



News release

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For immediate release:

Waveney Valley Leisure Centre gets ready to re-open

We're just days away from the re-opening of Waveney Valley Leisure Centre – marking the completion of the £3.4 million refurbishment!

The new and improved Waveney Valley Leisure Centre will re-open on Wednesday 28 October at 12pm for gym and fitness classes and swimming sessions, which will be followed by swimming lessons on Monday 2 November.

The centre, formerly Bungay Pool & Gym, closed in September 2019 to undergo the £3.4 million refurbishment and bring state-of-the-art facilities to the area. Initially estimated to take around 10 months to complete, the Covid-19 pandemic meant that work was slightly delayed.

As well as renewing the mechanical and electrical systems, the refurbishment includes:

- New changing rooms, showers and toilets, including improved disabled Changing Places facilities
- A new café area with a pool viewing area, WiFi and air conditioning
- New, modern gym equipment and a refurbished studio
- A new sauna
- Refurbishment of the flume
- Improvements to the car parking area

In addition, the Council also took the opportunity to invest extra money in retiling in and around the pool and building a brand new spin room.

CLlr Letitia Smith, East Suffolk's cabinet member for Leisure, said: "Before lockdown, we were seeing a real surge of interest in our refurbished centres, which have all been completed to the

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highest standard, and we are so excited that Waveney Valley Leisure Centre is now getting ready to join this list.

“It goes without saying that taking care of our own wellbeing has never been more important, and exercise has a significant impact on both our physical and mental wellbeing, so we’re so happy our customer can soon return and we can’t wait to welcome everyone back.

“I want to reassure everyone that we have been taking every step to ensure we are re-opening safely, including putting a number of safety measures and cleaning regimes into place, as well as maintaining social distancing.

“I would personally like to thank our customers, and everyone in the area, for their support and patience while the work was done, and for being understanding to the slight delay in re-opening due to Covid-19.”

Places Leisure, who operate the Council’s leisure centres in the south of the district, have been awarded an interim operational contract for Waveney Valley Leisure Centre following the end of Sentinel Leisure Trust’s operational contract.

Delays to the contractual/procurement process caused by Covid-19 means that it has not been possible to appoint a permanent operator yet, however, a decision is expected to be taken in December.

Jeremy Boreham, Area Manager for Places Leisure said: “We are delighted to help open the brand new Waveney Valley Leisure Centre in partnership with East Suffolk Council as we aim to achieve our social mission of ‘creating active places and healthy people’. The new leisure centre will offer the local community access to a diverse range of exciting new activities that can be enjoyed by the whole family.”

The centre was designed with the Council’s development partner, Pulse Design & Build.

Matt Johnson, Executive Director at Pulse & Build, said: “We are thrilled to see another fantastic project reach completion under our partnership with East Suffolk Council. We have overcome the challenges of 2020 to deliver this project on time and to budget.

“Pulse Design & Build has a strong presence in Suffolk and has delivered several leisure projects in the county, which have created jobs, training opportunities for young people and supported local suppliers. The redevelopment of Waveney Valley Leisure Centre will continue in this vein and have a lasting impact in the local area.”

For more information and to register, go to www.placesleisure.org/centres/waveney-valley-leisure-centre/.

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