Why build the swimming pool on this site?

We worked with specialist leisure consultants and also took into account a number of planning issues. From this work, it was clear that the Coldeast site was the best site available in the western wards.

What’s there now?

This is an area of private woodland and fields.

Getting to the site by car

We have worked with expert engineers and Hampshire Highways to find the best location for the entrance to the site. Having the entrance on Barnes Lane will allow easy access to the swimming pool.

Getting to and around the site on foot or bike

Safe routes to the surrounding schools for walkers and cyclists have already been created through the site by the housing developer. These will be retained, although there may be some minor diversions to avoid the new car park.
The Leisure Centre

Why are we building a new swimming pool?

The provision of a public swimming pool in the western part of the Borough has been a priority for the Council for a number of years. Many of our residents have told us that a new pool is needed and our own research shows improved leisure facilities helps maintain people's health and wellbeing.

What facilities will it have?

We have appointed Balfour Beatty, the firm that constructed the Aquatic Centre for the 2012 London Olympics, to design and build the new centre which will have:

- A 25 metre pool with 6 swimming lanes
- A learner pool
- A gym with 100 pieces of equipment
- Exercise room
- Dance studio
Football Pitches, Changing Rooms and Play

**Why football pitches?**

There has been a longstanding need for more football pitches in the western wards. We have consulted with local junior football clubs about the best type of pitches to have at the site. It was agreed that 2 football pitches, one full size and a smaller one for juniors would offer the most flexibility and meet the needs of local clubs and residents.

**Play Area**

Helping to bring youth back to nature, a brand new wood themed play area for children will also be provided. This will be unique, taking inspiration from its surrounding. The play area will provide exciting and challenging play opportunities for all young children, including tunnels, slides and tree houses!

Consultation will be carried out with local residents and schools to seek their ideas and suggestions on the type of equipment they would to have included in the play area.

**Multi-use Games Area (MUGA)**

A multi-sports facility provides a dedicated all weather play surface for a range of sports to be played on all year round, including; football, basketball and netball. Suitable for a range of ages and abilities.
Conservation areas

Alongside the Swimming Pool, there is a large area of land on the site that supports woodlands, meadows, a pond and an orchard. This land has been taken on by the Council’s Countryside Service and will be managed for nature conservation and public enjoyment.

We are working on a 10 year management plan that will help us decide how best to look after the different wildlife habitats on the site.

Get your boots on

It is intended that the local community will be invited to become involved in the conservation with weekly work parties taking place.
Conservation Improvements

**Orchard**
The orchard will be restored. Work will take place to remove scrub and trees will be pruned.

**Conservation Woodland**
Invasive species will be removed and the rest of the woodland will be left in a semi-natural state to create a conservation woodland area.

**Pond**
Work has already started at the pond to cut back vegetation. Banks will be widened and stabilised and scrub and trees around most of the pond will be removed to open it up to the public.
The pond will be dredged and some invasive species will be removed to encourage more wildlife. There is potential to include a feature bridge at one end of the pond.

**Community Woodland**
Invasive species such as Rhododendron and Laurel will be removed and native species including Hawthorn, Hazel and Field Maple will be replanted. The current paths will be neatened and maintained. Way-marking posts will also be installed.

**Meadows**
All the scrub will be removed which will improve grassland and wildflower seeds will be sown.
What happens next?

Summer 2015: Start construction

Spring 2016: Open the Leisure Centre

Summer/Autumn 2016: Open the play area, MUGA and football pitches