

FAQs about the Cleveland Pools - updated December 2018

1. **When is it going to be open?** Our target is Spring 2021 for swimming.
2. **Who owns The Pools?** – Bath and Northeast Somerset Council (B&NES) which operated The Pools before they closed.
3. **Why did the Pools close?** The closure of the pools happened after the Leisure Centre on North Parade was opened in 1975. They re-opened for two final seasons in 1983 and 1984 whilst the Leisure Centre was temporarily closed.
4. **Where is the money coming from to restore the Pools?** Thanks to National Lottery players and supported through the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), the £4.7 million grant will enable the restoration of Cleveland Pools to begin. The full scheme will cost £5.7 million and the Trust, having already raised £800,000, will now secure the remaining funds.
5. **Who will run the site?** The Cleveland Pools Trust will remain the leaseholder of the pools and will let an operating contract to a not-for-profit organisation. The Trust is currently in negotiations with the Bath Recreation Limited which has shown an interest in becoming the operator of the pools on completion of the capital works. Bath Recreation is a charitable company dedicated to: *“The provision, with or without charge, of property in or near Bath (including, but not limited to, the Bath Recreation Ground) for use as outdoor recreation facilities for the benefit of the public.”* www.bathrec.co.uk
6. **Will there be much noise?** Generally, sound emitted from the Pools won't be much different from what is heard now across the river from Kensington Meadows. Managing 'sound leakage' was part of the architects' design brief and B&NES required an acoustic study based on sound leakage, the recommendations of which were added to the conditions attached to the planning permission. On hot sunny days in August, at maximum occupancy, it could get fairly noisy during peak times (as it did historically) but there will be clear signage requesting visitors to be considerate to neighbours.
7. **How much will it cost to get in?** The current business plan is based on: Adults £5.50, Child (2-16) £3.50, Concession £5, Family £16.50, Non-Swim (Heritage etc) £2.50, Schools £2.00 per pupil. The Trust wishes to keep costs as low as possible whilst maintaining the viability of the site.
8. **Has it ever flooded?** The lower part of the site does flood. It last happened in January 2014. We are prepared for an increase in occurrences and have a contingency for any clear-ups built into the Business Plan. The main pool was originally designed to be river-fed, flowing in and out. It was fully enclosed in 1910. Flood defence issues are regulated by the Environment Agency and the pool site has to remain in the flood zone to

capture flood water and alleviate the flood risk for the rest of Bath further downstream.

9. **How will you solve the parking problem?** The Pools cannot and will not offer parking. All publicity associated with the Pools will make this very clear and we will work closely with the highway authority (B&NES) to encourage enforcement of the existing, and potentially extended, restriction regime. 32,000 people live within easy walking distance of the Pools so a “Green Travel Plan” promotes walking, cycling, public transport and coming by boat using the Boating Station boats which operate between Easter and October and can drop people off on our re-instated landing stage. Two dedicated parking bays will be provided for those who are physically challenged. At the 2014 Heritage Open Days, 1,358 visitors attended without a car. The major attractions of the Thermae Spa, Roman Baths and Prior Park have no parking.
10. **Will anyone live at the Pools?** There is the potential for accommodation to be provided in the Cottage for a caretaker. As in the past, they would manage the pool and buildings, look after the gardens, and be qualified to lifeguard. Having people living in would give added security.
11. **What will happen to the upper pool?** The former children’s pool will be covered over to create a terraced area with a Kiosk café at one end. The void beneath the deck will be used as a much needed water treatment plant situated above the flood plain. A new shallow children’s pool (10m x 9m) is being built on the lower level, next to the main pool which will be 25m long.
12. **Can I swim all year round?** The Pools will be open for general public swimming for 22 weeks each year (April – September). It is hoped that there will be some winter (unheated) usage by swimming clubs or similar.
13. **Will the pools be heated?** Yes, to around 28 degrees in summer, and they will be naturally treated/filtered. 30% of the energy required for heating is coming from a renewable source via water sourced heat pumps set in the river bed. The pools won’t be heated in the winter due to cost, but open water swimmers have expressed an interest in our cold water option. The Children’s’ Pool will be warmer than the general pool.
14. **How big will the new toilet block be?** The new WC block will be adjacent to the new childrens’ pool in the north-east corner of the site, tucked into the bank and under trees to minimise visual impact. The building is 3.8m wide at pool side, 6.45m long into the bank, 1.57m above the top of the bank. It is like a small National Trust WC block with 1 cubicle and 2 urinals for men, and 4 cubicles for ladies. The other structure at a right angle to the WCs is an open-fronted storage shed built up against the river bank, abutting the boundary wall at its eastern end. This location is where previous structures were originally sited here, as indicated on Cotterell’s 1852 map.

15. **How many people can swim at once?** Our Business Case states (based on Sport England's guidance) a 133 capacity for the main pool, and 27 for the smaller pool, time-ticketed. Site capacity is estimated to be 242.
16. **Will there be showers & lockers?** Yes, both, either end of the Pools.
17. **What other support are you getting?** Along with the HLF, we've had huge support from: B&NES council, which owns the site (1 of only 2 buildings in the Bath World Heritage Site on the national buildings at risk register) and provides advice, expertise and funding. The Prince's Regeneration Trust aided the business planning/negotiations. The Environment Agency is advising on riparian matters/flood water control. Wessex Water help with water quality/management systems. The Bath Preservation Trust is a vocal supporter of the scheme and Bath Recreation Limited is providing advice and guidance concerning future operating matters. The Historic Pools of Britain offers support and experience from the many other pools in the UK run predominantly by trusts and volunteers. Other local businesses have offered help, and, along with myriad residents from Bath and beyond, are on the Trust's 3,000-strong database.
18. **Who will do the building work?** Full planning permission was granted in April 2017. With confirmation of the £4.7M HLF grant consideration will be given to appointing contractors. Construction is anticipated to start late in 2019 for a 12-15month period.
19. **How will you get machinery/materials on site for the restoration?** This is one of the most challenging aspects of the project, one that would be faced by any organisation wishing to restore the pools and to bring the site back into use given plant and machinery has to come via the river. Our aim is to cause the least possible disturbance to neighbours and we have to demonstrate that we have come up with the least disruptive methodology for executing the works as a condition of the planning permission. A new consultative group has been set up with support from B&NES to work through the delivery phase to achieve this, and will include local residents, local businesses, local councillors & Trust representatives.
20. **Will there be access for swimmers from the river?** Yes, we will welcome river swimmers or those with their own boat or canoe coming to the Pools. They will be provided with a stepped access and a floating pontoon which will be a safe distance from the landing stage to be used by the boat service.

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