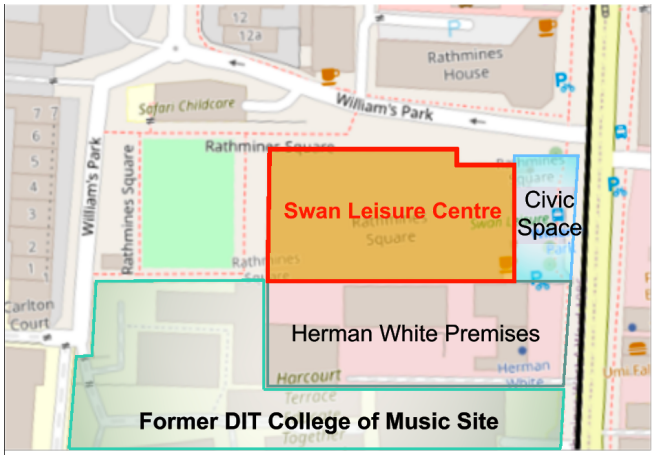
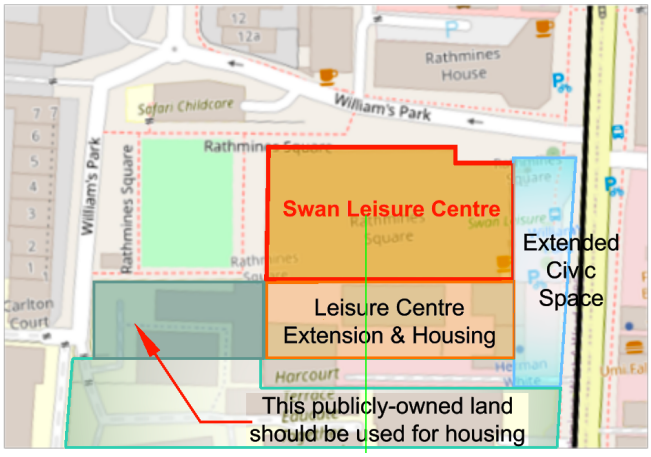
PLEASE SUPPORT THE EXTENSION OF THE SWAN LEISURE CENTRE!

Make your voice heard before 12th May!

On 12th May, your councillors will vote on a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) which would allow for a major extension to the Swan Leisure Centre. The extension is needed to provide additional facilities, to cope with the increasing demand for its services which are helping our community live healthier, happier lives. Please write to your councillor asking them to vote in favour of the CPO.



Current Use



Proposed Use

The Swan Leisure Centre is the most successful facility provided by Dublin City Council for our community in Rathmines. Such is its success that demand has outgrown the facilities provided. Now a waiting list of up to 80 people per day has become the norm during weekdays.

Currently Swan Leisure has 4,196 paid up members:

- 1,808 adults and children attend weekly swimming lessons
- 20 local sports and youth groups use the facilities – essential because of the shortage of playing fields locally – but it has only one Sports Hall
- 4,291 senior citizens use the club
- In addition to the 4,196 paid up members, last year there were 26,881 pay-as-you-go swims and 8,901 pay-as-you-go gym visits.

The Rathmines Initiative played a pivotal role in the provision of the Swan Leisure Centre after the closure of the old council swimming pool which used to occupy the site about twenty years ago. We were set up comprising representatives of local community organisations, and in collaboration with the UCD School of Architecture and others made the case and campaigned for a more visionary and comprehensive facility to replace the old swimming pool. This resulted in an Architectural Competition, won by local architects Donnelly Turpin, for the design of what is our current Centre. The original design included a pedestrian plaza extending down to The Library. (At the time, there were talks aimed at creating a larger site by amalgamating the swimming pool site with its neighbours to the South, the Herman White site, and part of the Rathmines Tech site.)

Recently Councillor Fiona Connelly proposed that Dublin City Council CPO the adjoining site to allow for an extension to Swan Leisure. While this was unanimously agreed by the elected members of the Council, a report from City Council Management argued that the centre's facilities are sufficient to meet current demand.

The above statistics indicate the huge demand for this service. If you are a member or user of Swan Leisure, you will know that it has a waiting list on a daily basis. It is clear that it needs more sports halls, exercise studios and a toddlers' pool. The classes which the centre offers for our older citizens make a huge difference in helping them to maintain their mobility and wellbeing. There are also classes for people with disabilities, parents and toddlers and the whole community. There are special classes weekly for people with autism where lights and noise are turned down to facilitate their needs. With the ever increasing demand for these services, there is an urgent need to extend the centre to provide additional accommodation. In addition, the original plan provided for community meeting spaces, but when the larger site could not be procured, this requirement was said to be provided by sharing the Sports Hall, which has not proved feasible because of the constant programming of the hall for sports activities. The CPO proposal aims to make up for these shortcomings, expand the centre so that it can cater for existing and future demand, and provide the community meeting spaces that the original scheme had intended.

To make the CPO happen, we are asking YOU to write to your local Politicians outlining your experience and emphasising the need to expand this facility which is so essential to the wellbeing of our community. Rathmines lacks sufficient public amenities such as sports fields, public open spaces and a Community Hall, and this is an opportunity to correct that imbalance.

The CPO would also facilitate the provision of much-needed housing on upper floors as in the current Swan Leisure centre, and if amalgamated with vacant parts of the adjoining publicly-owned site, the former College of Music premises, would have the potential to make a significant dent in our housing shortage.

Please make your voice heard – it will make a difference!

You can find a list of your Councillors' email addresses on the next button down. Just click an address, imagine a better future for our community in Rathmines, and start writing !! And look out for the online petition!