

Minutes of BLSC meeting 16 March 2021
Held by Zoom

Attending:

Stephen Trowell (chair) – but his connection failed for the central part of the meeting
Lara Misfud-Bonici (Lambeth)
Susy Hogarth
Miranda Payne
Jason DaPonte (temporary secretary)
Michael Boyle
Stephen Embleton (for Fusion)

Apologies:

Ben Longman

Discussion:

- ST led discussion of proposed price rises for 2021 including analysis showing proposed % increases 2019 - 2021 highlighting that some of the percentages seem particularly high and particularly steep on concessions, children and the over 65s, and drew attention to the proposed time restrictions being applied to concessionary tickets.
- SE gave a brief overview of Fusion's current financial state following months of closures (virtually no income).
- ST asked whether there was any provision made for a new sauna in the figures. SE confirmed there was not.
- GG pointed out that BLSC has no visibility of Fusion's financials or business case behind the increases and that its near impossible to evaluate the proposed prices without this.
- Various members expressed concern that increases were higher on concession groups and that this was especially unfair following COVID when people are struggling.
- Various members expressed concern that the Lido be kept viable by ensuring large numbers of users and members return to help drive Fusion's financial success.
- GG suggested a freeze on the prices until numbers got back to pre-pandemic levels. SE said industry bodies were predicting this may never happen because fitness habits will have changed during the lockdowns.
- JD requested Fusion provide more details on group hire prices as this was not clear from the spreadsheet

Agreed:

- BLSC recommends prices be frozen until we see how user numbers change upon reopening (and possibly until they return to pre-COVID levels).
- BLSC recommends that this position be reviewed after 6 months from re-opening AND when a business case and financial figures can be provided.
- BLSC strongly encourages Fusion to focus on creating as little (or no) impact as possible on the price of concessionary tickets, those for children and those for the over 65s.