



# Stroud Lido: A briefing for councillors voting on Thursday 16 April

This is a briefing from the [Save Our Lido Stroud](#) campaign for Stroud District Council councillors attending the Strategy & Resources vote on Thursday 16 April 2026.

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## 1. Summary: The lido can open this summer

Stroud District Council says it needs £5.1 million. An independent engineer says under £120,000

On Thursday 16 April, councillors will vote on the future of Stratford Park Lido. The council's papers put the cost of repairs at £5.1 million for "essential maintenance". However, this figure includes adding heating and replacing the lining with an expensive stainless steel system.

An independent civil engineer working with SOLS, backed by contractor quotes, puts the cost of a comprehensive pre-season programme of works at **under £120,000**.

It's important the lido stays open, to support the community and prevent further physical deterioration - **and we can do it, safely and affordably**. Please help us get the council back on track and open the lido this year.

## 2. History: The council's figures - how did we get here?

Over two years, the cost of repairing and refurbishing the lido grew from £0.8m (which the council had democratically agreed to spend) to £1.8m to £5.1m (which we do not have). At each step of this, more non-essential work was added.



In their current [papers](#), the council still insists this £5.1m is “essential refurbishment”, and “the minimum recommended works needed to keep the 50m lido operational” - but it appears there has been considerable mission creep with very little democratic discussion and scrutiny.

Date	Figure	What changed
Dec 2023	£375,000	Preventative maintenance survey by <a href="#">PMP</a>
Jan 2024	£444,000	<a href="#">Broadwater</a> add full plantroom replacement (worst case, not needed at this point according to Tam Engineering, leading SW lido engineers)
Mar 2024	£829,000	Combined total - all identified repairs, replacement and preventative maintenance.
July 2024	£900k AGREED by full council	This remains the only decision taken by the council.
Feb 2025	£1,857,000	Contractor fees, professional services and additional works added by a report apparently authored by a non-engineering consultant, including replacement of pipework and other plant without robust evidence of need.
Jun-Oct 2025	£5,100,000	Alliance Leisure adds heating and stainless steel pool lining (they also suggest even more expensive options up to £10m).
March 2026	Officers recommend closure as SDC doesn't have £5.1m.	

The £5.1m was produced by Alliance Leisure - a private consultancy hired to design redevelopment options.

It includes work that is not required to open the lido: a full heating system, making it shallow throughout, and a replacement of the concrete pool shell with an expensive stainless steel system. These are (arguably) improvements, not repairs.

Cheltenham told SOLS their pool has many elements that Stroud's proposals suggest scrapping. They are successful with a concrete pool liner and 1930s plant (machinery).

**There is no "repair and maintain" option in the council's papers.** Councillors have been asked to choose between closing the lido and spending £5.1m without seeing a costing for simply fixing what needs fixing.



### 3. What it actually costs: A plan for opening

An independent chartered civil engineer and a specialist pool engineer visited the lido in March 2026. They concluded: *"From my review of the risk assessment there is nothing that should prevent the pool being opened albeit later than maybe planned."*

They have sent the council detailed estimations of the work they think is needed to safely open this year.

#### Costing based on contractor quotes and a condition report

Category	Cost ex VAT
Pool works (shot-blast, slab repair, steps, grilles)	£24,938
Pool surround (coping stones, paving, handrails, diving slab, signage)	£22,473
Plant room (pump, filters, pipework, roof, walls, replacement pump in storage)	£48,279
<b>Subtotal – works</b>	<b>£95,689</b>
Project management and engineer oversight	£7,500
Water treatment startup	£750
17% contingency (same rate applied by SDC)	£17,669
<b>Total</b>	<b>£121,609</b>

This covers everything - every outstanding maintenance item, all surveys, professional fees, and the same contingency rate the council applies to its own figures.

**Even with full contingency and fees, the campaign's figure is less than 2.5% of the council's £5.1 million.**

### 4. Why it's doable: The council already has £900,000 set aside for this

In July 2024, SDC approved £900,000 specifically for lido repairs and preventative maintenance. The lido ran a full season in 2025, with 31,000 people swimming, **without that money being spent.**

The council should not be moving the goalposts and making this agreed spend, conditional on match funding. Time is of the essence.



**Our solution gets the lido open this year and still costs less than 14% of the budget SDC already approved for lido repairs.**

## 5. What next: Beyond the truly essential

The bulk of the works itemised above would endure for 5-15 years, according to the estimates provided by the independent civil engineer, allow safe reopening, and need doing whatever happens, unless a full redevelopment is undertaken.

We think there is scope to improve revenue from the lido over the next few years. Quick wins include improving the booking system, opening times and on-site facilities like catering and coffee that would make visiting even more attractive. We would like to work with the council and other user groups to make this happen this summer.

## 6. Our ask for you: The meeting on 16 April

We're calling on councillors to agree the following on Thursday 16 April:

1. Agree the approach set out in this report, i.e. to undertake minimum viable repairs required to enable safe reopening for the school holidays - work which will also be a strong basis for ongoing refurbishment - and to treat the work as extremely urgent.
2. Instruct officers to immediately agree the repairs required to reopen this summer, get quotes from contractors, and draw up a prioritised delivery schedule to enable summer opening.
3. Undertake the work urgently using appropriate budgets, and delegated authority where necessary to expedite - bearing in mind that £900,000 capital borrowing has already been approved for lido repairs.
4. Prioritise reopening for the community this summer, while working with the community (including SOLS) to plan for the longer term.

If you have questions, or would like to see a copy of the engineer's briefing, we'd be delighted to talk - please get in touch with SOLS on [savestroudpool@proton.me](mailto:savestroudpool@proton.me) or by calling Caroline Molloy 07931 302507.