

## University College Cork Sports Facility



Seated Stand

### Team for visit:

Liam O'Dwyer	CIDP
Kevin Lynch	DDA
Paul Ryder	IDSA
Frank Murray	Project Manager

### Dates of visits:

20<sup>th</sup> November 08

### Contacts at facility:

Patsy Ryan

**Description of services provided at the facility:**



Very large multi purpose gyms (3), very large hall (4 basketball courts) 25 metre swimming pool, childrens pool, changing room village, dressing rooms, crèche, restaurant, dance studio, meeting rooms, children party room, outdoor dressing room, climbing wall, treatment rooms, sauna / steam rooms, hospitality room, squash courts, all weather outdoor pitch, 2 other pitches, good car parking, large reception area and running track.

## Description of the facility itself:



Out Door Facilities  
Swimming Pool  
Studio

Very large commercial facility which was not well planned in the beginning and required much work after initial opening. The facility is catering for 600,000 visitors per year and is membership based and offers group activities to schools but at times convenient to members and students. A state of the art facility.

### Exterior:

Steel framed building with mix of glass and steel. Good car parking facilities, small stand overlooking the track and pitches.

### Interior:

Well laid out spacious reception with plenty of glass for light. Bright interior colours which lift the atmosphere of the building.

### Environment:

Surrounded by shrubs, football pitches and carparking facilities.

## Lessons for Village Project:



Reception Area

Know who the facility is aimed at and design accordingly.

Do business plan before design (60 staff costs €3 million to run).

Use motorised system for dividers, seats, basketball nets etc

Energy is major cost.

If the facility has members they cannot be discommoded by groups or schools.

People don't eat in sports facilities but snack.

## Positives for inclusion:

Dressing room village

Finger print access system to facility

Teenage and older people's gym

Need for a vanity area in swimming pool dressing rooms

Motorised blinds, nets, dividers, screens, seating etc

Solar panels

Contract out catering

Large sauna and steam rooms

Need for active retirement facilities

Need for small group changing rooms

Moving floor in swimming pool

Steps into pool for older people not ladders

Physio and beauty facilities

## Negatives to be avoided:

Floors need to be a darker colour  
Dressing rooms too small  
Too much circulation space  
Need for more recessed storage  
Dangers of indoor football so don't include in use of hall  
Expense of crèche

**Summary:**

The manager emphasised the need to decide if this is a commercial project or not. Swimming pools can make money but must be managed. Budget needs a large sum for depreciation each year to keep building up to date. Small pool for younger children is worth having. Half the pool needs to be available to members at all times. Hall was too big. Good viewing areas above and beside the facilities are vital.

**Other Comments from the group:**

**Environment:**

Friendly atmosphere there

Bright all around

**Lessons for Village Project:**

The following need to be addressed.:

Clear mission statement, what do we want to deliver?

Approach the project on the basis that it is a commercial project with a business plan to be adhered to.

Constantly evolving ideas.

Need bars / function room

Huge space around reception and have trophy cabinet

Put steam and sauna in between man and ladies change rooms

Car park space

Flood light for outdoor pitches

**Positives for inclusion:**

It is possible to incorporate social activities and sports to achieve a vibrant, live and active facility.

Brilliant facility

Indoor hall with turf grass

Changing rooms

First aid room

Car park

Bar facility / function room

Gym

**Negatives to be avoided:**

Overly ambitious plans and including marginal activities that are not commercial or are too high a risk. UCC does not have indoor soccer due to the high number of injuries recorded when it was included.

**Summary:**

Highly impressed

Really high class facilities