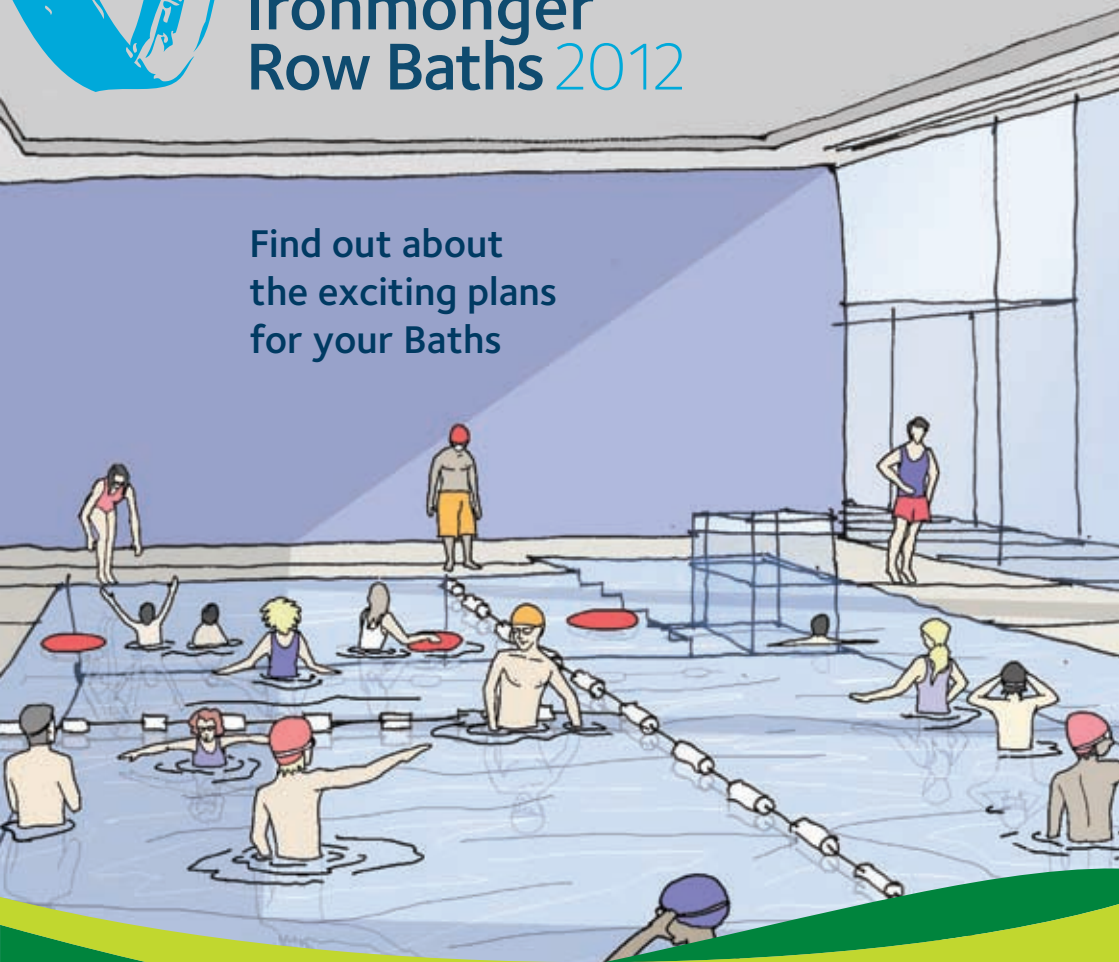




Ironmonger Row Baths 2012

Find out about
the exciting plans
for your Baths



in partnership with



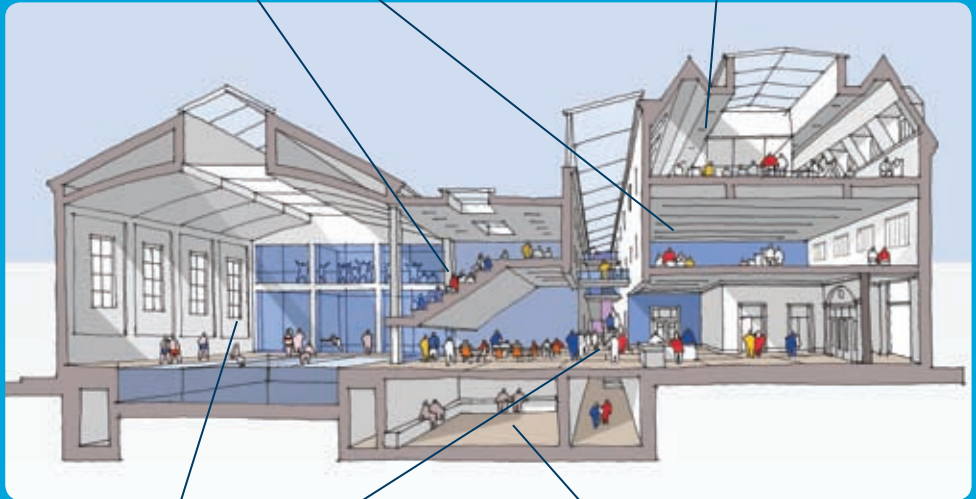
Get the inside view

First floor

- Restored viewing gallery above pool
- New exercise studios
- Display of original 'slipper baths'

Second floor

- New, bigger gym with more equipment



Ground floor

- Restored main pool
- New, bigger teaching pool
- New changing rooms
- New reception
- Community space/laundry

Basement

- Restored Turkish Baths and new treatment rooms

Introduction

Improving the pool, leisure and community facilities at Ironmonger Row Baths for more local people to enjoy is an ambition we've had for some time.



So we're delighted to tell you that we are a step closer to making some impressive improvements to this historic building at the heart of our community. We will be investing £16 million in the building so if you like to swim, work out or relax in the Turkish Baths or just want a place to meet up with friends you'll have new facilities and spaces to enjoy.

In 2007 we consulted on what improvements residents and users wanted to see. The pools, a bigger gym and more exercise space and meeting space for community groups to use were top of the list. It was also clear that the historic character of the building should be retained and enhanced.

This feedback has been invaluable in helping to shape our plans. As well as delivering these things, we plan to make the building more environmentally friendly, sustainable and fully accessible for everyone in the community.

So, whether you currently use the baths or not, please read on to find out more – and then tell us what you think. There is a form at the back you can mail for free. You can drop into Ironmonger Row Baths or Finsbury Leisure Centre any time to see our display – and you can also come along to discuss the plans with our architects (see 'find out more' for details).

Ironmonger Row Baths is a much loved building that has served the community well for 70 years. We hope that with these changes it will continue to contribute to the health and wellbeing of our community for generations to come.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Polling', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Cllr Ruth Polling

Executive Member for Leisure and Equalities, Islington Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Humphreys', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Matthew Humphreys

Chair, EC1 New Deal for Communities Board

Preserving the heritage of Ironmonger Row Baths

We have identified the issues with the building and have taken advice from English Heritage to identify the most important historic features and these will be retained and restored.

Though the building is well-used and cherished – there are a number of problems with it:

- the gym is cramped, yet there's lots of under-used space elsewhere
- the pool, gym, Turkish Baths and changing areas look shabby and tired
- it's a difficult building to find your way around and parts of it are impossible for people in wheelchairs to use
- the plumbing isn't very reliable – so our showers run hot then cold
- the heating and ventilation systems are old and inefficient, so the building has a large 'carbon footprint'.

We plan to put all these right, as well as restoring the historical features of the building.

Original features

Ironmonger Row Baths are a significant part of our community's history and this will be celebrated with a display of some of the original features such as the 'slipper baths' (so called because the bath shape resembles a slipper).

The original 1931 staircase and towel lift in the entrance lobby will be restored.

We also plan to restore the historic seating gallery by the pools and the Turkish Baths.



Seating gallery



Seating gallery



Bath



Bath tap



Turkish Baths



Original staircase

A brief history of Ironmonger Row Baths


1931: The original building opened as a first world war memorial for the people of Finsbury. Inside was a public laundry on the ground floor and slipper baths on the first and second floors (which were used until 1963).

1938: an extension was added containing the main swimming pool; children's pool; male and female changing areas; the pool gallery; and Turkish Baths.

1960: a self-service laundry was installed on the site of the original public laundry.

1987/8: laundry, pool and Turkish Baths given a 'facelift'.

2006: Ironmonger Row Baths given grade II listing.

An illustration showing a scene with trees in the upper left and a building facade on the right. The building has a window and a balcony. In the foreground, three people are walking: a man in a hat and jacket, a man in a grey t-shirt and purple shorts with a blue bag, and a man in a red cap, glasses, and a brown jacket. The background shows a fence and more trees.

Welcome to the new, improved Ironmonger Row Baths

Most of the changes will be inside the building – except for this one! We plan to move the main entrance of the building onto Norman Street to face St Luke’s Gardens to make the building more welcoming and improve the reception area.

New paving, lighting and signage will also be used to set off the new entrance. We plan that in future, a rebuilt Finsbury Leisure Centre would also look out over St Luke’s Gardens.

See the exciting new changes we’re planning inside including:

- renovated swimming pools
- bigger gym with more equipment
- two new exercise studios





More space to...

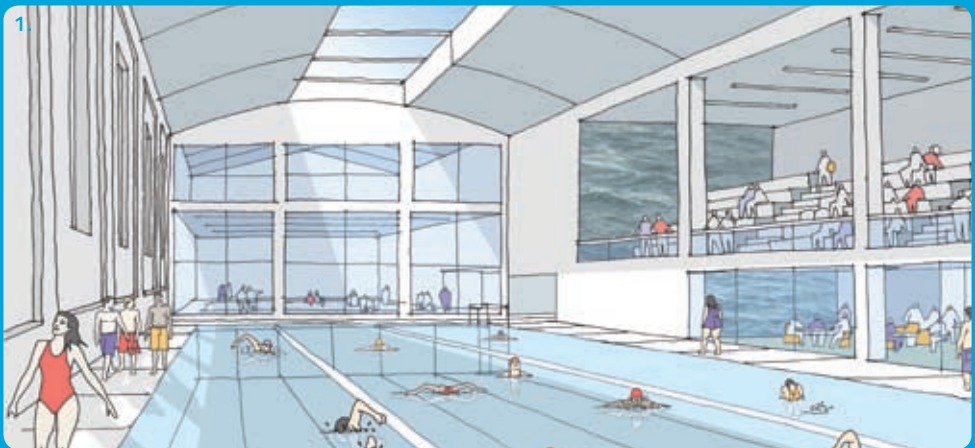
Swim

In our survey the pools were the most popular facility in the building.

1. Main pool

We plan to:

- retain the length and depth of the pool
- raise the water level and add a lift to make the pool more accessible
- re-tile the pool surround
- renovate the walls, ceiling and windows to improve the light and acoustics
- restore underwater lighting
- install a new pool cover that will help reduce heating costs
- restore the historic seating gallery.





2. Teaching pool

The most dramatic changes will be to the smaller teaching pool. We plan to:

- widen the pool so we can increase the number of people who can use it
- install a moveable floor so we can alter the depth as needed to provide a wider range of activities including parent/toddler sessions, Aqua Aerobics and swimming lessons
- widen the pool surrounds for increased safety
- screening to increase privacy when required – for example for women-only groups.



Relax

3. Refurbished Turkish Baths

Our Turkish Baths are among the oldest surviving in London and have a unique character that we don't want to change. We plan to restore and refurbish them in keeping with their history.

Our plans also include new treatment rooms located in currently disused space so as not to compromise the historic feel of the Turkish Baths.

Get fit

4. More exercise space

According to your feedback, fitness and exercise studios should be our next priority so we are proposing to:

- provide two new exercise studios on the first floor
- convert the office space on the second floor into a dramatic new, bigger gym
- all with lots of extra natural light.



5. Better changing rooms

New, larger swimming changing rooms on the ground floor will provide safer access to the shallow end of the main pool and direct access to the teaching pool. New changing rooms will also be provided on the first floor for studio and gym users.

Disabled changing facilities will be included in all areas.

Lighter, brighter, greener and easier to get around

We plan to redesign the main reception with new stairs, a new lift, loads more natural light, seating and a new view of the pool.

We want to make it easier to get around the building – which is currently full of dark corners and stairs which are impossible for wheelchair users and less mobile people to use.

Our aim is for every space and every activity to be accessible for people with disabilities. So we will be reviewing parking; the position and size of doorways, entrances, steps, lifts, changing rooms; adaptations to sports and exercise equipment; and signage.



Current reception

More environmentally friendly

We want the building to be as environmentally friendly as possible. By upgrading the building and its systems we expect to reduce carbon emissions by 40% and will also reduce running costs. The kinds of things we hope to do include:

- improving insulation throughout the building and installing renewable energy systems
- installing systems for recycling water
- circulating heat around the building – for example heat extracted by the cooling system in the gym could be used to heat the pool.



Planned reception

FAQs

What alternative arrangements will you be making for users?

We appreciate the closure will cause you inconvenience if you use the building now. However, come 2012 when the building reopens we hope you will be back and find the improvements worth the wait.

Swimming

- Swimming will be available at other council facilities at Highbury, Cally Pool and Archway.

Islington Council has been talking directly with all the clubs and schools who use Ironmonger Row Baths. It has worked with them to find the most suitable temporary arrangements for the duration of the refurbishment.

Gym

- The gym will move into Finsbury Leisure Centre at the end of March 2010.

Turkish Baths

Alternative public Turkish Baths include:

- [Porchester Baths Bayswater](#), run by Westminster City Council www.courtneys.co.uk/centres/Porchester/the-porchester-spa Queensway, Bayswater, W2 5HS
- [York Hall \(Spa London \)](#) Bethnal Green run by Tower Hamlets Council, Old Ford Road Bethnal Green, London E2 9PJ. **T:** 020 8709 5845 **E:** spa-london@gll.org

Laundries

There are a number of local laundries/dry cleaners in the area. Some of the closest are:

- [City Style](#)
206 City Rd, London, EC1V 2PH
- [St John St Launderette](#)
264 St John St, EC1V 4PE
- [Harlequin Dry Cleaners/Laundry Service](#)
103-105 Lever St, EC1V 3RQ

We will provide full details for alternative venues for all the activities currently provided in Ironmonger Row Bath in a separate leaflet. Please ask at reception or see aquaterra.org for details.

Key timings

Our designs still have to go through the council's formal planning process. We will post regular updates throughout. Key dates are as follows:

12–26 October 2009: Public consultation on planning proposals

10 November 2009: Planning application submitted

January–March 2010: Planning application considered by Islington Council with discussion at open meeting

May 2010: Ironmonger Row Baths closes so work can begin

May 2012: Ironmonger Row Baths reopens.

What about my membership?

- Your membership is valid in all the council's other leisure centres and we hope you will continue to use them
- If you do wish to cancel you will receive a full refund
- If you wish you can put your current membership on hold and reactivate it when the building reopens
- UK Fitness Network membership is valid for Islington leisure centres and over 80 other not-for-profit facilities outside Islington.

What about disruption during building work?

We will try to keep this to a minimum. Working hours will be limited and we will notify local residents when work is to begin.

Will the scheme create jobs for local people?

The bigger teaching pool and new exercise studios we plan to install

mean we will be able to create jobs for class instructors and swimming coaches in future.

What is happening to the laundry?

Our plans provide space to retain the laundry on the ground floor but we have also had suggestions about other possible community uses for this space.

We still need more discussion on this to ensure that we are meeting local need. We probably won't be able to provide exactly the same range of facilities in a new laundry because regulations about the use of large ironers have moved on since they were installed.

We can still carry on with the rest of our plans and make a final decision on this later.

Find out more

Visit www.islington.gov.uk/irb where we will be posting regular updates on the project



Tim Ronalds

Meet our architect

Tim Ronalds Architects is based a few minutes away from the Baths and are users of the pool! They have a strong track record in working with communities and refurbishing listed buildings – such as the Hackney Empire.

You can meet them and discuss the plans in more detail at the following drop-in sessions:

Wednesday 14 October:

12–3pm at
St Luke's Centre, 90 Central St

Thursday 15 October:

5–8pm, Finsbury Library,
245 St John St

Thursday 15 October:

12–2pm Ironmonger Row Baths

Saturday 17 October:

1–4pm Ironmonger Row Baths

Visit our exhibition

There will be displays in Ironmonger Row Baths and Finsbury Leisure Centre reception areas from 12 October–26 October.

Tuesday 20 October:

11am–2pm Ironmonger Row Baths

Wednesday 21 October:

5–7pm Ironmonger Row Baths

Thursday 22 October:

12–2pm, Whitecross St Market

Saturday 24 October:

1–4pm, Finsbury Leisure Centre.



Help us make history!

We are looking for people to share their memories of Ironmonger Row Baths and help us capture the special place that this amazing building has had in the lives of local residents.

Over the next two years, The Rowan Arts Project will be working with the council on a unique and exciting arts and heritage scheme relating to Ironmonger Row Baths. We want you to get involved!

To find out more come along to the Baths on 17 October between 1-4pm when members of Rowan Arts will be available for a chat, or you can email info@therowanartsproject.com

Do you have any feedback on our proposals?



Please write it here and post back for free (if you need more space please continue on an additional sheet), drop your form into the ballot boxes at reception in Ironmonger Row Baths and Finsbury Leisure Centre or complete online at www.islington.gov.uk/irb by **26 October 2009**

Please tell us a bit about yourself:

Gender: male female

Age: under 16 16-24 25-44 45-64 65+

Home postcode: _____

Ethnicity: asian black mixed background white other ethnicity

Do you consider yourself to have a disability? Yes No

Would you like to take part in our history project? Yes No

If you would you like us to keep you updated please give us your details:

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

If, in the event of a postal strike, you are concerned about getting your views back by 26 October please feel free to use the alternatives described above.

**FREEPOST RRBA-LLRZ-RGXH
Ironmonger Row Baths
C/o Snap SurveyShop
Mead Court
Cooper Road
Thornbury
BRISTOL
BS35 3UW**

Any personal information you give us is held securely and will be used only for council purposes. Information that was collected for one purpose may be used for another council purpose, unless there are legal restrictions preventing this. Islington may share this information where necessary with other organisations, including (but not limited to) where it is appropriate to protect public funds and/or prevent fraud in line with the National Fraud Initiative guidelines. Please see www.islington.gov.uk/dataprotection for more information.



If you would like this document in large print or Braille, audiotape or in another language, please contact 020 7527 2000.

Bengali

যদি আপনি এই তথ্য গুলো আপনার নিজ ভাষায় পেতে চান, তাহলে দয়া করে 020 7527 2000 নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করুন।

Chinese (Traditional)

如果你想要這資料的中文本, 請致電 020 7527 2000 聯繫。

Somali

Haddii aad jeclaan lahayd macluumaadkan oo ku qoran luqadaada fadlan la xidhiidh 020 7527 2000

Turkish

Buradaki bilgilerin Türkçesini istiyorsanız, lütfen 020 7527 2000 numaraya telefon edin.

French

Si vous désirez ces informations dans votre propre langue, veuillez appeler le 020 7527 2000 ou envoyer un email a contact@islington.gov.uk

Contact us

Islington Council Leisure Team, Municipal Offices,
222 Upper St, London N1 1YA

E david.walton@islington.gov.uk

T 020 7527 2192

