



PRESS RELEASE

THURLES SWIMMING POOL DAC T/A THURLES LEISURE CENTRE

13th July, 2020

The closure of Thurles Leisure Centre in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic was a great disappointment for all facility users and staff. Although the Government has indicated that pools can now reopen, the safeguards needed to protect our customers and staff from the impacts of the virus mean that we cannot return to full capacity for the foreseeable future. This has significant implications for the pool's finances.

The Board of the company has met to consider the situation and has reluctantly decided to **postpone the opening of the pool until the 31st of August**. In the meantime, we hope that the stimulus package promised by the Government for July will contain adequate financial supports to address the deficit in income that we are inevitably facing.

We will also be considering other possible means to address the unavoidable drop in income. Our patrons should note that we are always operating within very tight financial margins and do not have reserve funds to get us out of this situation.

We are therefore asking for the support of the people of Thurles and surrounding areas to contact your local and national elected representatives to lobby Central Government for the necessary supports to keep your leisure centre in operation.

Ours is not the only facility affected. Ireland Active, a representative group of the leisure, health and fitness industry has indicated that as many as 12,000 jobs in the fitness and leisure industry are at risk as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions. They have lobbied Government in relation to the proposed stimulus package, and further details of their suggestions can be viewed on their website at www.irelandactive.ie

Urgent action is required to ensure that facilities such as ours are fully supported in the stimulus package and we would ask you to add your voice to the call. Facilities such as Thurles Leisure Centre are vital for the social and amenity needs of the town and need your support at this critical time.

Ends.

For more details contact Lorna Day, Manager, Thurles Leisure Centre at lorna@thurleslc.ie