

## Sandwell Aquatics Club

Since the announcement of the new pool in Sandwell, Swim England at a national and regional level have been working with the three clubs in Sandwell on an exciting future.

The three clubs who used Sandwell Pools - Oldbury, Warley Wasps, and Haden Hill Swimming clubs, have been working together to form a new club, Sandwell Aquatics. The club has now integrated the three clubs including the water polo section of Warley Wasps. This merger was agreed democratically through the special general meetings of the recent past and has been fully supported by Sandwell MBC.

A number of key people have driven this and taken the lead on making sure the provision for people in one of the most deprived parts of the region is fully supported. All three clubs have been part of the steering group and issues raised have been worked through.

The club is now formed and moving forward to the new pool opening in the summer of this year.

Swim England West Midlands have been disappointed with the social media posts that have been recently made that criticise the current leaders in the new club. These posts are inaccurate and unnecessary and we would encourage members to get behind the new club.

Swim England West Midlands are part way through an investigation of Warley Wasps' governance at the moment and it would be inappropriate for us to comment on this until it is fully concluded. We are therefore surprised at the comments and actions taken by coaches and teachers at this exciting stage of the development of the new club.

We do recognise that members of the steering group have offered full explanations of the actions of the group, although as far as Warley is concerned more has come from the water polo representatives than the lane swimming club. Swim England West Midlands have also been disappointed at the slowness of the information sharing from Warley Wasps to support the effective merger of Learn to Swim and lane swimming activities.

We ask that people refrain from commenting on the club on social media as this can be interpreted wrongly and could be seen as inappropriate in light of the Swim England regulations about communication on social media. Swim England West Midlands have been asked to investigate this.

Should you require any further information or wish to make comment on the merger please email Swim England West Midlands: [westmidland@swimming.org](mailto:westmidland@swimming.org)