

Executive Meeting 10 February 2026

Agenda item 5 - Public Questions

The following question has been submitted by Mr Roach to the Leader of the Council

Question

I appreciate that maintaining and running the lido, and staffing it, present financial and logistical challenges, but the Lido can and must be retained as a lido - in one form of ownership and management or another - in the long term. It is a hugely important community asset for local residents and for visitors (which in turn are vital to the town's prosperity). It does not seem right that TDC should be able to sell it unconditionally simply because that would achieve the highest return. Ideally it should be retained. But if it has to be sold, surely it should have to be sold as a lido, either to private owners or perhaps to a community interest company. It has been such a shame to see it decline in recent years - looking at it through the fence in winter when it's full of brown water and leaves is not just a shame, it's embarrassing - and even when it has opened for the last couple of summers, the opening days / hours and schedule have been, in my opinion, limited and a missed opportunity. There is a huge swimming community in Teignmouth that I'm proud to be part of, but it is under pressure. Teignmouth Swimming Club has limited access to Dawlish Leisure Centre. Around five years ago, Dawlish Swimming Club was effectively forced out of Dawlish Leisure Centre by Teignbridge Leisure and now, ironically, is based at Trinity School in Teignmouth in an outdoor pool covered by a marquee and with no changing facilities. My son swims for Dawlish, I am a coach at the club, and we do our best, but the facilities are far from ideal; and there does not seem to be a way back to Dawlish Leisure Centre. There are other clubs and groups in the area that struggle to get pool time: Dawlish and Teignmouth Masters Swimming Club, Teignmouth Surf Lifesaving Club, Octopush; plus all manner of informal pool and sea swimming groups; plus schools. My point is: Teignmouth Lido could and should be so much more.

My question, therefore, is:

Can the Executive in clear conscience vote to sell Teignmouth Lido unconditionally on the open market (something to which I am strongly opposed)?

Answer from the Leader of the Council

I and the Executive have supported a considerable amount of Teignbridge residents' money into the Teignmouth Lido refurbishment in past years and as you're aware we have been subsidising the use of the outdoor pool by an additional £75,000 a year. Unfortunately, its use has been in decline as our other pools have increased their footfall. This is not sustainable in the climate we find ourselves in. You may also be aware we are funding a decarbonisation and refurbishment at Dawlish Leisure Centre to the tune of 2 million pounds this year.

Because the property is registered as an Asset of Community Value (ACV), a decision to sell it on the open market without restricting the use does not preclude any qualifying community group from putting forward proposals to acquire the property under the Localism Act 2011 in order to continue its existing use. Indeed, it is necessary for the Council to first declare an intention to dispose of the property before a qualifying community group can implement this, the Council cannot simply skip this step and engage with any one community group. By taking this course of action the Council is not limiting its options it is opening up its potential options as broadly as possible and will review the position, with better understanding of what options are available, at the appropriate time.

We will debate and come to a conclusion at the Executive Committee meeting, and I hope you will continue to support the swimming facilities in Teignbridge.