



Surrey Docks Watersports Centre Consultation Report

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1. Introduction

Surrey Docks Watersports Centre set in Greenland Dock, Rotherhithe, has trained thousands of people in sailing, canoeing and other watersports for almost twenty years.

In February of this year the council agreed to allocate £12.3 million for the refurbishment of its current leisure centres. This is the Council's largest capital investment in its leisure centres and one of the biggest in the country by a local authority.

In the first phase of refurbishment, £2.3 million of that funding has been allocated to Surrey Docks Watersports Centre to fully refurbish the building and facilities. This is in order to bring the centre up to modern standards, increase its appeal to a greater number of users and ensure that sailing, canoeing and other water sports are provided to the highest standard possible, increasing accessibility and maintaining prices that are still affordable.

Work will commence on this project in late spring of 2008 and it is the council's intention to provide temporary changing facilities for the uninterrupted provision of watersports throughout the nine months that the main building should be closed for refurbishment.

2. The Consultation Purpose

On August 17 the council began the four-week consultation period with residents of Surrey Docks and Rotherhithe wards by posting **10,500** letters and business reply cards to them. At the same time the council posted **1,500** letters and cards to regular users of the Centre and invited all clubs that use the facilities to email their members to ensure they were also included.

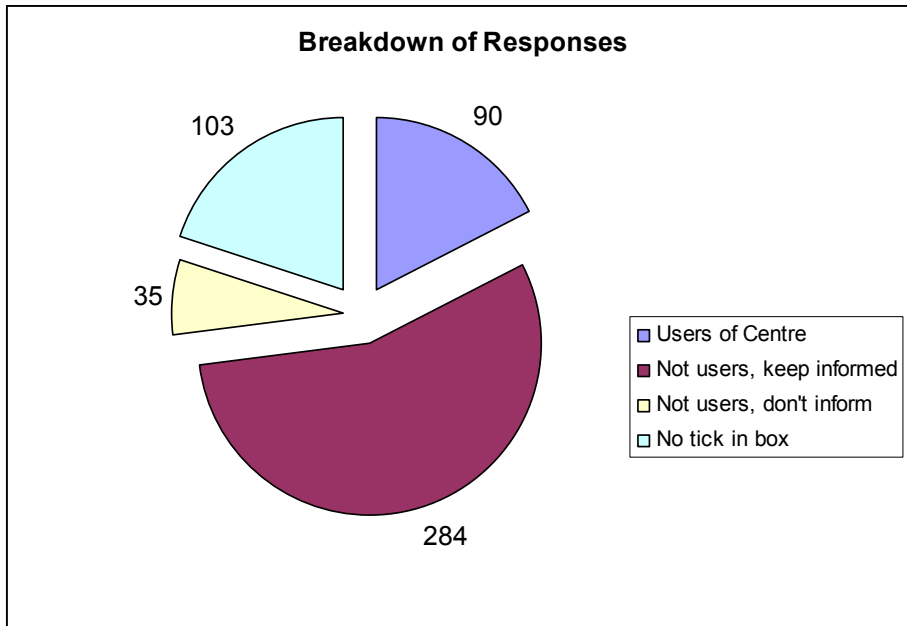
The purpose for involving the resident and users was to ask them what would interest them in using the Centre either for the first time or becoming a more regular user. We wanted to know what type of additional services they would want in **their** Watersports Centre. We gave them these options and an 'other' box to make their own suggestions in the following format:

As a matter of importance to you, please number from 1 to 5 from the selection of services and facilities below: (1 being not important and 5 being most important)

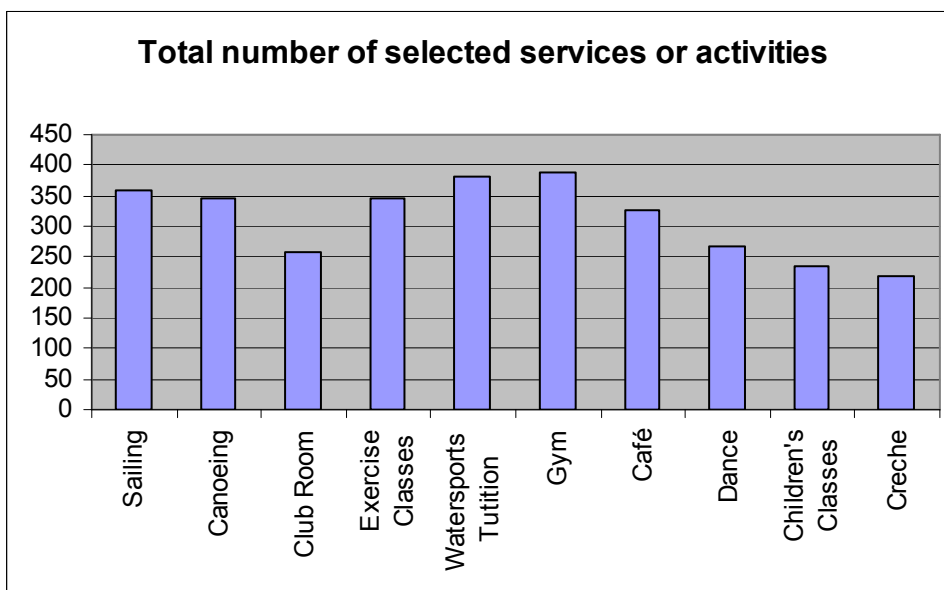
- **Watersports (sailing)**
- **Watersports (canoeing)**
- **Club room**
- **Exercise classes**
- **Watersports (tuition)**
- **Gym**
- **Café**
- **Dance studio**
- **Children's classes**
- **Crèche facilities**
- **Other**

3. The Consultation Results

After four weeks and sending **12,000** letters and reply cards Southwark Council received **512** replies, a response rate of 4.3%.

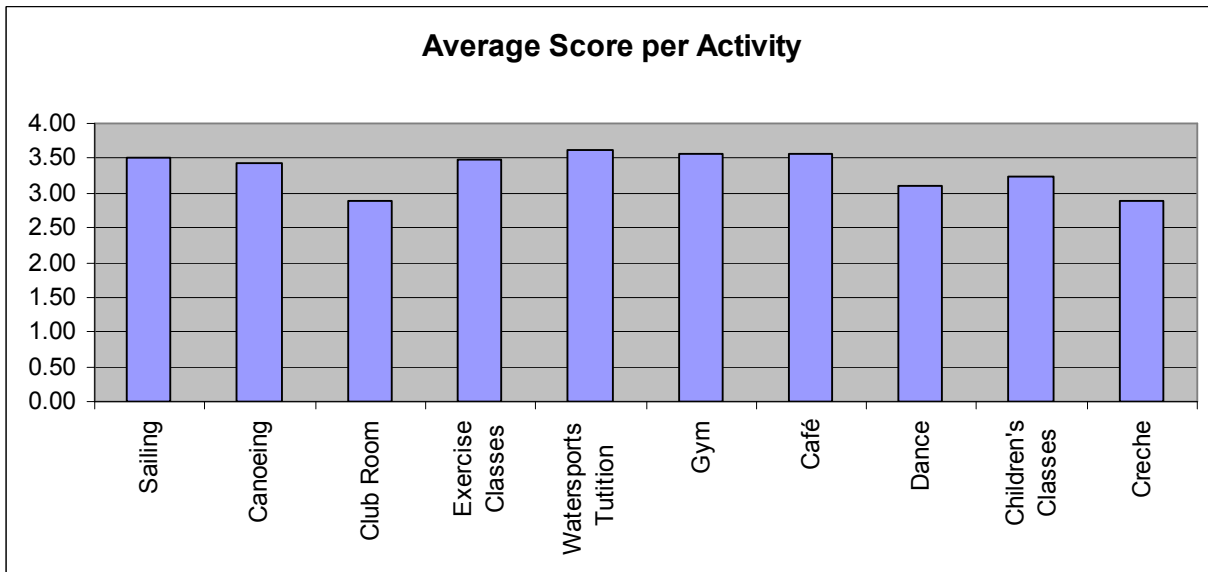


The table below shows the total number of respondent selections for each of the services and facilities, e.g. 358 people selected Sailing as being important to them.



- | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| • Sailing | 358 | • Gym | 387 |
| • Canoeing | 345 | • Café | 327 |
| • Club Room | 257 | • Dance studio | 266 |
| • Exercise classes | 345 | • Children's classes | 236 |
| • Watersports tuition | 383 | • Crèche | 219 |

The table below shows the average importance rating for each of the services and facilities, e.g. the average importance rating of Watersports Tuition and Gym is 3.61 and 3.57 respectively. This indicates that a majority of respondents regard these as important (i.e. on the scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is unimportant and 5 is most important).



- **Watersports tuition** **3.61**
- **Gym** **3.57**
- **Café** **3.55**
- **Sailing** **3.51**
- **Exercise classes** **3.49**
- **Canoeing** **3.43**
- **Children's classes** **3.24**
- **Dance studio** **3.11**
- **Club Room** **2.89**
- **Crèche** **2.89**

4. Other suggestions made

We also asked for any other ideas or suggestions for the refurbishment of the Centre and other services that people would like. These will be taken into account in the design for the refurbishment where feasible and affordable. The suggestions and the council's responses are set out below.

- **Scuba diving and open water swimming**

Due to current health and safety regulations and Port of Authority bylaws Surrey Docks cannot permit either Scuba diving or swimming. For Scuba diving a minimum of 40 feet is required and even in the deepest part of the dock there is seven to eight feet of silt, it simply isn't clear enough to see through a mask.

Swimming in Surrey Docks is prohibited by current local bylaws, mainly for safety reasons.

- **Windsurfing**

SDWC is pleased to be able to introduce Windsurfing courses in the summer season of 2008 – May to October – when residents and users of all ages will be able to join in courses and become engaged in this exciting sport.

- **Yoga, Meditation and Massage**

Although our thinking about the designs for the refurbishment of the Centre is at a very early stage in order to take account of public consultant, it is envisaged that a dance studio could be included in the refurbishment of the Centre for all types of exercise classes.

- **Space to eat outside**

It also envisaged that a seating area could be created along side the dock for people to relax after their activity or simply to enjoy watching watersports.

- **Room Hire**

A Club Room that can be used as a classroom, and hired for corporate and entertaining functions can, in theory, be incorporated in the refurbishment scheme.

- **Exercise machines**

Residents and users showed a desire for a gym to be included in the new Centre and specific exercise machines to compliment the Watersports Centre itself – high performance rowing machines. Along with all of the equipment that you would expect to find in a gym rowing machines are integral to developing a fitness regime to be used both on and off the water.

- **Disability Discrimination Act (Click link to review [DDA guidelines](#))**

The refurbished Centre will comply with DDA regulations. Prior to the consultation taking place the council was in discussion with the [Royal Yachting Association](#), [Tideway](#) and Splash users of the Centre. The council is confident that the priority requirements of both disabled and able-bodied users of the Centre will be met.

- **Senior Citizens**

We were asked for classes for the over 60's and for those individuals with disabilities. The centre will become DDA compliant and skilled staff will manage the Centre with specialists to take additional classes.

- **Watersports Membership**

From the moment that your RYA course has been completed to the following levels you can venture out on the water:

- **Sailing** – for recreational sailing – RYA Adult Level 1 certification / RYA Junior Stage 2
- **Kayaking** – BCU1* certification
- **Windsurfing** – RYA Start Windsurfing certification

Prices for family, adult individual, couple and young person membership and benefits can be found at this [link](#) or visit - <http://www.fusion-lifestyle.com/CentreDetails.asp?cat=37>

Those ideas not being added to the design brief: Hairdressers, Ice rink, Music lessons!

5. Do you want to become an 'Interested Party'?

Of the 512 respondents, 195 people indicated that they wanted to be kept informed via email and 197 that information is posted to them when it becomes available.

Although the consultation period date has closed, the council still wants to hear from all residents and users if they have an opinion to voice or even if they just want to be kept informed.

To register your interest in this project please visit the Southwark Council web site at **www.southwark.gov.uk** – and click on '**Sports and Leisure**' on the left hand side, then 'Investing in Leisure', and select Surrey Docks Watersports Centre – you will see an [online form](#) to complete (or use the link provided here) – it takes just one minute.

On the web site you will also learn more about all three of the on-going leisure centre projects with responses to [frequently asked questions](#) for Dulwich Leisure Centre, Camberwell Leisure Centre and of course [Surrey Docks Watersports Centre](#).

Details will be posted on the web site as more information becomes available on further consultation, notice of key dates and special events or offers as part of the refurbishment programme, however if you register your interest then we will notify you directly via your chosen method of communication – post or email.

6. What happens next?

As a result of this consultation report and meetings the council hosted an exhibition at Surrey Docks Watersports Centre on Saturday November 24 from 10am to 12 noon. From **November 2007** until the building works begin you will see conceptual designs of the new refurbishment along with specifications of equipment to be installed in the Centre.

The reinvestment in the centre is intended to raise the profile of watersports and improve the appeal, viability and sustainability of the Centre. A top priority of the council is to increase participation in watersports by improving the existing facilities and services thereby making them more appealing and accessible.

If you are in the Surrey Docks Watersports Centre area then please go along and take a look. It is situated in an attractive waterside location and holds something special for everyone that uses it, either as individuals or for public and corporate events. The planned improvements will ensure that it will be a thriving and vibrant resource for everyone in Southwark to enjoy.

End of document.

[Surrey Docks Watersports Centre](#): Rope Street, off Plough Way, Greenland Dock, Rotherhithe, London SE16 7SX – Telephone: 020 7237 4009