

## Brighton Swimming Centre Lottery Success targets “Beach Hut” changing rooms!

A highly successful local swimming pool has been awarded a major grant of £53,000 from Sport England’s Inspired Facilities Fund to redevelop its changing rooms and facilities.

The Brighton Swimming Centre in Eastern Road is approaching its 4<sup>th</sup> Birthday and has gone from being a tired former School Swimming Pool to a vibrant community hub which attracts 3,000 visitors a week and provides employment for 90 people!

The Pool (which trains more Swimming Teachers and Lifeguards than any other in the UK) will start the work on the changing rooms this winter. It is looking to create a colourful and very unique “beach hut” experience which will reflect the relationship the City has with the sea! At the same time the Centre is hoping to totally revamp its poolside area.

Paul Smith Managing Director and driving force behind the Swimming Pool project said – “getting here has been a tumultuous struggle of sheer hard work, investment and on the job learning! For a Swimming Pool to exist without any public funding is amazing! I wanted to make the Centre a success for ourselves and for the community! - **This is a great day for swimming in the City!**”

“The Centre couldn’t have reached this stage without the ongoing enthusiasm and upbeat approach of the Centre’s Manager **Izzie Lang** (who actually submitted our lottery bid) and her team.

Izzie Lang – Centre Manager added – “The Centre has been on a long journey to get here. When we started the pool was facing closure and becoming derelict!”

“We turned the tide and set about making it a focal point for the community with lessons and activities for infants, adult sea swimmers, schools, clubs and a diverse range of local groups. We also host a unique programme that is up skilling hundreds of unemployed people into the leisure industry! I am overjoyed we are now able to improve on our facilities to such an extent and thank Sport England for their Recognition, we are very Thankful!”

Paul Smith continued - I would also like to thank our local MP – “Simon Kirby” who has been a champion of the Centre. I look forward to Simon re-opening a hugely improved Centre next year.

Simon Kirby MP commented “I am always impressed by the great work of the Brighton Swimming Centre, particularly the proven track record of finding employment for the pupils on their courses. We are fortunate to have such a facility in our city. This funding is great news and I know will make a real difference for the many people who use the centre each week.”

***For further information please contact Paul Smith on 01273 444300 or email***

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# An Inspired Facility

