

## APPENDIX 9 (C)

### **Strengths and Weaknesses of the current Wick Library and Wick Swimming Pool**

**Report by Alison Forrest [Area Libraries Officer] & Graeme Ross [Area Facilities Officer]**

#### **1. Wick library - Strengths**

Information - a wide range of Fiction, Non fiction and Reference. A Unique Local History collection. Audio Books and DVDs.

Children's activities – Mum & Toddlers sessions weekly and Nursery/Class visits provided to 23 groups from East Caithness in 2010

Free online access – broadband access, printing and scanning facilities available. Computer literacy classes available every Monday.

Customer Service – a friendly and helpful team of staff with a diverse range of experience and abilities e.g. Local History, Children's Events

Existing library building while not meeting the needs of a modern public facility is regarded by locals as an integral part of Wick heritage and has been refurbished to meet changing needs as much as possible.  
Existing library is near town centre and shares space with gallery and archive centre attached.

#### **2. Wick Swimming Pool – Strengths**

New Fitness Equipment has recently been installed in the gym with the addition of digital free view and LCD televisions  
Well established user groups.

Energy efficient Air Handling Unit and Solar panels have been recently installed.

The pool currently has a dedicated, experienced team of staff

Dry side changing areas to serve the gym have recently been installed

The pool is well located within the Town within easy walking distance for most Town residents

Adequate parking & access

#### **3. Wick Library - Weaknesses**

- Logistical restrictions - Storage, parking and toilet facilities
- DDA – not DDA complaint

Difficult to adapt existing building to meet changing requirements of a modern library.

Expensive to heat due to age of building and high ceilings and windows

Lack of separate children's area

Lack of space for staff behind counter

Lack of space for mobile library drivers to carry out their weekly base duties

Lack of office space for library supervisor

Lack of space for staff room facilities

Lack of modern toilet facilities for public and staff

### **Wick Swimming Pool – Weaknesses**

In the near future work will be required to the pool walkway (£18,000)

Due to the volume of user groups the pool has a number of timetabling & capacity issues

Limited hours available for public swimming

Unlike most other Highlife leisure Facilities there is no provision for dry side activity classes.

Not fully DDA compliant

Gym is not of sufficient size to accommodate all current users during peak times