

## Hospital Multi-Storey Car Park

We are very unhappy to confirm that on 24.09.08 a planning application was registered to build a 417 space, 4-storey car park on the site of the existing car park between Orrisdale Terrace and the lido.

Sandford Parks Lido and local residents recognise the need to enhance the access to the hospital site by its staff, patients and visitors. However, the scale of the proposal for the multi-storey car park is giving us real cause for concern. The road infrastructure and volume of traffic and the associated pollution, noise and other disturbances will have a detrimental impact on an already pressured area. It will also have a detrimental impact on the wonderful landscape of Sandford Parks Lido and the sense of peace and calm that it brings to its visitors. The impact of the car park on the lido is summarised in the table below.

The plans are on the Borough Council website (application 08/01253/FUL). To make it easy to access the planning application on-line, the lido has provided a link from their website ([www.sandfordparkslido.org.uk](http://www.sandfordparkslido.org.uk)). Further information on the lido website includes an objection letter and a recent survey of people's views on why the lido is special to them. A sample of comments from a previous survey is shown on the reverse of this letter.

As local stakeholders we are keen to engage with the hospital to review what their true car parking needs are, and how these can be met in a way that is sympathetic to the local environment. We are very disappointed that there has been absolutely no consultation on this proposal with Sandford Parks Lido, local residents or the Keynsham Road Fire and Rescue Service.

We do believe, however, that if sufficient strength of feeling is demonstrated, the planning committee can be persuaded to reject this proposal, and the hospital will be forced to engage with local stakeholders, so if you do feel strongly we urge you to comment. **If we all do nothing this proposal will go ahead as it stands.**

We will be researching the legal and factual objections to the application and will advise you of these in due course. If you want to comment on this planning application please write to *Mr Craig Hemphill* at the Planning Department and let him know your views **in good time before the December planning committee meeting**. The address is:

Cheltenham Borough Council,  
Municipal Offices, The Promenade,  
Cheltenham, GL50 9SA.

Please quote application number 08/01253/FUL. You can also use the Council's planning portal to enter your comments on the application on-line at <http://planning.cheltenham.gov.uk/PublicAccess> (or via the link on the Lido website as described above)

AFFECTED VALUES OF THE LIDO	THE IMPACT OF THE CAR PARK
Historic importance as a lido. One of only a small number of surviving lidos in Britain	Undermines the setting of a locally listed site
Distinctive Character. Unique national importance as a designed landscape for swimming and recreation. Visual quality as a garden landscape	Overshadows the site and robs it of light. The loss of some perimeter trees (with Tree Preservation Orders) that are part of the original concept.
Sense of place. Getting away from it all. Peace and quiet. Calm. Secure. Fresh air. Sun and Light	Great increase (10-11 times) in the volume of traffic on the approach roads. The noise of cars revving up the ramps, entering and leaving the site, barrier and alarm noise and exhaust fumes. Lack of privacy for children and adults in their swimwear and while changing because of oversight from heights of over 40 feet.
Community. Play and fun. Meeting and making friends. Keeping fit. Learning new skills	The car park will undermine the tranquillity and emotional well being that the lido provides

**A sample of comments received during the Revive Event, October 2007, when visitors were asked to communicate verbally or in writing 'what makes the lido a special place for you'. The answers clearly indicate that people using the lido think of it as an integrated whole, where a diversity of factors - community, relaxation and exercise – combine to provide a lido experience**

## **RELAXING**

This is my 'time out' to be still, peaceful and switch off and swim – thank you.

I was always brought up by a lido, at Guildford, I would have to say this one is much better, its got a really beautiful landscape and that's what I really love when I swim up and down, the different effects on the misty mornings and cool sunsets in the evenings. The wind on the water, it's the sort of things you don't get in an indoor pool. It's also a great place to sort problems.

It feels good.

I first came to live in Cheltenham in 1961 and was fortunate enough to discover the lido and its delightful surrounds in that first summer. I don't like heat and am no sun bather although it is the ideal location for those who do. I tend to sit in the shade of the veranda overlooking the café where I can have a quiet snooze or watch the activity. I am no great swimmer but love the water. What a great place to cool off from the heat of the summer. The fountain is a delight and at the end of a visit I sit on its wall for a few minutes for it relaxes the soul especially when under stress.

The lido is my haven of peace and tranquillity.

## **LIFELONG LEARNING**

It's an institution, a rite of passage in Cheltenham.

It has yet to become special for me as it is my first time here – Its beautiful. I will certainly be making good use of it in the years to come with my baby daughter.

The lido is a special place for me as I have been coming here since I was a child and Cheltenham really wouldn't be the same without it.

I love the swimming too and after spending all my summers here as an adult it also has an element of sexual awakening.

It's a peaceful oasis in a world of chaos. It's the jewel in Cheltenham's crown accessible and available to all. Four generations of my family have been coming here and the place hardly changes. Long may it continue.

## **AIR AND SKY**

The Lido is a piece of heaven – and so close to the centre of Cheltenham.

A great place to chill out and look at the skyscape.

Where else can you swim under a great big sky?

Swimming in the open air, the views of the trees, the water, the glimpses of red tiles.

The 'green' environment and open space.

Swimming under the sky whether it's sunny or raining. My lido friends who I usually see here and nowhere else. The wonderful 1930's architecture and landscape design.

It's a fantastic place to be and enjoy swimming in the open air. On a sunny day I can imagine being in a foreign land.

## **LANDSCAPE AND ARCHITECTURE**

The lido is special because it is a safe place to play and swim also there is a lovely garden and park.

Beautiful gardens, generous 50m pool and space and greenery all around – and its accessible to everyone. It is a really valuable and precious asset – a haven in the open air.

It's a great place to swim all year in cool weather with fresh air and a view of the sky. Keep fit and meet people too.

The trees are good to climb. The pool is good to swim in.

Nice architecture and family friendly. Plenty of space, good ambience.

The grounds – trees, grass and open space, great for spending leisure time in. Beautiful place, sense of history – we must save it.

## **COMMUNITY**

I like the lido because its fun and you can come here to meet your friends and just relax. I like it better than an inside pool because then you get fresh air and the sunshine.

It's a place that I can go and enjoy with my family and friends on a hot summers day. There's also always someone I know here as well.

Because it is fun and it has a playground and is a scream.

The pool is very good because you can either swim or just play around with all your mates.

## **FOOD AND FUN**

The food is good and is warm after a long, cold swim.

The ice cream is lush and the doughnuts.

Hi, my name is Lottie and I'm 8. It's special to me because the sculptures make it more inviting and it's fun to come here and go down the slide and I like the café so you can stay here for tea.

The pools and the fact that you can just meet your friends up and swim with them and have a good and fun time.

It is also a place for relaxation and tranquillity on school free days. It is also a place to meet new people and make more friends.

Lovely place for outdoor swimming meeting your friends and chilling out.