

Situation at the Leisure Centre: Update May 2021

Drainage Issue

After numerous calls last year, Thames Water agreed that they are responsible for the drainage system beside the Leisure Centre. The broken man hole covers were replaced, however, it has only been recently that they have attended on site to investigate the blockage (07 May 2021). The engineers advised that due to a problem with the pipework, they need to seek some expert advice. The Parish Council has been advised that a further site visit will be required.

Leisure Centre

The drainage problem highlighted the poor condition of the Leisure Centre. Incessant rainwater in conjunction with the tree roots undermining the building and the cracking at the rear walls and corner where the Council's drainage run is. The Council agreed to protect the public from this building and Heras fencing has been erected.

The Council also agreed to remove the trees surrounding the Leisure Centre and this has been actioned. The Council is planning to remove the stumps shortly.

At the Council meeting in March 2021, the Council agreed to submit a planning application to Epping Forest District Council for:

- i) Permission to demolish the building for health and safety reasons
- ii) Outline planning permission for a replacement building
- iii) To erect a suitable building in the car park area for use as a Parish office.

If a building on Green Belt requires demolition, then it is necessary to submit an outline application in order to safeguard the authorised use.

A member of the working group kindly assisted the Council to submit the application to EFDC.

Playing Fields and Play Area

The playing fields have remained open to the public, with access via the entrance at the main road. Nazeing Youth Football Club have also recently returned to training, but with training across a number of evenings as there is currently no parking available on site.

After the first Covid-19 lockdown last year, unfortunately, it was necessary that the play area remained closed following an inspection.