

HOUNSLOW LOCAL PLAN: EXAMINATION IN PUBLIC

Matter 9 Allocated Sites in Great West Corridor Site 32 (Tuesday 16 June)

Statement of Marie Rabouhans on behalf of the West Chiswick and Gunnersbury Society (WCGS) (REP 048)

Under Land uses the site allocation states that these “could include leisure”. It is essential that redevelopment of this Council-owned site includes a replacement leisure centre including swimming pools and that discontinuity of provision is kept to a minimum.

An Engagement Report in Spring 2025 showed the importance of the centre to the community, especially the swimming pools and the family-friendly facilities including different swimming pools for different users.

In October 2025 Cllr Salman Shaheen, Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Public Spaces, said:

I’m thrilled that the Brentford Fountain pools are reopening for our community to enjoy once again. Swimming is one of the most popular and accessible forms of exercise, and I know how much local residents have missed having this facility (being) available.

In January 2026 Hounslow Cabinet approved a report on redevelopment of the centre. In February 2026 the Council awarded £701,000 to progress the replacement of Brentford Fountain Leisure Centre, covering initial design and engagement.

Conclusion The Local Plan will not be sound unless this Site allocation makes clear the vital need for a replacement leisure centre with swimming pools in this accessible location. While regrettably the Local Plan lacks a high-level, over-arching statement on health and well-being, the Council recognises a great need to improve the health and wellbeing of its residents. Provision of exercise and play facilities is especially important in this location in view of the serious open space deficit within the surrounding high-rise, high density residential developments recently built or consented (over 2000 units).

WCGS

27th April 2026