

SWIMMING IN GRANGE

Timeline of the Grange-over-Sands Lido

1930 – 2018



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10 February 1930

The decision was taken to construct an outdoor pool at Grange-over-Sands to a design by Thomas Huddleston, the engineer and surveyor to the Grange-over-Sands Urban District Council. The main construction work was undertaken by Messrs. Rainey Bros of Barrow-in-Furness, whilst the reinforced concrete work was designed in the offices of structural engineer, Mr Gilbert Ness of Harrogate, and carried out by Norwest Construction Co. Ltd of Litherland, near Liverpool. The filtration equipment was fitted by Messrs. Royle Ltd of Irlam, and the internal decoration and plumbing work was carried out by Messrs. B Ward & Sons of Grange-over-Sands. The pool cost some £17,000, and was funded by the Grange-over-Sands Urban District Council and finance from the Unemployed Grants Committee of the Ministry of Health.

1931

Work started on the new outdoor pool, in July it was reported that 46 men were working on the site but that in September work was delayed due to adverse weather and tidal conditions.

1932

The 165 ft x 112 ft pool opened for use several weeks before its official opening date in August, with visitor numbers exceeding expectations and over 6,000 on a single day over the preceding Bank Holiday. More than 2,000 people visited on Sundays during the summer of 1932.

18 August 1932

The *Souvenir Programme* advised that the “*Official Opening of the Grange-over-Sands Bathing Pool*”, by the Earl of Derby, took place in the presence of Lord and Lady Balneil, Lord Richard Cavendish and Lady Moyra Cavendish, various Town Mayors and their Ladies along with their Town Clerks, Miss Knowles – the Cotton Queen of Britain, Miss Alys Milner – Beauty Queen of the North, the Windsor Water Woollies Girls, the Bee Bee Biscuit Company’s Aquatic Squadron, past Olympic Champion swimmers, and members of the press and public.

20 August 1932

The *Westmorland Gazette* reported that, “*the area of the pool itself is such as to conform to the standard set up by the Amateur Swimming Association and the Water Polo Association, for national and international competitions, and it is hoped that events of this nature may be staged therein.*” The *Gazette* also reported that in the week ending Friday there

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were "4,777 bathers and 5,850 spectators at Grange Bathing Pool. On Sunday the number of bathers was 630 and spectators numbered 1,258."

1955

A guide published in 1955, and quoted in the *Westmorland Gazette* in 1998, stated, "*Frequent galas are held in season. With an up-to-date café and sunbathing terraces it provides a healthy rendezvous.*"

1961

A new water filtration plant was added to the outdoor pool.

1963

The *Grange Official Guide* promoted, "*the fine pool (where) you are provided with galas, swimming instruction, a children's paddling pool, a continental café with sunbathing terraces, all for your entertainment.*"

1968

Another guidebook was cited in the *Westmorland Gazette* [in 1998] as having stated, "*The crystal clear filtered water of the open-air swimming pool provides a swimmer's paradise.*" The Lido was attracting more than 47,000 bathers per year even in 1968.

1972

The outdoor pool celebrated its 40th anniversary with a celebration gala.

1974

Grange-over-Sands Urban District Council was abolished and ownership of the outdoor pool was transferred to South Lakeland District Council (SLDC).

1975

A comprehensive assessment and report was undertaken in 1975 by the Director of Technical Services to assess the condition of the buildings, pool structure, sea tanks, sea wall, plant and equipment. This identified all the work necessary to retain the pool for a further period of 5 to 10 years and it is understood that these remedial works were undertaken after the 1975 season. Specific details regarding the actual repair and remedial works that were undertaken are not known but supporting information referred to in a later report [Parkins, March 2013] suggests that external reinforced concrete surfaces were sprayed with Gunitite (a dry-spray method of spraying concrete).

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1976

A programme of substantial structural repairs was carried out by South Lakeland District Council at a cost of around £50,000. [Ref: Greenlane report NGR: 340579 477209].

1977

The complex suffered severe damage when a storm forced sea water over the retaining sea wall, flooded the area and damaged the male changing room. Repairs were carried out again and the pool remained in use.

18 November 1977

The *Westmorland Gazette* reported that, *“the damage to the swimming pool at Grange is likely to raise once more the question of its future, especially as the five year programme to ensure its safety has still three years to run. There may well be some who will argue that the havoc created by the storm is a further indication that the pool should have been closed, but on the other hand the sea wall withstood the greatest pounding that the sea front has known for about 59 years.”*

15 August 1982

The outdoor pool celebrated its 50th anniversary with a celebration gala featuring personal appearances by Miss Great Britain 1982, Tracy Dodds, and the Lakeland Echo Festival Princess, Helen Mather.

Friday, 14 October 1983

Cllr Peter Jackson told Grange Parish Council on Monday that members had met with officers of South Lakeland District Council at the pool. They were shown the remedial work already carried out, and the council's engineer said that *“the weakest part of the pool was its sea wall”*. The meeting followed a warning from South Lakeland District Council officers that the pool had *“a limited life and would not last longer than 10 years”*. Officers felt that the pool should be re-sited if the present one was demolished, although they acknowledged that would be expensive.

Friday, 13 January 1984

The *Westmorland Gazette* reported that South Lakeland District Council councillors have promised that the, *“Pool will stay open for the reasonable future”*. The Assistant Chief Technical Services Officer (ACTSO) said that Grange Parish Councillors wanted a promise that the pool would be kept open on its present site beyond the year 2000. The ACTSO

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said that around £200,000 had been spent on improvements, repairs, maintenance and storm damage since 1974. Grange Cllr Kenneth Whitley said that *“last summer [i.e. 1983] 28,190 people used the pool, bringing in £16,280, which was a 135% increase on the previous year”*.

Friday, 2 March 1984

The *Westmorland Gazette* published a letter from Mr SR Brearley, of Guildford, who had been a pupil of the Grange UDC engineer and surveyor Thomas Huddleston. Mr Brearley worked on the drawings for the three main buildings on the outdoor pool site, and the letter set out his memories of the construction of the pool and the official opening day.

Friday, 16 March 1984

The *Westmorland Gazette* reported that the *“Pool’s future is safe”* and that Grange Parish Council had welcomed plans to safeguard the future of the town’s swimming pool, saying that South Lakeland District Council’s recently guaranteed to carry out improvements to the pool to extend its life beyond the year 2000.

Tuesday, 27 February 1990

A Meeting of the full South Lakeland District Council committed to proceed with the provision of a new swimming pool in accordance with the schedule laid down in its Five Year Capital Programme.

Monday, 11 June 1990

At a Meeting of the South Lakeland District Council Leisure and Tourism Committee it was resolved that the proposals put forward by the Chief Leisure Service Officer (CLSO) to promote a wider range of events and activities at the outdoor pool during the summer months be approved, and that he should be authorised to apply for the necessary Entertainments Licence.

August 1990

Members of the Planning Committee expressed concern at reports that the new swimming pool scheme was to be postponed for one year, due to a £750,000 budget shortfall over 5 years and priority being given by South Lakeland District Council to housing projects. At the August Meeting of the SLDC Leisure and Tourism Committee, councillors spoke in support of the proposed new swimming pool scheme and reminded Members of the history of the project. SLDC’s Policy and Resources Committee were informed that

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the SLDC Public Works Committee was opposed to the postponement of the new swimming pool project to 1992/93.

Monday, 5 November 1990

The Chief Technical Officer (CTO) presented drawings to a Meeting of the South Lakeland District Council Leisure and Tourism Committee showing proposals for the new swimming pool. It was resolved that the scheme as presented be approved and the capital estimate of £2.478m be noted. It was resolved that the Clerk and Chief Executive be authorised to proceed with the required action for the acquisition of the land at Berners Close.

1991

The Grange-over-Sands Conservation Area (GCA) was designated by South Lakeland District Council and includes the Lido and the Promenade, the Ornamental Gardens and the Park Road Gardens. As such it is defined under the *Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act, 1990* as an area of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.

Tuesday, 12 February 1991

A report to a Meeting of the South Lakeland District Council Policy and Resources Committee about the 5 Year Capital Programme indicated that there was a £1.9m shortfall in finance for projects and that a start on the new swimming pool would be postponed until 1994/95.

Monday, 23 March 1992

Grange-over-Sands Town Council (GTC) wrote to South Lakeland District Council expressing concern at the effect of the Budget on leisure and recreation services in the town. The SLDC Leisure and Tourism Committee refused GTC's request for a four week extension to the period of operation of the existing open air pool, but approved in principle the recommendation of a new leisure pool scheme with a reduced capital estimate of £1.45m.

Thursday, 25 June 1992

At a Meeting of the Direct Services Management Board (DSMB) councillors expressed concern regarding the opening hours and season period for the outdoor swimming pool.

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Monday, 17 August 1992

The Clerk and Chief Executive reported that agreement had been reached on the valuation of the Compulsory Purchase Order site for the proposed new swimming pool and that the Finance and Property Sub-Committee (FPSC) be asked to approve a capital estimate of £61,000 to cover the purchase of the land and appropriate costs.

October 1992

The Seaside Challenge Initiative (SCI) was launched by HRH the Prince of Wales to draw attention to the plight of over 100 traditional coastal resorts in England. The SCI pledged the commitment of the Civic Trust, the Rural Development Commission and the English Tourist Board to work together for the improvement and revitalisation of these resorts. Grange-over-Sands was one of them and in October 1992 the Civic Trust Regeneration Unit visited the town, made recommendations, and suggested a joint forum be established under the leadership of a local project officer.

Monday, 11 January 1993

At a Meeting of the South Lakeland District Council Leisure and Tourism Committee notice was given of a petition concerning the proposed indoor pool. Mr William Bleasdale presented the petition and requested that action be taken to bring the swimming pool project forward within the Capital Programme.

February 1993

A report to assess the life expectancy and costs of maintenance of the outdoor pool, entitled *GRANGE OVER SANDS OPEN AIR SWIMMING POOL* was produced for the Grange-over-Sands Recreation Working Party (GOSRWP) by the South Lakeland District Council Chief Technical and Chief Leisure Services Officers. The report recommended maintenance work at a cost of £52,555 and improvement work costing £173,985 to enable the continued functioning of the outdoor pool, with alternatives quoted as £300,000 to demolish the buildings on site, fill in the sea tanks and pool, and provide a level surface; or an expenditure of £1.45m for the provision of a new replacement indoor pool on a new site; or of £1.94m for the same re-using the existing outdoor pool site. The existing revenue budget for the Grange pool was given as £61,000.

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Monday, 22 March 1993

At a Meeting of the South Lakeland District Council Leisure and Tourism Committee notice was given of a further petition concerning the proposed indoor pool. Mr Tom Andrews, president of Grange-over-Sands Swimming Club, presented the petition on behalf of the local school children. The children had requested SLDC keep its promise to build an indoor pool which would be beneficial to local residents and visitors of all ages.

Tuesday, 18 May 1993

The Chief Leisure Services Officer reported to a Meeting of the Leisure and Tourism Emergency Sub-Committee (LTESC) that preparations had been made to fill the outdoor pool in order to open on 29 May 1993 in time for the Bank Holiday weekend. Water from high tides had been collected, filtered and transferred from the tanks into the main 445,000 gallon capacity pool but some had seeped away, at a rate of 3,000 to 5,000 gallons per day. The cause of the leak was thought likely to be a fissure in the pool bottom or a fracture in the pipework. He suggested that any structural investigation should also address the issue of public safety and reported that there was no budgetary provision for the repairs. In order to investigate the problem the pool would need to be drained, and this was likely to delay its opening by up to six weeks, with a consequent loss of income during that period. The Chief Technical Officer was asked to drain the pool and carry out an investigation into the source of the leak, and report his findings and costings prior to carrying out any repairs.

Monday, 14 June 1993

The Grange-over-Sands Recreation Working Party had asked the South Lakeland District Council Chief Technical Officer (CTO) to carry out an investigation into the likely life expectancy of the outdoor pool. The CTO believed that relatively minor works costing £52,600 were desirable to make the building suitable for opening in 1993. The Chief Leisure Services Officer reported that, within the limitations of the existing revenue budget of £12,250, he would endeavour to keep the pool running that summer. The Grange-over-Sands Recreation Working Party had indicated that it may not be practical to open the pool beyond the 1993 summer season without significant additional expenditure.

Subsequent to the 18 May Meeting of the SLDC Leisure and Tourism Emergency Sub-Committee the CTO had decided not to drain the pool because water loss could be measured more effectively by the drop in the level of the pool.

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Preliminary investigations, although thorough, had not identified the source of the main leak. Further detailed investigations were required which would cost in the order of £7,000.

Friday, 16 July 1993

The *Westmorland Gazette* reported that *Pool Hopes Fade*, and said that Grange's new indoor pool hopes fade as SLDC had no cash to pay for it. Also that, "*Grange outdoor pool is closed with no prospect of reopening this year.*"

Tuesday, 27 July 1993

A deputation from Grange-over-Sands Town Council was present at the Meeting of the full South Lakeland District Council and objections were made to the deletion from the Capital Programme, and consequential further delay, of the new swimming pool. The *Westmorland Gazette* reported this three days later (30 July), quoting District Cllr Mike Hartnett as saying, "*It would take £300,000 just to make the old pool safe even if it's not used.*"

Friday, 6 August 1993

The *Westmorland Gazette* reported on page 5, that "...despite leaking water, Grange-over-Sands outdoor swimming pool is open for business." It stated, "*the leak of 12,000 gallons per day*" [a considerably bigger figure than that of 3,000 to 5,000 gallons per day that had been reported to the Council in May] "*was first noticed earlier in the summer when the pool was filled.*" "*Despite lengthy investigation the exact source of the problem has not been found, but the pool has been declared safe, and on Monday [2 August] swimmers were invited to take the plunge for the first time that summer.*" It stated that a fuller investigation into why the pool was leaking water could be carried out during the coming winter, and that, "*In response to local demand the pool opening times for the remainder of the summer have been changed to give people the chance of taking a dip in the evening when weather permits. The pool will now open between 12.30pm and 7.00pm. South Lakeland District Council also says that instead of the pool closing at the end of August this year it could remain open until September, depending on the weather and its popularity.*"

Monday, 23 August 1993

At a Meeting of the South Lakeland District Council Leisure and Tourism Committee the Clerk and Chief Executive reported that the Grange-over-Sands Recreation Working Party (GOSRWP) had undertaken a full

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investigation into the options available for the provision of leisure facilities, and the financial implications and the economic benefits to be derived from them, including the retention of the existing swimming pool. The GOSRWP had noted that the new swimming pool scheme had not been accepted as a priority in the SLDC Five Year Capital Programme by the SLDC Policy and Resources Committee and it was likely that there would be no funds for it in the foreseeable future. The Committee considered the conclusion reached by the GOSRWP that the existing open air pool had reached the end of its life and appeared to have no future as a swimming pool beyond the existing season, and that the clear preference of the local community and the Working Party was for a new pool.

Friday, 27 August 1993

Under the headline, *"Pool could be open air theatre centre"* the *Westmorland Gazette* reported that Cllr Doreen Harrison suggested that, *"the open air pool could be converted to an open air theatre to save huge costs of demolition. It could be a centre for the north west, similar to the open air theatre on the Cornish cliffs"*, she told South Lakeland District Council's Leisure and Tourism Committee. The Committee agreed that the summer of 1993 could be the last time the old and leaking pool opened for swimming, but was told that the cost of demolition and filling in the sea tanks could be £300,000.

Friday, 24 September 1993

A report in the *Westmorland Gazette*, entitled *Death by a Thousand Cuts*, stated, *"Grange-over-Sands outdoor pool closed altogether if SLDC's nightmare scenario comes true."* The Treasurer told SLDC's Policy and Resources Committee they faced cuts of up to £800,000 next year, but councillors agreed that £720,000 of savings could be found.

Friday, 22 October 1993

It was reported in the *Westmorland Gazette* that Grange Swimming Club had been forced to cancel two galas during the summer due to the closing of the open air pool, and the October gala took place at Ulverston Pool.

Monday, 1 November 1993

At a Meeting of the South Lakeland District Council Leisure and Tourism Committee the Clerk and Chief Executive reported that SLDC had accepted, for the time being, that it failed by approximately 10% to achieve the target of £800,000 savings required for 1994/95. After much debate it was resolved that, if the level of cuts could be reduced, priority should be

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given to the restoration of the budgets for grants, parks and open spaces, and recreation facilities, but that Grange-over-Sands Outdoor Swimming Pool would not be opened in 1994/95. The closure was referred to in the *The Promenade, Ornamental Gardens & Park Road Gardens Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria GT2: Conservation Management Plan* in 2008 as, “The failure to secure adequate funding resulted in closure in 1993 leaving behind long lasting memories among residents and visitors alike.”

January 1995

Jeff Lonsdale Consultancy was commissioned by South Lakeland District Council to undertake a feasibility study about establishing an interpretation centre at the disused Lido.

Thursday, 13 April 1995

Grange-over-Sands Town Council (GTC) demanded an independent structural survey of the old outdoor swimming pool and wrote to South Lakeland District Council (SLDC) offering to help fund it. SLDC had offered to help GTC form a charitable trust to run a new-build swimming pool, but the Town Clerk pointed out that residents had already rejected the idea of such a trust, and town councillors accused SLDC of ignoring residents' views. Grange was, it was pointed out, the only seaside resort in the country where people could not swim.

1995

GB Geotechnics Ltd were commissioned in 1995 to carry out a structural survey of the existing pool complex contained within the sea walls. The work comprised a non-destructive impulse radar survey and intrusive investigations. A summary report of the investigation were made available to RG Parkins in 2013 but the main reports and associated A0 sized drawings were not. [Parkins, March 2013] The report concluded that the main areas of concern were the terracing and the concrete elements subjected to saturation by sea water within the sea tanks. It was identified that the seawall was likely to deteriorate rapidly and suggests that further protective measures may help to preserve the structure.

Friday, 21 April 1995

The *Westmorland Gazette* reported that a public ballot in Grange produced a big vote in favour of resurrecting the open air pool. More than 1,000 people voted in the referendum organised by the Friends of Grange Baths Group, and there was overwhelming support for the idea of putting general sports facilities on the Berners Close site. The results of the ballot

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would be sent to the South Lakeland District Council Policy and Resources Committee, which was due to meet on 2 May to decide how to allocate £898,800 to capital projects in the district.

Friday, 28 April 1995

The *Westmorland Gazette* reported that a new effort has been launched to turn the old outdoor Olympic-sized swimming pool into the “jewel of the Lakes”. Grange-over-Sands Town Council said that after years of fruitless campaigning for a new pool, they were now backing the public’s call for the old pool to be “*repaired, reopened and refurbished*”. South Lakeland District Council said it was looking into *setting up a charitable trust to build a new pool which would be “cheaper than converting the old pool into a modern heated facility”*. Grange-over-Sands Town Council retorted that the charitable trust idea had not been popular with residents, and in an opinion poll in the town, out of 1,243 responders, just 4 wanted a new pool or no pool at all.

The Grange-over-Sands Town Council Town Clerk proposed a 6-point plan:

1. *A £10,000 independent survey to be carried out into the pool’s structure.*
2. *If (1) says it’s structurally sound it should be repaired and re-opened that summer. SLDC’s previous estimated repair costs were £50,000.*
3. *SLDC to carry out a £174,000 improvement scheme to make the pool more user-friendly.*
4. *Tenders to be sought to turn the pool into “the jewel of South Lakeland” possibly roofing it over and providing heating.*
5. *Raise funds from various sources including the Millennium Fund for this work.*
6. *The land at Berners Close to be retained by SLDC in case funds for a new pool were available in the future.*

The Town Clerk said, “*It needs someone at SLDC to have the vision to develop the present Olympic-sized swimming pool as a first class facility*”. In response the SLDC Deputy Chief Executive said that it would be discussed at the forthcoming meeting of the SLDC Policy and Resources Committee where a proposal from the SLDC Leisure and Tourism Committee for a £300,000 fund to help establish a charitable trust for a new pool at Berners Close would be discussed, and that “*the proposal also says the Chief Leisure Services Officer should talk to the local community about these plans*”.

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Friday, 16 June 1995

The *Westmorland Gazette* reported that a survey of the state of the old outdoor pool had started, and that a decision on whether to refurbish and cover the old pool could hinge on the survey results. A letter from an elderly resident in support of the restoration of the old pool was also included, pointing out that Grange was dependent on tourism and that a restored pool and extra leisure facilities would be a benefit to the town.

August 1995

A survey was carried out by GB Geotechnics Ltd for South Lakeland District Council using Impulse Radar over the course of four survey sessions between 20–23 June 1995. An additional investigation using further non-destructive and destructive techniques was carried out on the 22-23 June 1995. The report's overview stated, *"The structural elements of the complex give rise to signals indicating that although there is extensive deterioration of some parts, some of the elements are in reasonably sound condition. In a few cases the structure is in clear distress."*

1995

Remedial works in the form of timbers were placed beneath the terracing and in between the beams to provide support for the concrete terracing. An inspection in 2013 [Parkins, March 2013] confirmed that *"further deterioration had occurred in the interim period and that there was no evidence that any repairs had been carried out since 1995"*.

Tuesday, 26 March 1996

The South Lakeland District Council Policy and Resources Committee agreed that provision be made in the Capital Programme for a grant of £300,000 towards a scheme for a new swimming pool to be pursued by the charitable trust, on the basis that no commitment is made by SLDC to providing any revenue funding, and that a viable business plan is provided for scrutiny by the Council before the grant is made.

1997

Grange-over-Sands Town Council proposed to commission an architect to put forward ideas for the Lido but this was rejected by South Lakeland District Council, who instructed their officers to look into proposals from the private sector for the site. As this was unsuccessful, officers were then instructed to look into the cost of demolishing the redundant buildings, ensuring adequate sea defences, and reinstating the site as an open space. The estimated cost as given for this in 1999 was £250,000, but

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no decision to proceed was made. A later conditional offer [believed to have been in 1999] for the development of an Eco Centre was made to EcoArc of York but, again, did not go ahead.

July 1997

Cartmel Peninsula Recreational Trust Ltd was set up to raise funds for, and manage when built, the new indoor swimming pool.

December 1998

The *Westmorland Gazette* reported that since October 1998 officers of South Lakeland District Council had been looking into the cost of demolishing the dilapidated changing rooms, lobby and former cafe at the outdoor pool. They had been in consultation with Grange-over-Sands Town Council over plans to redevelop the site, and suggestions have included filling in the pool and creating a giant sandpit, a wind-shielded sunbathing area, or an interpretation centre for the wildlife of Morecambe Bay.

1999

Cartmel Peninsula Recreational Trust Ltd needed to raise £330,000 to help secure a £2.5m National Lottery Sports Council grant for the building of the new indoor swimming pool at Berners Close. The project was originally expected to cost £5.5m, but had to be scaled down after a grant application to the National Lottery was rejected as over-ambitious by the Sports Council. Officials then drew up a revised grant application for up to £2.5m, and aimed to raise a further £850,000 locally towards the facility, which was to feature a 25m x 13m swimming pool, a toddlers pool, crèche, fitness room/gymnasium, bar and cafe, and meeting rooms, plus sunbathing and picnicking terraces. A second bid for the lower level of funding was subsequently successful.

12 January and 5 March 2001

The Grange-over-Sands Town Council and officers of South Lakeland District Council met to discuss the future of the Lido and formulate an action plan. Corresponding with this a preliminary public opinion survey was undertaken.

11 April 2001

A meeting took place to discuss alternative uses for the old pool site, repairs to the Promenade and the feasibility of a public art scheme on the Promenade, and the 'Pool, Promenade and Public Art Group' (3Ps) was formed.

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19 December 2001

South Lakeland District Council Cabinet gave consideration to a request from the Cartmel Peninsula Recreational Trust Ltd for a grant of £30,000 per year towards the running costs of the new swimming pool. It was noted that revenue support of £30,000 per annum had been minuted as the first priority in any estimates put forward by the Leisure and Amenities Committee in 1999 [Minute 195 (1) 1999/2000 refers]. SLDC Cabinet considered that, in view of the Council's current financial position and the substantial capital contribution which the Council had already made, it was unwilling to contribute further revenue support to the swimming pool, so the application for assistance was refused.

2002

Grants were received from the Cumbria County Council Neighbourhood Forum, South Lakeland District Council, Grange-over-Sands Town Council, the Chamber of Trade, the Civic Society, and the Rural Development Agency, to allow the 3Ps group to commission a feasibility study undertaken by Capita Property Consultants of Lancaster. This study produced suggestions for alternative uses of the Lido site and improvements to the Promenade, including a multi-purpose arena capable of seating 500 people. There were two public exhibitions held at the Victoria Hall (August 2002 and November 2002) to present their ideas, along with a public presentation to the Neighbourhood Forum.

3 April 2002

South Lakeland District Council Cabinet considered and recommended to Council a bid for capital resources to the Cartmel Peninsula Recreational Trust Ltd for £120,000 contribution towards the capital cost of the swimming pool. This one off payment had been proposed in lieu of revenue support of £30,000 per annum towards the running costs of the pool, which had been the first priority for growth of the previous Leisure and Amenities Committee. *"Furthermore it was agreed that the Cartmel Peninsula Trust be informed, subject to Council approval of the £120,000 contribution, that SLDC will not make any further capital or revenue contribution towards the pool."*

18 September 2002

South Lakeland District Council's Director of Amenities and Development presented a report which set out the circumstances of the decay of the council's assets in Grange-over-Sands. The Director had received early

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sight of a study report commissioned from Locum Destination Consulting by the North West Development Agency (NWDA) entitled, *New Vision for North West Coastal Resorts*. In it Grange was considered to be a “*classic resort*” but that, as it was deemed to be a comparatively prosperous community, it received little external funding for projects. As a result the town appeared jaded and in need of investment, estimated at a few million pounds, to carry out various works such as traffic calming, demolition of the railway bridges and lido, etc. Cabinet felt that it would be advisable to re-visit the *Action Plan* for the town, which had been prepared three years earlier, before making any decision on the way forward.

5 February 2003

The Director of Amenities and Development presented a detailed review which included reclaiming the old pool site, and reported that South Lakeland District Council was actively involved with the 3Ps Group which was seeking solutions to several issues through its ‘Time and Tide’ project. The report was accepted together with the principle of a partnership between the 3Ps Group and SLDC.

March 2003

The previously mentioned [September 2002] Locum Destination Consulting’s report entitled *A New Vision for Northwest Coastal Resorts* was published. It concluded that the derelict Lido needs investment. The report said, “*The Morecambe Bay Interpretation and Marketing Strategy recommends an attraction that ‘should be planned so that it requires as little maintenance and revenue expenditure as possible’, which seems to be entirely sensible. The work is likely to require a fairly substantial public sector investment and Grange has the disadvantage of having limited access to such funding. It is with a degree of regret that Locum endorses the demolition of the Lido.*”

Friday, 11 April 2003

The new indoor Berners Pool opened to the public, followed by its official opening 2 weeks later.

October 2003

The Minutes of the South Lakeland District Council Cabinet dated 22 October 2003 show approval for an “*adjustment of the Capital Programme to take account of additional income secured from Cumbria County Council and Rural Regeneration Cumbria enabling the design and feasibility stage of the [‘Time and Tide’] project to proceed. Approval was also sought for the*

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development and submission of funding bids to the North West Development Agency and the Heritage Lottery Fund” but also that, “Members wished it to be made clear that no firm commitment was being made to the scheme at this stage.”

28 January 2004

The Director of Strategy and Planning reported to South Lakeland District Council’s Cabinet the details of tenders which had been received from consultants to undertake the design phase of the ‘Time and Tide’ Project; and that design practice Austin Smith Lord had been appointed to undertake the work. The assessment of tenders had focused on value for money, the quality of the consultant’s previous work, the expertise available in their team, and how far they would take the study in preparation for subsequent funding bids for project implementation.

September 2004

The Chairman of the Cartmel Peninsula Recreational Trust Ltd said the future of the year-old Berners Pool was in doubt unless its monthly income was boosted by £5,000.

October 2004

Austin Smith Lord produced designs for the Promenade and old pool at the end of October 2004, which included *“Tidal Pool: Sands Return: stage, performance area, terraced seating and cafe”*. In November a 3-day public exhibition was held in the Victoria Hall, attended by over 800 people, when comments received on the designs indicated that while some of the proposals were controversial, the basic repair, maintenance and renovation work was overwhelmingly supported. However, the cost of the scheme exceeded the financial capabilities of South Lakeland District Council and did not fulfil the financial criteria of the Heritage Lottery Fund Public Parks Initiative.

9 March 2005

The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing reported to South Lakeland District Council Cabinet that work was progressing on the ‘Time and Tide’ Project to regenerate the old swimming pool and Promenade. The 3Ps Group was considering the outcome of the major public exhibition on design proposals, Grange-over-Sands Town Council was considering its response, and discussions were still in progress with the North West Development Agency regarding the form and purpose of a strategy agreement.

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6 April 2005

The Property Services Manager informed Members of the South Lakeland District Council Cabinet that public safety dangers had been highlighted at the old outdoor pool. It was the Council's most dangerous structure because of its nature and because it was unattended. It had been closed in the 1990s and had been a security problem ever since due to the deterioration of the complex and its attraction to children. The report said, "*The Property Services Group practices a policy of minimal maintenance in view of the past decisions to sell the property. Minimal maintenance comprises inspecting for dangerous deterioration and responding to matters affecting safety and security. There is no planned expenditure for preventing deterioration or for promoting improvement. Effectively it is a policy of controlled dereliction.*"

Members were told they should be aware that they had a collective responsibility for ensuring that the problem was adequately dealt with and that appropriate resources were made available to do so effectively.

6 April 2005

An Arts Strategy for South Lakeland reported that South Lakeland District Council is working with local residents and businesses on the 'Time and Tide' project, for which designs have been commissioned from the internationally known Thomas Heatherwick Studio.

24 August 2005

The Portfolio Holder for Economic Prosperity urged South Lakeland District Council's Cabinet to support the further progression of the project to invest in the regeneration of the Promenade, and to address the problems associated with securing and maintaining the old pool site, and the Berners Close and Clare House Lane Railway Bridges. It was noted that even though there was a potential for securing major external funding for the project, the Council would have to be prepared to commit match funding in the region of £750,000 - £1,000,000 over the lifetime of the project.

Members of the Cabinet were supportive of the proposals, on the basis that it was clearly understood that the Council could not proceed unless additional external financial support could be identified.

Wednesday, 24 August 2005

BBC News reported that South Lakeland District Council was to put together a revised bid for money from the Heritage Lottery Fund Public Parks

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Initiative to repair the crumbling sea front at Grange-over-Sands. The 'Time and Tide' scheme would focus on restoring the site of the old open air pool.

2006

A proposal in a report produced by the 3P's group to develop a Bay Discovery Centre in one of the Lido buildings was considered but did not progress.

16 August 2006

South Lakeland District Council adopted the report entitled *Character Appraisal for the Grange-over-Sands Conservation Area*. The document "is a material consideration in the determination of Full Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent applications" and stated that "The Lido at Grange is a relatively early example of the sort of complex that help to transform traditional notions of seaside bathing, from a predominantly health activity into a new mass leisure interest. As such the site has some merit and while in architectural terms it is a rather neutral building with only marginal importance to the special interest of the conservation area, in historical terms it is a notable local example of a social movement that occurred throughout the British Isles, and indeed much of Europe and North America, during the mid C20th. Responders at the Place Detectives event were split roughly 2:1 in favour of the preservation and enhancement of the site and its buildings."

July - September 2006

The indoor Berners Pool closed with debts of £200,000 after just 3 years, with the blame being put on rising energy costs. Sport England, which helped finance the £3.5m facility, said it was not prepared to see its investment in Berners go to waste. A Grange hotelier co-ordinated a deal to bring together financial support which should have seen the pool re-open in the short term but this did not happen, as South Lakeland District Council said it was unhappy with the lack of a business plan put forward by Cartmel Peninsula Recreational Trust, and the pool's creditors took court action which left no alternative than for the pool to cease trading.

8 November 2006

Following consultation with representatives of Sport England and Grange-over-Sands Town Council, the Executive Director (Central Services) South Lakeland District Council authorised a survey of the Berners Pool, to ascertain the condition of the building and to identify works needed to

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secure the viability of its operational future. Cabinet was recommended to approve a supplementary revenue estimate of £5,000 to fund the cost.

2007

South Lakeland District Council published "*a damning report*" by Norfolk Property Services Ltd on the unsafe condition of the four-year old Berners Pool, which stated, "*It is evident from an initial inspection on October 12, 2006 that the building fabric has deteriorated beyond what would normally be expected for a building of this age.*" SLDC had advertised nationally to try and find a new leaseholder to reopen the pool. In April 2007 a claim appeared in the satirical magazine *Private Eye* that SLDC was considering demolishing Berners Pool rather than spending more than £900,000 on repairs, whilst in August two potential rescue bids for the £3.5m pool were deemed unsuitable by SLDC. A petition demanding the pool be re-opened was signed by more than 700 residents.

25 April 2007

South Lakeland District Council Cabinet was asked to support the 3Ps group in a Project Planning Application to the Parks for People grants programme in respect of the Promenade and the ornamental gardens. Subject to a successful application, SLDC would take on the management role to deliver the project planning work so that a bid could be submitted to the Parks for People programme by 31 March 2008. The role would be resourced from the funds set aside to support regeneration in Grange, up to a maximum value of £10,000.

27 June 2007

A two-stage tender process for Berners Pool commenced, offering a lease to operate the premises as a swimming pool, leisure complex and community centre together with relevant associated leisure uses for the benefit of the public. Stage 1 - the Assessment of Affordability was expected to be completed no later than August.

6 July 2007

Ron Shapland, Chair of the 3Ps Group, reported by letter to Grange Town Council and South Lakeland District Council's Cabinet that the application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a Project Planning Grant for the 'Time and Tide' project had been submitted on 17 May 2017 and resulted in a request on 22 May for further information, which was provided after consultation with the 3Ps Group and NPS North West Ltd. A response was received on 21 June allocating a Senior Grants Officer to assess the

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application and an inspection meeting was arranged for 4 July. The inspection and discussion took place and the project team were asked to prepare and forward, no later than 8 August 2017, a range of supporting information.

15 August 2007

The update given to the meeting of South Lakeland District Council's Cabinet on the 'Time and Tide' project was that, *"The Heritage Lottery Fund assessor visited Grange and sought additional information for the Project Planning Grant application. A decision on the application was expected in mid-September"*.

The Grange-over-Sands Regeneration Study Final Report also referred to this [in November 2007] with additional details, "A 'pre-application' has been made to HLF under the Parks for People programme for £3.5m to tackle the deteriorating infrastructure, disused lido, two dismantled footbridges, declining condition of promenade, collapsing islands / silted pond / uneven pathways in the Ornamental Gardens. HLF have visited Grange-over-Sands, some queries have [sic] discussed and an 'in principle' decision on the possibility of development / feasibility funding is expected in late autumn."

10 October 2007

The 'Time and Tide' project was awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund Project Planning Grant and the preparation of the Stage 1 application could commence.

November 2007

The Grange-over-Sands Regeneration Study Final Report prepared by Douglas Wheeler Associates for South Lakeland District Council began with an introduction that included, "Although the town still retains much of its charm and tranquillity, the Promenade area in particular with its deteriorating infrastructure, disused lido and two dismantled footbridges, tired ornamental parks, closed indoor swimming pool and the town centre are badly in need of investment."

In its outcomes summary the report says that the *"old Lido is to be used as either restaurant, open air theatre, piazza"*. The options summary presented the following, *"Lido: The opportunities range from ensuring a secure future through a 'stabilised ruin' through to a full restoration and there are numerous options with different levels of intervention [...]"*

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For the purpose of the detailed appraisal two options have been considered in detail below.

Lido Option 1:

Retain / stabilise existing structures and reuse existing buildings for business use possibly arts / creative businesses that would appeal to visitors.

Strategic Fit: Retaining structures complements emerging HLF 'Parks for People' bid. Likely to be a more modest capital cost, reuse of existing buildings could provide some revenue quickly.

Urban Design Contribution: Retains and reuses existing buildings but more likely to be viable if linked to higher value uses / parking on north side of railway. No parking / servicing is a constraint.

Financial Appraisal: Minimal return.

Lido Option 2:

More radical approach based on new structure / landmark building in use as a Bay Visitor Centre / indoor pool / restaurant as well as retaining and re-using existing buildings to become a significant family visitor attraction.

Strategic Fit: May not necessarily complement HLF 'Parks for People' bid.

Urban Design Contribution: Opportunity to introduce new 'iconic' structure and to promote renewable technologies.

Financial Appraisal: Will require very significant capital / revenue subsidy.

"The DWA Team's fundamental conclusion from testing the various options for the Berners Pool / Berners Close Car Park / Lido area is that the whole area needs to be considered as a comprehensive 'brownfield' opportunity and should not be developed as a series of separate components without an overall mixed use development framework and master plan."

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7 November 2007

South Lakeland District Council Cabinet, following the line suggested in the *DWA Regeneration Study Report*, considered the Berners Pool site as part of a wider site – Berners Pool / former open air swimming pool / Berners Close Car park and suggested:

a. The comprehensive redevelopment of the Berners Car Park and Nursery site for a mix of uses including commercial, and residential uses. The retention of Berners Pool with a new community / health care facility and a new hotel. It recognises that although a public pool facility will remain on site it may not be in the existing building.

b. New public car parking to the south of existing housing on Berners Close.

c. The retention and reuse of the former open air swimming pool site in line with the ‘Parks for People’ bid, starting with the reuse of the buildings for small business, arts and creative industries, together with the replacement of the Berners Close footbridge.

5 December 2007

South Lakeland District Council Cabinet agreed the approach to the redevelopment of the Council’s property at Berners, and officers prepared the tender documentation, together with a project timetable. The preparation of the Stage 1 application for the ‘Time and Tide’ project had commenced, with NPS working with the 3Ps group.

2008

South Lakeland District Council issued an *Invitation for Developer Expressions of Interest for the Berners Close Regeneration Site*. The Regeneration Site comprised Berners Close car park, (the closed) Berners Pool, and the (derelict) open air swimming pool. After a public consultation and selection process the winning scheme, of the six short-listed, was the Berners Vision Partnership (BVP), which would have involved the infilling of the open air pool to create a level amenity space, and the creation of a new indoor pool and accommodation, a café / restaurant, and public viewpoints.

August 2008

The Promenade, Ornamental Gardens & Park Road Gardens Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria GT2: Conservation Management Plan was prepared on behalf of the

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3Ps Project Group, Grange-over-Sands Town Council, South Lakeland District Council and Cumbria County Council, by Archaeo-Environment Ltd, John Coward Architects Ltd, and Stephenson Halliday Landscape Architects. The plan was intended to provide a framework to link the recreation areas, including the Lido, and a means of maintaining them. It also included a recommendation for improved lighting along the Promenade.

June 2009

An application for Heritage Lottery Fund funding for a linear park including the Promenade but specifically excluding the Lido was rejected by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

April 2011

The National Trust threw its weight behind the bid to prevent the redundant lido from being filled in under plans drawn up by the Berners Vision Partnership. A spokeswoman said, *“At a time when the Lake District is looking for World Heritage status, the destruction of any historic building should be viewed very carefully in the context of the area’s heritage. Although the National Trust has no land-holdings in Grange, we would support proposals to consider the lido being restored, exploring other options before in-fill, especially if it were available for public access.”*

Wednesday 10 August 2011

A reader survey on the *Westmorland Gazette* website asked the question, *“Should Grange Lido be reopened as an outdoor swimming pool?”* The result was 79% Yes, and 21% No.

26 August 2011

The outdoor pool (now called Grange Lido) complex was Grade 2 listed by English Heritage (EH) under the *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990*, as the result of an application submitted by Philip Bradby, the founder of the Save Grange Lido Campaign. The listing is cited as follows,

HE List Entry Number 1402086 National Grid Reference: SD4057777213

Grange over Sands Lido constructed in 1932 is listed at Grade II for the following principal reasons:

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- *Completeness: as a complete example of a 1930s lido with the survival of all key ancillary buildings and structures*
- *Pool: for the unusually shaped pool, designed for multiple uses and which retains its original stepped diving stage.*
- *Historic: as an evocative reminder of the former popularity of sea-side towns such as Grange over Sands and the inter-war cult of fresh air, fitness and mass leisure*

Link to listing entry:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1402086>

10 September 2011

A poll on the *Westmorland Gazette* website asked “*Should the lido be preserved as an open air saltwater swimming pool*”. The result was 64% said they wanted the saltwater swimming pool to be restored. Cllr Hilary Stephenson, SLDC’s portfolio holder for Communities, said “*It’s a charming idea to restore the lido but it’s not viable.*”

October 2011

Phil Bradby from the Save Grange Lido Campaign gave a presentation to Grange-over-Sands Town Council about his vision for the restoration of the outdoor pool.

December 2011

The *Westmorland Gazette* reported that Russell Armer, one of the partners in the Berners Vision Partnership, had withdrawn from the scheme “*due to the initial cost of preparing the whole Berners Close site being too high.*”

2012

The Berners Vision Partnership scheme was officially scrapped early in the year, according to a report in the *North West Evening Mail* on 14 March.

September 2012

At meetings of the South Lakeland District Council Cabinet on 19 September 2012, and the full Council on 27 September 2012, it was agreed that the Council would work on developing a scheme for affordable homes to be built in partnership with Grange Town Council and funds from the Homes and Communities Agency. “*To accommodate this it had been agreed that the former Berners Pool building be demolished and that a small element of the site would be sold on the open market for housing to contribute towards a*

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Heritage Lottery Fund matching fund bid for Grange Lido.” It was noted that, “the [Berners Pool] building has failed in performance and has significant design defects which mean that it has been uneconomical to restore or find alternative uses for the building.” It was also reported that the Council had appointed “a Heritage Lottery Fund consultant for the stage 1 bid to devise a scheme for the Lido. The winning contractor is Neo Now and Partners and they will be working on the application to be submitted at the end of the year”, and that “A public consultation will commence shortly on the options for the Lido site.”

2013

A Heritage Grant Pre-Application form was submitted by South Lakeland District Council Planning Dept. under Reference number HG-12-03369. The application stated that, “The lido became unsustainable [sic] to operate as it was an unheated sea water pool and only used in the summer months, with customers gradually moving away to use indoor heated pools which are available in local hotels. Structural problems were also a major issue at the time as the pool leaked so a sustainable level of water could not be guaranteed. General structural obsolescence to the sea walls, tanks and buildings which presented high repair costs which were beyond the limited budgets. Following this, the changes in the tidal patterns in Morecambe Bay has meant that the tide no longer comes close enough to the shore to fill the lido, as it is now around half a mile away from the shoreline.

Sadly it is boarded up and no entry is permitted. Bringing it back into a sustainable use, but not as an open air swimming pool is widely regarded by the community as a the best way forward.

The project aims to restore the buildings and to create a flexible open air space for the use of the community. It is not intended to return the former Lido back into an open air swimming pool and part of this application will be to fund engineering and design studies which will inform and guide the aspirations of the community to create a multi purpose leisure and recreation space.

We plan to begin by commissioning a number of engineering and design studies which will inform the practical reuse of the building. It is likely that the pool itself will be filled in but the line of the pool retained, and all of the surrounding buildings and terraces brought back into reuse.

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We would like to submit a round one application for work which could commence immediately. The proposal is to undertaken [sic] community consultation in tandem with detailed engineering studies to inform its sustainable reuse. The pool is for example full of water, which contradicts the original reason it was closed because it was leaking. The [sic] leads us to conclude that the water table is very high in this area and we need to fully understand what is required to ensure that this is not an issue in the future. It is then important to develop sustainable and sensitive designs for the buildings reuse that are supported by the community. We estimate that this initial investigation work would cost in the region of £100,000. The second phase would be the delivery. Initial costs suggest that this could come at between one million - one and a half million. But it will depend entirely on the outcome of phase one. Phase one could start immediately, and subject to funding phase two could begin quickly. It is estimate [sic] that the project would take 2 - 3 years from start to finish.

A reused and opened lido building will provide a flexible open space and amenity for local people and visitors. It is hoped that some of the building will provide flexible space for artists / studios / office space for the community which would assist the local economy. It is also envisaged that the space currently occupied by the swimming pool will also provide a community leisure activity which will give opportunities for different events/ leisure activities throughout the year. Ideas from the community for this space include a 'splash park' facility in the summer months, a skating ring [sic] in the winter months, a public space for open air theatre and concerts using the terracing for seating.

How much is your project likely to cost?

Engineering and design costs Circa £80 - 100,000

Delivery Costs Circa one million - one and a half million

How much are you likely to request from us? £1,000,000."

January - February 2013

APA Concrete Repairs Ltd of Halifax were employed by RG Parkins & Partners Ltd (working for NPS NW Ltd & SLDC) to undertake an investigation of various reinforced concrete elements at the open air pool. The subsequent report was entitled, *An Investigation of Concrete Elements* and concluded that, "the majority of defects appear to be 'corrosion driven'". A programme of repairs, linings, protective coatings and waterproof

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membranes, the replacement of sea tank access ladders, and the cathodic protection of all surfaces was recommended.

March 2013

Greenlane Archaeology Ltd. produced a detailed, 107-page English Heritage Level 3-type archaeological building recording of the outdoor pool complex, entitled 'GRANGE LIDO', GRANGE-OVER-SANDS, CUMBRIA Archaeological Building Recording for NPS North West Ltd. [Ref: NGR: 340579 477209]. The report's "*Recommendations for the site are of course heavily dependant on its proposed future use, although it is apparent that whatever this is a programme of extensive repair is necessary as a minimum*" and "*If it was to be retained as a pool then all of the original elements could no doubt be retained and re-used although new plant would presumably be necessary and it is unlikely that the sea tanks would be useable [sic] due to the present position of the pool relative to mean high water level and the cleanliness of the sea water.*"

March 2013

RG Parkins & Partners Ltd for NPS North West Ltd and South Lakeland District Council produced a *Structural Condition Survey and Options Appraisal Report* for the open air pool which highlighted the lack of ongoing repair and maintenance over the years and identified various options for the pool:

1. *Short-term repairs and protection measures*

[Estimated Total Cost = £202,200]

2. *Repair and protect concrete structures and buildings in order to return to useable condition as intended for original use without Cathodic Protection to reinforced concrete elements*

[Estimated Total Cost = £852,000]

3. *Repair and protect concrete structures and buildings in order to return to useable condition as intended for original use with Cathodic Protection to reinforced concrete elements*

[Estimated Total Cost = £1,308,000]

4. *Infill main pool and sea tanks, repair and protect buildings and structures and return to useable condition as intended for an alternative use*

[Estimated Total Cost = £1,002,000]

5. *Demolish concrete structures and buildings and provide new internal concrete wall to support sea wall as intended for an alternative use*

[Estimated Total Cost = £972,000]

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These costs are based principally on the structural repairs required and do not include the additional mechanical, electrical and architectural requirements needed to renovate the buildings and structures back to their original use or for an alternative use.

May 2013

South Lakeland District Council, in partnership with Grange-over-Sands Town Council, published its *Public Survey Summer 2013* inviting ideas and support to bring back into use Grange-Over-Sands Lido. *“This survey is a part of the first stage of the process. If a sustainable use can be identified and funds secured (potentially Heritage Lottery Funds) this could be possible. We would need to consider the Lido being open all year round and offering an exciting and broad programme of events, activities, classes and more, for all ages.”* The survey results showed that 91% of respondents supported or strongly supported the principle of restoration and development of the Lido and 77% of respondents considered the Lido to be an important part of the heritage of the town. Only 5% said they did not think it was important. 73% of respondents saying they wanted it to be *“a Lido”*, and of these 64% said they would *“strongly support”* a Lido. There were an additional 56 people who responded that they would support a *“Lido with diving boards”*.

July 2013

Minutes of the meetings of the South Lakeland District Council Cabinet on 24 July 2013, and the full Council on 25 July 2013, *Capital Carry forwards* [items within the capital programme projects that have either under-spends or additional income received during 2012/13]

“The largest request relates to the capital receipt from the sale of part of the Berners Close site at Grange over Sands. Council, at its meeting on 27 September 2012, approved part of the capital receipt from the sale of the medical centre site should be earmarked for the redevelopment of the former Outdoor Pool - Lido, the development of a new car park and other infrastructure costs as may be required to facilitate the development. It is estimated that £450k of the receipt will be required for these purposes.”

26 August 2013

A report on the *BBC News* website for Cumbria stated that, *“South Lakeland District Council has applied for Heritage Lottery funding”*. [This seems to refer to the Pre-Application Form - see 2013]

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28 August 2013

The Quarter 1 2013/2014 Council Plan Performance submitted to Cabinet included an Action Point, *“Stage 1 HLF Bid for Grange Lido to be submitted by January 2014”* with a due date of *“01-Jan-2014”*.

September 2013

Neo Now published its *Options Appraisal* report for *The proposed Heritage Lottery Fund project for the lido at Grange-over-Sands* in which they quoted English Heritage as saying, *“the lido is an important historic asset and English Heritage would welcome any viable proposal that retained the lido and rejuvenated the site”*. The report stated that, *“Our conversations with other lidos and open air pools elsewhere in the UK, which have centred on their running costs and income streams, have confirmed that it is financially sustainable to operate a lido or open air pool”*, and its recommendation was for, *“Option 3 [of 6 offered] This option would restore and conserve a heritage lido, heated for day swimming and night swimming, and for water-based clubs to hire”*.

The full set of 6 options in the Neo Now report were as follows:
[Key to indicators after Options 1,2,5,6: the SLDC Conservation Officer's view was that options marked * "should be discounted", and that for options marked # "the council and its partners must consider carefully their statutory duty implications to preserve and enhance the significance of this heritage asset".]

1. *Do nothing **
2. *Fill in the lido and develop over the site **
3. *Restore the lido (heated for day and night swimming)*
4. *Restore the lido as part of a wider development of the site to create an infrastructure for year-round performances and events (i.e. Option 3+)*
5. *All of Option 4 plus a retractable dome or roof #*
6. *As Option 5 but with a permanent roof #*

Neo Now's recommendation to SLDC was for Option 3.

30 September 2013

A report on the news website *Cumbria Crack* stated, *“Residents have shown strong support for a proposal to apply for lottery money to redevelop the Lido in Grange-over-Sands ... residents will have the opportunity to see more details of the proposals at a public exhibition at the nearby Victoria Hall on the following dates and times: Monday October 7: 1.30pm*

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to 5pm; Tuesday and Wednesday October 8 and 9: 10am to 8pm; Thursday October 10: 10 am to 5pm. The exhibition will include key findings of the public consultation and the opportunity to vote on different scheme options (including outline costs and running costs for the projects). SLDC and Grange Town Council are working closely with Neo Now and Partners on the project, expected to cost around £5m, and aim to submit a Stage 1 application for Heritage Lottery Funding by January next year.”

10 October 2013

The *Westmorland Gazette* reported that, “A majority of Grange-over-Sands residents are in favour of restoring the town’s historic saltwater lido, according to a public consultation carried out by South Lakeland District Council. Reporter Toni Guillot visited a public exhibition at the town’s Victoria Hall to find out what the next step will be in developing the iconic landmark for future generations ... Coun Graham Vincent, South Lakeland District Council’s portfolio holder for health and well-being, said: ‘Bringing the lido back into public use will support our aims of increasing leisure participation in the whole district and improving health.’”

Tuesday, 15 October 2013

The Morecambe Bay Partnership stated on its website that, “Residents have shown strong support for a proposal to apply for Lottery money to redevelop the Lido in Grange-over-Sands. More than 90 per cent of people backed the principle of restoration of the historic site.” Susannah Bleakley, for the Morecambe Bay Partnership said, “Grange Lido is the most important unloved coastal building in the North. Its restoration is a huge opportunity for the regeneration of Grange and the whole Bay area.”

Tuesday, 22 October 2013

The ten-year old indoor Berners Pool was demolished at a cost of £100,000.

10 February 2014

A report on the news website *Cumbria Crack* reported that, “South Lakeland District Council (SLDC) is continuing to prepare documentation in order to submit a Stage One application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Grange-Over-Sands Lido”.

March 2014

An article in *Grange Now* stated in respect of the Lido that, “the recent consultation exercise indicated an investment requirement of over

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£7million pounds [sic] for one of the lido development options". [This appears to relate to one of the 6 options identified in the Neo Now consultation displayed at Victoria Hall in October 2013, which included options for either a retractable or a permanent roof.]

April 2014

Grange Now reported a recent meeting with the head of the Communications Team at South Lakeland District Council, from where they learned that SLDC "have put a tender brief out in the hope of attracting advice on the sustainability of a restored Lido" and that, "Whoever wins the tender will then have just 4 weeks to provide detailed income and expenditure projections to cover 10 years and also any green technologies to help keep down operating costs."

May 2014

The 45-page South Lakeland District Council Feasibility Study Grange-over-Sands Lido was undertaken for South Lakeland District Council by consultants MAX Associates "to establish whether Grange-over-Sands Lido could be financially sustainable in the current economic climate. ... This feasibility study will assess the financial sustainability of the lido, should it re-open and assess additional complementary activities on the site that could cross subsidise the lido operations." The report used as one of its bases Market Segmentation mapping from Sport England, which claimed that, "it is likely that those in the 15 - 20 minute drive time will travel to centres in Kendal and Ulverston. Therefore for community facilities, the likely catchment is about 15 minutes."

By doing so the report ignored the nature of the lido as an outdoor swimming tourist attraction and instead assessed it as a local community facility; it also assumed that the lido would be fully open for only 15 weeks per year. Despite the restricted catchment area and limited season, the surplus and deficit projection for the first five years of a restored lido operation gave a deficit requiring subsidy in year 1 of £43,500, falling to £8,600 in year 2, and being in surplus of more than £12,600 from year 3.

South Lakeland District Council stated in the *Westmorland Gazette* and various committee Minutes that they were continuing to prepare documentation ahead of a Stage 1 application being submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund to secure the cash needed to bring the old outdoor pool back into use.

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September 2014

Grange Town Mayor, Tricia Thomas, reported in *Grange Now* the completion of the first phase of the enhancement of the facade of Grange Lido buildings with *“huge photos of the town past and present”*.

October 2014

A further 32-page feasibility study was undertaken for South Lakeland District Council by consultants MAX Associates entitled, *Grange-over-Sands Lido: Splash Park and Water Garden Options Appraisal* which began, *“Following a report into refurbishing the existing Grange over Sands Lido, the Council is wishing to consider potential alternative options for the site. A concept plan of a splash park / pad has been completed by NPS North West Limited. They have assessed the capital costs for this re-development as well as for a water garden.”* The costings provided show the *“annual subsidy for each of the options presented varies from £128,273 - £192,386, based on visitor numbers between 22,450 and 36,400 per annum”*. The report concluded that the May 2014 report had *“assessed the feasibility of the refurbishing the lido and providing complementary fitness provision also projected a subsidy position, however had a higher annual usage of the facility. In this scenario, users would pay for the facilities and thus income could be generated to offset running costs. It is understood that the capital costs for each option are similar. Therefore whilst each option is still projecting a subsidy, the Council may be minded to further consider the redeveloped lido option as overall usage would be higher.”*

3 November 2014

The response sent to South Lakeland District Council by GTC Deputy Town Clerk, Claire Benbow, on behalf of Grange Town Council in respect of the CIL Consultation stated that, *“Costing for works to Grange Promenade have been vastly under-estimated and wrongly identified as non-essential. It is insufficient to set out a modest amount in the Infrastructure Development Plan to improve the ambience of this public open space without any commitment to repairing the seriously damaged infrastructure that supports the regeneration of the Lido and keeps the railway line and town safe from tidal damage. This year’s severe storms ... took chunks out of the concrete and left the foundations exposed to further damage ... This cannot be ignored in the near future; not only is it a severe detriment to any plans to redevelop the Lido, but it may also expose SLDC to swingeing compensation claims from Railtrack if the structure is allowed to deteriorate to the point where the embankment foundations are affected.*

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The most recent estimate to bring the Promenade infrastructure up to standard was approximately £100,000.000 [sic] for repairs to the sea wall, plus a further £300,000.000 [sic] to refurbish the Prom surface, the infrastructure and pedestrian surfaces in the ornamental Gardens, and surfaces in Park Road Gardens”.

The supporting documentation submitted stated that, *“The regeneration of the Lido site and Promenade fulfils the economic strategic objectives (4.4) for Grange and area’s hotels, retail, campsites and visitor facilities. The evidence from the Neo Now preliminary bid for HLF report indicates between 100 and 750 extra tourists per day to the Lido would be generated ... Given the finite timescale before the fabric of the Lido deteriorates beyond restoration, and the poor condition of the Promenade, this regeneration project needs front-loading.”*

2015

South Lakeland District Council received a £50,000 grant from the Coastal Revival Fund, and Councillor Jonathan Brook, South Lakeland District Council’s portfolio holder for Innovation and Improvement, was quoted in the *Westmorland Gazette* as saying, *“We will use this money to develop a sustainable business case and vision for the site’s future.”* SLDC appointed commercial property experts Lambert Smith Hampton (LSH), supported by Amion Consulting and IBI Group, to carry out the studies on the Lido with a brief to investigate options that are compatible with the site. Simon Turner, director of planning and consultancy at LSH said, *“The council’s earlier consultations showed that 91 per cent of respondents supported the principle of restoration and development of the lido and more than three quarters of those asked considered the lido to be an important part of the town’s heritage.”* SLDC concluded that a restored swimming pool was not a viable and sustainable option and decided to investigate alternatives compatible with the Lido’s listed status.

February 2015

Grange Town Mayor, Tricia Thomas, reported in *Grange Now* that she had been working on the second phase of the enhancement of the facade of Grange Lido buildings to install more huge photos of the town past and present.

July 2015

Grange Now reported they had contacted the Heritage Lottery Fund to ask about applying for grants, and was told by the fund’s Communications Manager, Laura Bates, that *“our development team has met with*

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representatives of South Lakeland District Council and Local partners to discuss the ideas being considered. We offered advice on HLFs grant programmes and discussed the significant challenge around finding a sustainable end use for the lido.”

Wednesday, 19 August 2015

A report was include in the October 2015 issue of *Grange Now* of a Leader Surgery at Grange, attended by District Councillor Peter Thornton, the Chief Executive of SLDC Lawrence Conway, the Grange Town Council and members of the public. The Surgery was informed that *“the work on the lido under consideration was to make everything up to ‘Health and Safety Standards’. To fill in the pool; leaving a small shortfall; which would define the shape of the pool.”*

October 2015

Retiring Grange Town Councillor Bill Woods wrote, in a letter to *Grange Now*, that *“A report will be submitted very soon by SLDC officers for approval detailing the proposals for the Lido. Their current thinking is to refurbish the structure of the building, fill the pool area in (subject to listed building consent) and install an artwork piece.”*

April 2016

A letter to *Grange Now* from District Councillor Eric Morrell said, *“But before any plan can be adopted we need to know that the Lido can be made safe and, given the impossibility of restoring a swimming pool, that a more or less flat surface can be made. Many ... readers will have ... seen how big the old pool is. They will recognise that the task of filling in that pool or even building a decking over the pool area is very daunting.”*

2017

South Lakeland District Council commissioned another consultation, with three options for the redevelopment of the Lido, none of which included any options for swimming. The final decision was for the so-called “light-touch” renovation, allocating the buildings for a variety of uses and the pool area as a flexible open space for activities and events. The IBI report *Grange Lido Renaissance* offered 32 options, of which at least 5 would involve infilling of the pool area: *“a formal public space”, “a performance venue”, “a playground potentially including wet play”, “adventure golf”, and an “urban beach”.*

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February 2017

Grange Now stated that, "SLDC's press relations officer was happy to be quoted as saying: "There is an absolute determination to get something done this time ... There is a will and determination to see the lido repaired, made safe and publicly accessible."

March 2017

Grange Now reported that "South Lakeland District Council are looking to invest well over £1m in restoring the site to a usable space that may support businesses as well as visitors and residents and this significant investment is to be welcomed." Town Mayor Tricia Thomas was reported as saying that "a small minority of people still believe a pool is viable" and that "It needs to be remembered that we are not in the sunnier, warmer south west, the building, though well loved, is not an architectural gem and we just do not have the footfall needed to support a swimming facility." District Councillor Tom Harvey was reported as saying, "with costs starting at £5m and only getting higher, what is abundantly clear is that ... based on the most optimistic usage assumptions the site would lose money year after year".

June 2017

APA Concrete Repairs Ltd returned to the Lido to carry out further tests which were reported in *The Open Air Pool (Lido), Grange-over-Sands - Investigation of Concrete Elements*.

July 2017

RG Parkins returned to the Lido to look for further signs of deterioration since their structural survey in 2013, and produced a 53-page report entitled, *Open Air Pool Grange-over-Sands Structural Condition Survey 2017 Addendum* for Lambert Smith Hampton Ltd and South Lakeland District Council. [Ref: K34158/01/SCS/RGP]. Since the full and detailed structural survey of the Lido in March 2013 no significant repairs or restoration works had been undertaken and the 2017 report was intended to address further deterioration that has occurred. The total estimated repair costs needed at the Lido was given by Hyde Harrington as c. £1.5m which included £300,000 to "make safe and backfill with imported capping material; provide new hardstanding surface and associated drainage" of the main pool and the paddling pool, plus "a further 10% contingency [i.e. £150,000] to cover access restrictions and the challenging logistics of the site".

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August 2017

IBI Group produced a Stage 1 Report for South Lakeland District Council for their Grange Lido Renaissance project [Ref: 50982-DC-A-000-01] after a brief to advise on options for the viable redevelopment of the Lido which should have *“low-zero cost and maintenance implications for SLDC”*. Their report claimed on one page that the Lido *“closed in 1993 due to a lack of demand for outdoor swimming and the escalating running and maintenance costs”* and on a later page that its closure was *“due to escalating running costs and the deteriorating condition of the structure”* with no mention of falling demand. They also claimed that *“SLDC was not persuaded that there was enough demand for a pool prior to delivery of Berners”* and that *“this position appears to have been vindicated by the subsequent closure of Berners Pool and raises significant concerns about the viability of reusing the Lido as a pool, particular [sic] given the disadvantages of this site (i.e. open-air and unheated)”*.

The report concluded by recommending that the next steps to take should include:

- 1. Measured building survey and site topographic survey to provide accurate information on internal building layout, site dimensions and levels.*
- 2. Land search to confirm rights of way, easements.*
- 3. Utilities survey including verification of supply capacity to site.*
- 4. Asbestos survey.*
- 5. Identify additional surveys that may be required by the Local Planning Authority in support of planning and listed building applications, e.g. environmental / ecological studies.*
- 6. Complete risk assessment for the building and begin to identify risks which could be present during the potential redevelopment / demolition of the structures.*
- 7. Preparation of cost plan for conversion to new use and modern standards.*
- 8. Discussions with stakeholders, e.g. Network Rail and Historic England.*
- 9. Assemble design team including: architect, development planning advisor, landscape architect, structural engineer, mechanical and electrical engineer, quantity surveyor / cost consultant, CDM principle designer, heritage specialist.*

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April 2018

Cllr Eric Morrell reported in *Grange Now* that, *“the South Lakeland District Council refurbishment [of the Lido] will probably take about 2 years”* and that *“for the avoidance of any doubt, I should emphasise that there is no prospect of the Lido being revived as a swimming pool”*.

May 2018

A report by District Councillor Eric Morrell in the May 2018 issue of *Grange Now* advised readers that *“the Grange-over-Sands Lido CIC is now incorporated at Companies House and that it can start work”*. The report also stated that, *“the ball is now in SLDC’s court, it needs to allocate money in the next few months to make the Lido safe and to carry out a simple refurbishment. The CIC will take over from there”*. And that, *“the CIC will probably insist that the Promenade refurbishment should include lighting along most or all of the Prom”*.

10 May 2018

Cllr Eric Morrell and SGL’s Kate Love were interviewed on *BBC Radio Cumbria* about the Lido ahead of the SGL “in swimwear” protest at Tim Farron MP’s surgery in Grange.

22 May 2018

BBC North West Tonight ran a story about the campaign to save the Lido with interviews with SLDC Councillors and SGL campaigners.

July 2018

A letter published in *Grange Now* from Cllr Eric Morrell, Chair of GOS [Grange-over-Sands] Lido CIC, informed readers that, *“four people in the town have set up a not-for-profit Community Interest Company (CIC) which aims to bring the Lido back into use in ways which appeal to both townspeople and visitors and will be financially sustainable”*. His letter went on to claim that, *“Over the years local people have been asked in several surveys what they would like to see the Lido used for in the future. The last one, in 2016, showed very little interest in a swimming pool and there is no chance that a pool, which occupies the bulk of the site, could pay its way”*.

Cllr Morrell is also the current Chair of South Lakeland District Council, a District Councillor for Grange-over-Sands, and the sole Director of Prom Art Community Interest Company.

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July - August 2018

Freedom of Information Requests made to the Heritage Lottery Fund reveal that no application for a grant for the Lido was ever made to it by, or on behalf of, South Lakeland District Council, but that a Heritage Grant Pre-Application form was submitted by SLDC Planning Dept under Reference number HG-12-03369. [See entry for 2013]

9 August 2018

BBC Radio Cumbria interviewed SGL's Pam Parker about the online petition which garnered 6,000 signatures in less than a week.

August 2018

The Save Grange Lido Campaign ran an online petition which gathered more than 10,000 signatures by the end of August, and a paper petition which gathered a further 500+ signatures, calling for the restoration of swimming in the Lido.

Grange Bakery, which created its Lido'nuts decorated to look like life rings to raise awareness of, and support for the SGL campaign, was featured on *Smooth FM's* news broadcasts throughout the 20 August. Melissa Harrington was interviewed on *BBC Radio Cumbria* about the Lido'nuts on the same date. This was followed by a report in the *Westmorland Gazette* about the Bakery and the Lido'nuts on Thursday, 30 August.

September 2018

The support for the Save Grange Lido petition reached the ears of the national media, with significant coverage in the *Daily Telegraph* on Saturday, 1 September, and the *Sunday Telegraph*, *The Guardian*, and *The Observer* on Sunday, 2 September. The Liberal Democrat MP for Westmorland and Lonsdale, Tim Farron, was quoted in the *Guardian* article repeating his claim previously made on Twitter that restoration of the Lido would cost £10m. *ITV Granada* interviewed campaigners and councillors in Grange ahead of a *Granada News* report.