

WHT Story from July 21 1999.

Stanborough pool stays closed for summer and it may never open again.

Safety concerns mean the plug has been pulled on Splashlands pool this summer. And with the cost of repairing swallowholes topping £1 million there is some doubt that the outdoor facility will ever reopen. Erosion around the pool at Stanborough Lakes, in WGC, were reported to its owner Welwyn Hatfield council in March. And on Friday the local authority announced it is unstable must remain closed until further notice. Flumes have been removed as the ground they stand on is of particular concern. Leisure committee chairman John Dean said "Outdoor swimming is a facility we would consider very important to the community but whether we could afford to spend the money at this time is something we would have to think very carefully about. Councillors will discuss whether the pool should be filled in and used for something else or restored to a swimming pool. Extensive geological surveys reveal the pool could be sitting on loose subsoil and there may be holes where the chalk layer below the earth is dissolving. But the voids cannot simply be filled all the concrete surrounding the pool would have to be removed and structures supported before up to 5m of slushy subsoil is replaced with compacted gravel. And before reopening much other work is needed, including replacement of the boiler and chlorinating plants. Cllr Dean added " I am extremely disappointed that we will be unable to reopen Splashland this summer, but the council cannot take chances with the safety of customers and staff. "We will work to resolve this issue and will keep you informed of our plans for this facility". Splashland attracts up to 5000 people a week during how weather and school holidays and about 1700 at other times, most of them spur of the moment visitors.