

**Summary of Public Consultation
Proposals for Replacement of Tides Leisure Centre**

An initial public engagement survey was undertaken in August 2022 asking what facilities residents would like to see in a new leisure centre. 651 responses were received, helping to shape the initial early design proposals.

A follow-up public consultation exercise was carried out on the proposed design of the building and facility mix during September and October 2022.

The process involved a drawing up and getting in touch with a list of over 150 core stakeholders including statutory bodies such as Sport England and Swim England, public agencies, local community groups and sports clubs, town and parish councils, local schools, and any other organisations that would have an interest.

The consultees were invited to a public consultation workshop at the Landmark Centre in Deal and several drop-in events at Tides Leisure Centre across different days and times to capture as wide an audience and user group as possible. An online survey was available to complete for anyone who couldn't attend in person.

The information gathered was used to inform design detail and understand at an early stage any concerns or issues arising from general public and key stakeholders that could be addressed during this phase of work.

Face to face conversations took place with over 200 residents who used Tides Leisure Centre during the consultation period. Those spoken to included swim lesson parents, a parent and baby group, sports hall users, aerobics class and gym users, tennis and football players, Deal Acro Club (gymnastics), Walmer Lawn Tennis Club and Deal Badminton Club.

KCC Police 'design out crime' officers also attended and asked to be kept informed (ASB in this area of Deal is high because of the park setting and areas to shelter and or climb around the current facility).

An on-site consultation visit was made to an activity hub called Leaps and Bounds for adults with learning disabilities in Deal.

Proposed design boards were on display in Deal Library and Tides Leisure Centre for the three-week consultation period (20 September – 9 October 2022). Postcards promoting the online survey were available to take away while hard copy surveys were available to complete on-site.

The supporting survey for residents received 138 responses.

Questions included how it would be paid for, whether it was truly needed in the current financial climate and whether it would be the same operators.

Key comments focused on operations, continuity of service, a desire to keep the leisure pool/flumes and swim lesson availability (families), and room booking availability for groups/clubs. Residents were also keen on lane swimming.

Disabled users asked whether there would be appropriate changing and facilities for them as well as an adequate lift and access around their daycare schedule.