

# NEWS FROM

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15 December 2005

## LEISURE CENTRE OPENING HOURS TO CHANGE IN NEW YEAR

The Council's leisure centres will be changing opening hours from January 2006 following a decision of the Council's Cabinet (Thursday 15 December).

An initiative called 'Focused Hours Added Value' will mean the leisure centres reducing their overall opening times to ensure that the centres operate within agreed budgets and don't eat further into Council funds.

The move will mean an improvement to the service in the fitness studios with an increase in instructor availability to advise customers about their fitness needs.

Portfolio Holder for Community Services, Cllr Michael Roake, said: "We have tough decisions to make. This decision achieves a balance, focusing the opening hours to when most people want to use the leisure centres and improving the service we offer to our local communities. These decisions are never easy but we feel we have the balance about right."

Factors including a customer survey, attendance records and operational costs were considered by Cabinet in reaching their decision. Members agreed that a flexible approach was necessary and that the opening hours and usage would be monitored to ensure that the best fit with customers' needs could be achieved.

Customers will be informed of the decision in a newsletter available at all the centres and staff will be involved in a series of briefings to prepare for the January start.

The new opening hours will come into effect when the centres resume normal operations on Tuesday 3 January 2006 following the Christmas and New Year holiday period.

-ends-

**For more information contact Cllr Michael Roake on (01258) 472645 or Mike Thomas, Leisure Manager, on (01258) 455566  
PR Office: (01258) 48410**

Background information follows

15 December 2005

### LEISURE CENTRE OPENING HOURS TO CHANGE IN NEW YEAR (cont...)

The new opening hours for the centres from January 3rd 2006 will be:

<b>Blandford Leisure Centre</b>			<b>Gillingham Leisure Centre</b>	
Monday	7am – 9pm		Monday	7am – 10pm
Tuesday	10am – 9pm		Tuesday	1pm -9pm
Wednesday	7am – 9pm		Wednesday	7am – 10pm
Thursday	10am – 9pm		Thursday	11.30am – 9.30pm
Friday	7am – 8.30pm		Friday	7am – 9pm
Saturday	8am - 1pm		Saturday	8am – 1pm
Sunday	9am - 4pm		Sunday	9am -4pm
<b>Shaftesbury Leisure Centre</b>			<b>Sturminster Newton Leisure Centre</b>	
Monday	7am – 9pm		Monday	7.45am – 9pm
Tuesday	9am – 9pm		Tuesday	10am – 9pm
Wednesday	7am – 9pm		Wednesday	7.45am – 9pm
Thursday	9am – 9pm		Thursday	9am – 9pm
Friday	7am – 8pm		Friday	9am – 8pm
Saturday	Closed		Saturday	Closed
Sunday	8am -12noon		Sunday	9am – 1pm