones, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Amenity Services, Geoff Hill, of the Friends of the Nidderdale Pool and Leisure Centre and Kevin Douglas, Director of Leisure and Amenity Services for Harrogate Borough Council.

NOTE TO EDITORS...

The cost of the facility is some £1,606,968 made up as follows:

Harrogate Borough Council	-	£525,000
North Yorkshire County Council	-	£ 75,000
Sport England	-	£716,968
Market Towns' Initiative	-	£ 75,000
Learning and Skills Council	-	£ 15,000
Nidderdale Swimming Pool Appeal		£200,000
Total		£1,606,968

The council is recruiting for the centre and there are still places available on the Full Pool Lifeguard qualification and Fitness Qualification. People who are interested in working at the Nidderdale Pool and Leisure Centre should contact Gail Riches, Assistant Manager on 01423 711442.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Councillor Pat Jones, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Amenity Services is available for comment on 01423 872466. Further technical information is available from Mr Kevin Douglas, Director of Leisure and Amenity Services on 01423 556717.