



Media Release

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SPECIALISTS TO SURVEY STARBECK BATHS

Essential work to determine the exact deterioration at Starbeck Baths is to get underway following Cabinet approval of an £18,000 detailed dilapidation and condition survey.

Specialist consultants, Brentwood Design Partnership from Warrington, have been contracted by the council to carry out this work. They have been asked to identify the work which would be required to retain the swimming facility over a five, 20 and 25 year period.

Kevin Douglas, Director of Leisure and Amenity Services, said: “The outcome of the survey will provide us with a thorough knowledge of what is required to bring the pool up to current day standards for the short, medium and long term, together with detailed costings. We hope that those who currently swim at Starbeck will appreciate that this work can’t be carried out without a temporary closure of the facility. Brentwood Design will be carrying out a detailed study of the pool tank, taking core samples and carrying out immediate remedial repairs. We then have to re-fill and re-heat the pool so that the swimming baths can re-open and operate normally.

“Although the consultants have asked for a three week closure, they have told us that there is chance they may not need the whole three week period. We have all agreed that the closure period should be kept to the absolute minimum. Now that we know the date of the closure, we will be talking to all groups and users of the baths to try and minimise the disruption they will be caused.”

Starbeck Pool will be temporarily closed from close of business on Saturday, 29 May and will re-open at the very latest on Monday, 21 June.

During the closure, swimming facilities will be available at Knaresborough Pool and the Hydro and also all swim, aquafit, working lunch card holders and annual swimming members will be able to use their passes at either of these facilities.

Full and detailed programmes for Knaresborough and the Hydro covering the closure period are available at Starbeck Pool reception.

The detailed study will be presented to the Starbeck Baths’ Advisory Group, which is made up of five councillors from Harrogate Borough Council, three Cabinet Members and the two local ward councillors. All meetings of the Group are being held in public.

This Advisory Group is also looking at alternative management options, including the possibility of setting up a Trust to run the pool. The Group will be taking into account the research undertaken by the residents’ group and the bath’s action group when it makes its report to the council’s cabinet in November.

Further information is available from Mr Kevin Douglas, Director of Leisure and Amenity Services on 01423 556717.