

Cabinet Meeting: Monday, 01 September 2025

Question from: Councillor Sue Holdsworth

Question to: Councillor Durrans, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Public Services and Communities

QUESTION

Has a date been set for the demolition of the former Halifax Swimming Pool? It has been boarded up for a long time now and presents an unsightly picture to visitors arriving in Halifax by road.

Does any demolition schedule allow for Hirst's Conservation to make an accurate assessment of the cost of removing the ceramic mural "British Pond Life" by the foremost ceramic artist of the 20 C, Kenneth Barden, and for this to be considered before it is too late?

Response

Following the necessary removal of a Northern Power Grid sub-station from the building, a prior notice application has been submitted to Planning and work is under way to procure a demolition contractor; the procurement process will require a full tender exercise. Once a contractor has been appointed, a programme of works will be agreed. It is currently anticipated that the works will commence late Autumn.

Hirst Conservation visited site on 8th March 2021 and undertook a detailed assessment of the viability of removing and retaining the murals. Their report, issued on 29th April 2021, determined that the removal of the murals would be very difficult and very costly, and it would be likely that the tiles and artwork would be significantly damaged during any removal process. The artwork has therefore been digitally recorded for retention / future use, yet to be determined.