

APPENDIX A

Written Responses to Public Questions

6.3 To the Mayor from Mr Anthony

If it is safe to swim "any speed and stroke" in the swim for all lane at the London Fields lido, why isn't it safe to do this in any other lane in the pool if that other lane has more room?

Response from Mayor Woodley

In response to your request for written correspondence, I have asked officers to advise and am informed that the 'Swim for All' session at London Fields Lido is a casual swimming session, focused on giving friends and family a great way to enjoy a more relaxed swim in a non-lane swimming environment. If customers of the Lido wish to take part in a fitness swim i.e. lane swimming, then there are other 'Swim for Fitness' sessions available where the rules relating to lane swimming apply.

A wide range of swimmers access the swimming pool at London Fields Lido and it is necessary to ensure all can do so in a safe environment.

It was therefore decided that breaststroke would be banned from Lane 4 (the fastest lane) in 2011/12 to ensure the safety of both those using Lane 4 and those swimming breaststroke, a traditionally slower stroke. This policy is enforced by lifeguards to ensure that all users are in the correct lane, suitable for their style and speed, and is in line with industry standard guidelines that recommends that swimmers of similar ability and stroke should use the same lane.

The policy was implemented at London Fields because a particular issue was identified and mitigation measures needed to be implemented. Similar issues were / have not been identified at other pools.

Since re-opening to the public in October 2006, after eighteen years of closure, the response from residents and visitors to London Fields Lido has been overwhelmingly positive, with the Lido now attracting over 350,000 visits annually.

I'm very proud of the popularity of the Lido and I will do everything I can to ensure it remains a popular and safe spot for all residents.

Thank you again for your question.