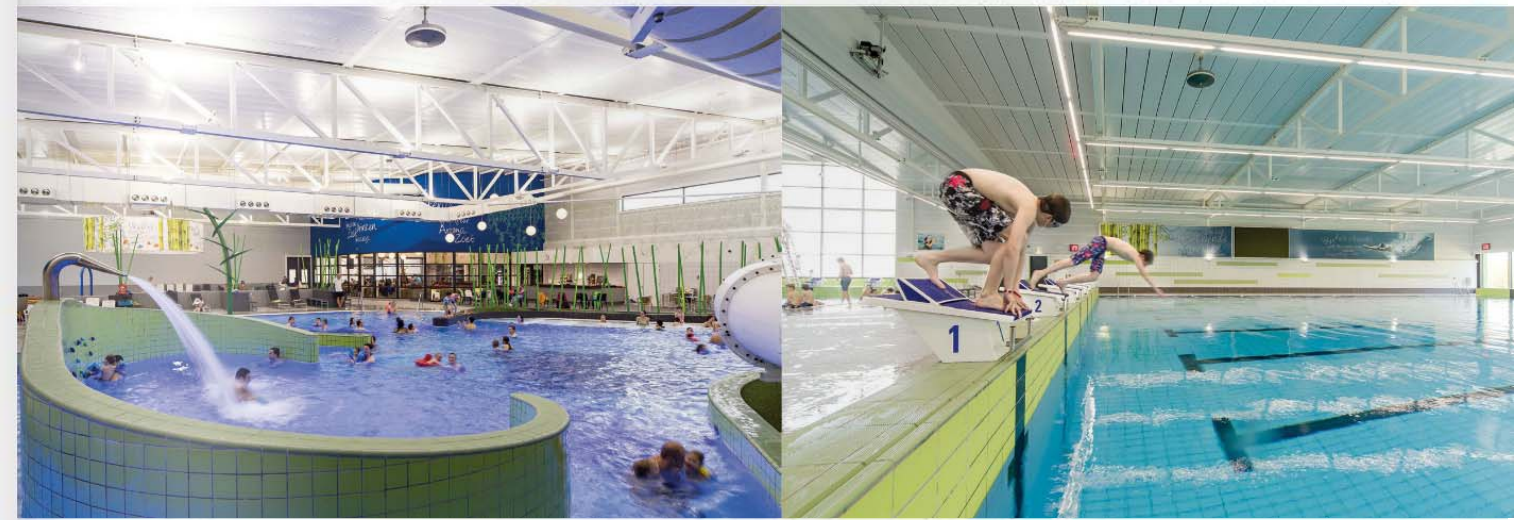


# West Bromwich Leisure Centre

## Important regeneration for the residents of Sandwell

Work is well on track on the new West Bromwich Leisure Centre on the corner of Barton Street and Moore Street. After a lengthy tender process, DC Leisure and building partner Pellikaan Construction Ltd were awarded the contract to design, build, operate and maintain the new centre, which is due to open next summer. Pellikaan, the building contractor, has been involved from the tender stage, working closely with DC Leisure and Roberts Limbrick to develop this high quality and feasible design and build sports complex, which will be completed in summer 2014. Facilities in the new centre will include a 25m pool, learner pool, sauna and steam room, four-court sports hall, 100-station fitness suite, two dance studios/activity rooms, indoor children's adventure play centre and café. It is located on a sloping site in an area comprising of housing, shops, primary healthcare and police station, near to West Bromwich town centre. Local involvement and regeneration are important factors for the project, stimulated by the enthusiasm and support from Sandwell Council. The centre has benefitted Future Skills Sandwell students by providing training and employment opportunities and at least ten local students are involved in the construction. Designed by Roberts Limbrick Ltd, the building will be two-storeys and benefit from glulam beams. It is a steel frame, composite steel structure with a concrete floor. A special time capsule was buried on the site when work first started, containing a snapshot of life in 2013 and was buried by two Future Skills Sandwell apprentices. The capsule contained West Bromwich Albion memorabilia, local newspapers, information about the area's regeneration and even an Argos catalogue to show future generations the gadgets and gizmos available in 2013. Sandwell deputy leader Councillor Steve Eling said: "With doom and gloom in the headlines, coming into West Bromwich and seeing fantastic regeneration and redevelopment

work underway creates a really positive feeling. "We are proud of the new opportunities planned for our young people and are confident that we are helping to grow a skilled and employable workforce." All parts of the centre are linked by a central main street/concourse. The circulation concourse will be filled with natural light and exposed glulam beams, while main facilities will be accessed with a lift and feature stairs. The first floor sports hall will be linked to the studio and the main pool will have exposed glulam beams and spectator seating. A soft play area will be incorporated within a feature drum with coloured glazing and glazed screens to the café area and there will be a central welcoming reception accessed through automatic bi-parting glazed doors. Facilities for the disabled will include accessible toilets and changing facilities as well as disabled parking and the centre will be secured through CCTV and fire alarms throughout the facility. Hard and soft landscaping will both be included at the centre as well as car parking. It is challenging working on a site close to a residential area because work has to be organised at the best times to avoid noise pollution, but this is something all involved in the scheme are committed to achieving. Councillor Paul Moor, Sandwell Council's cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "This is just one of a whole host of new leisure centres Sandwell Council is building. We are investing in the future to make sure people have modern, high quality leisure facilities." Tom Watson MP for West Bromwich East said: "The new leisure centre will be another great boost to West Bromwich, alongside the many improvements taking place in the town, including the recently opened New Square development. "For years, the people of West Bromwich have demanded a brand new swimming pool to replace the Gala Baths and now the council is delivering such a facility. I am sure the leisure centre will be well used by the community when it opens next year."



## Most energy efficient swimming pool in The Netherlands

Two 25-metre pools, one of which with diving boards and a moveable floor; a leisure pool with current, air seats and a slide; a toddler's pool and a training pool. Added up, the Local Authority Swimming Pool in Zwolle, The Netherlands, offers approximately 1,575sq m of water surface. In addition, there is a restaurant, spectator seating and several areas for clubs and fitness.

Having designed and built hundreds of swimming pools in The Netherlands, the UK, Germany and Belgium, Pellikaan learned from practice and the Company continuously ensures that the international experience is translated to each new project.

International sports and leisure construction specialist, Pellikaan, won the tender for this project based on design, maintenance and operation criteria.

For the Zwolle pool, the Company worked in a design and engineering team to develop a package of measures which save energy, water and maintenance costs.

### Minimise use of water and energy

Zwolle Council wanted to focus on energy efficiency and asked Pellikaan to take this into account in the design and build process. Within the theme of sustainability, energy efficiency has priority at Pellikaan: minimising the use of water and energy is a highly effective way to protect the environment and to save costs.

Examples include an optimum location facing the sun, high insulation values, the indoor instead of outdoor slide, low-pressure pool filters, highly efficient motors in the air handling units, heat recovery from water and condensation, grey-water circuit and LED lighting.

Swimming pools are energy consuming buildings by nature, and a lot can be gained by efficient design of the construction, as well as the installations.

In addition to minimising use of water and energy, renewable energy is available due to the use of a biomass installation, solar boiler and 2,550sq m of photovoltaic panels.

Zwolle now has one of the most energy efficient swimming pools that can be realised at this time.



## The experience of more than 900 leisure centres



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