

**CULTURE, RECREATION &  
TOURISM  
CABINET MEMBER  
MEETING**

**Agenda Item 36 (b)**

Brighton & Hove City  
Council

**BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**

**20<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

**Deputation concerning Saltdean Lido**

**(Spokesperson)**

**Tony Frisby**

I represent the Saltdean Residents Association which with thousands of individuals is gravely concerned about the situation at the Saltdean Lido.

My deputation to you is in two parts. Part one is a gentle reminder to you (councillors) of your duty of care towards this iconic building and a further reminder concerning its ultimate ownership. In our opinion, ownership of the Lido lies not with the present or future lessee. Neither does it belong to you, the electorate, Councillors, or paid officials of Brighton and Hove Council.

It is our conviction that ultimate ownership of every building inherited by you or entrusted to the Council belongs to the peoples of our beautiful city. You are the custodians and protectors of our cultural and architectural heritage with the profound obligation to protect that heritage for future generations of Brightonians.

The second part of the deputation is a plea. We in Saltdean have been blessed with the emergence of an extraordinary team of capable young professionals who have energised our community regarding the Lido. Their business plan described by independent consultants as robust, is strong, inclusive, financially self sufficient and

self supporting. Their mission; an admirable combination of vision and community spirit.

Please be brave enough to say enough is enough to the stalemate concerning this important communal building. Help make the Saltdean Lido complex what it should be, a modernised vibrant communal centre whose cultural and social amenities would be fit for a changing population in a twenty first century, rather than what it has now become, a major source of anxiety for the voices of Community Charge payers of Saltdean, Rottingdean and Brighton.

In conclusion I appeal to you as recent elected Councillors.

You have the power to make a change for the better and all the information needed to make that change. You will know from reports from you own architects and surveyors the unsatisfactory state of the fabric of the building, which include Saltdean Lido itself, plus various community ruins and a very very busy public library.

You probably now know that Saltdean Lido and it's art deco buildings have been placed on English Heritage's 'At Risk' register for the first time. You may not be pleased to know that Saltdean Lido is the only building owned by a Local Authority to appear on that 'At Risk' register in the south east.

You will know from the business plan presented to you by the Save Saltdean Lido Campaign Committee that there is an alternative to the site which to date seems more intent on private development than the needs and aspirations of our developing community. You will also know that the proposal lays out how the site could be financially self sufficient if operated as planned by a community interest company a not for profit organisation. You will know that Local Authorities have a primary role protecting the historic environment and that they can take action to secure the preservation of historic building through the use of statutory notices.

You may not be aware that English Heritage runs a grants scheme to help underwrite the urgent works and repairs notices. The time is right for you to act, be brave enough to ignore those from central government or within your own midst who may argue against reassignment of the lease for the complex. Doing nothing is not an option, the problem will not go away, in fact any delay will incur more costs due to the rapid deterioration of the fabric.

We will revitalise the Saltdean Lido Complex bringing the entire site to the 21<sup>st</sup> century and we pair your investment and our community by becoming a major tourist asset to be enjoyed by all those who visit or live in our city.

Please reclaim this iconic building in whatever way possible and give it back to us the, the residents of Brighton and Hove.

**ANSWER FROM COUNCILLOR BOWDEN**

I kind of share many of your sentiments, we've been in office for only a few months and we have been, as you know, very active and I think suffice to say we will do all we can to help you, we want a vibrant Lido.

That's what we're going to work for with the Communities Association, the Residents Association, the Campaign Group and the Lessee.

