

Galway's Aquatic Clubs

c/o 41 Grangemore, Ragoon, Galway

Mr Brendan McGrath, City Manager
Mr Tom Connell, Director of Services
Board of Directors, Salthill Fáilte Ltd
City Hall
College Road
Galway

26th November 2014

RE: LEISURELAND CRANNY SWIMMING POOL

Dear Sirs,

We the under signed, as representatives of our clubs look forward to the imminent re-opening of the Leisureland Cranny Swimming pool, a facility used by the aquatic sports clubs of Galway since it was built in 1973 as a resource for the benefit and use of the people of Galway. All of our clubs are non-profit making organisations run for the sole benefit of our members of all ages and with the purpose of teaching and advancing both swimming and waterpolo in Galway. The Leisureland facility has been the mainstay for training and competition used by our clubs and our relationship goes back many years.

However, we also want to make clear to Galway City Council and the Board of Leisureland that our clubs will not be returning to Leisureland if the proposed targeted and discriminatory price increases, including the €2 per-child per-session levy, are implemented or if Leisureland try to make swimming a more costly sport for our members (by removing the club's revenue) and damage our clubs (by restricting the pathways to competitive swimming and waterpolo) by preventing the Clubs from running swimming teaching classes.

The club-run swimming lessons provide a pathway for progression for young people in aquatics, plus the opportunity to become part of the club atmosphere and often a lifelong friendship network. Any "profit" made by the clubs from the swimming lessons are used to subsidise the extraordinarily high 'pool hire charges already in place, i.e. any money made during the swimming teaching hours is paid back to Leisureland in the form of 'pool fees' paid for the use of the pool for competitive training.

All 5 clubs are non profit making organisations run solely for the benefit of their members, of whom more than 90% are children.

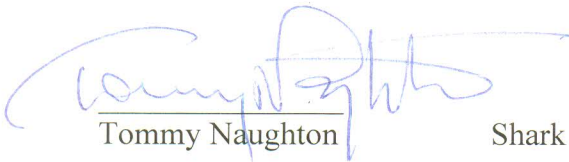
If the proposed selective and discriminatory price increases are implemented the local aquatic clubs would not be able to survive financially in their use of Leisureland and swimming as a life skill and lifetime sport will be permanently damaged in Galway. These proposed increases will also have the effect of decreasing the participation of young people in aquatic sports in Galway by making such participation prohibitively expensive for both the children and their families.

We accept that Leisureland has been losing money but we are already paying a high price for the use of the facility and we will not accept any price increases. Leisureland is not losing money while the clubs are in the pool.

The increase in price and levy would represent a 50% increase in pool fees since last December and our clubs are united in our fight against these unfair price increases. There will be no bookings by the clubs until the matter of charges is clarified.

The people most affected are the children who choose swimming or water polo as their sport so please think of them when you make your decision.

Yours in Sport,



Tommy Naughton

Shark Swimming Club Chairperson



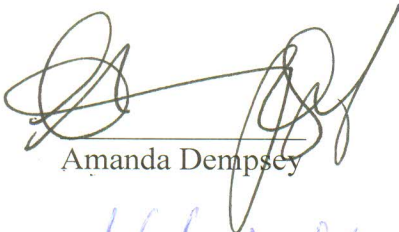
Colette Colleran

Tribes Water polo Club Chairperson



Eamon Caulfield

Corrib Water polo Club Chairperson



Amanda Dempsey

Laser Swimming Club Chairperson



Mike Walsh

Galway Swimming Club Chairperson.