

## QUESTION: 2

### IELTS Listening Section 2

**Narrator:** Good morning. I'm very pleased to have this opportunity to say a little about two exciting new developments in the city: the Brackenside Open-Air Swimming Pool and the children's Adventure Playground in Central Park. As many of you may know, the idea for these initiatives came from you, the public[11], in the extensive consultation exercise which the City Council conducted last year. And they have been realised using money from the SWRDC – the South West Regional Development Commission.

First of all, Brackenside Pool. As many of the older members of the audience will remember, there used to be a wonderful open-air pool on the sea front 30 years ago but it had to close when it was judged to be unsafe. For the design of this new heated pool, we were very happy to secure the talents of internationally renowned architect Ellen Wendon, who has managed to combine a charming 1930s design, which fits in so well with many of the other buildings in the area, with up-to-the-minute features such as a recycling system – the only one of its kind in the world – which enables seawater to be used in the pool[12].

Now, there has been quite a bit of discussion in the local press about whether there would be enough room[13] for the number of visitors we're hoping to attract, but the design is deceptive and there have been rigorous checks about capacity. Also, just in case you were wondering, we're on schedule for a June 15th opening date and well within budget: a testimony to the excellent work of local contractors Hickman's.

We hope that as many people as possible will be there on June 15th. We have engaged award winning actress Coral White to declare the pool open and there'll be drinks and snacks available at the pool side. There'll also be a competition for the public to decide on the sculpture we plan to have at the entrance: you will decide which famous historical figure from the city we should have[14].

And now, moving on to the Central Park Playground, which we're pleased to announce has just won the Douglas Award for safety: the news came through

only last week. The unique design is based on the concept of the Global Village, with the playground being divided into six areas showing different parts of the world – each with a representative feature. For example, there is a section on Asia, and this is represented by rides and equipment in the shape of snakes, orangutans, tigers and so on[15] – fauna native to the forests of the region. Moving south to the Antarctic – we couldn't run to an ice rink I'm afraid but opted instead for climbing blocks in the shape of mountains[16] – I thought they could have had slides for the glaciers but the designers did want to avoid being too literal! Then on to South America – and here the theme is El Dorado – games replicating the search for mines full of precious stones[17]. And then moving up to North America, here there was considerable debate, I know the contribution of cinema and jazz was considered but the designers finally opted for rockets and the International Space Station[18]. Eastwards to Europe then, and perhaps the most traditional choice of all the areas: medieval castles and other fortifications[19]. Then last, but not least, moving south to Africa and a whole set of wonderful mosaics to represent the great rivers[20] of this fascinating and varied continent.

Now, the opening date for our Global Playground is 10th July. And again we'd love to see you there – so make a date and come and see this magnificent, original new amenity right in the heart of the city.

Questions 11-20

**Questions 11-14**

*Choose the correct letter, A, B or C.*

### **New city developments**

**11** The idea for the two new developments in the city came from

**A** local people

**B** the City Council

**C** the SWRDC

**12** What is unusual about Brackenside pool?

**A** its architectural style

**B** its heating system

**C** its method of water treatment

**13** Local newspapers have raised worries about

**A** the late opening date

**B** the cost of the project

**C** the size of the facilities

**14** What decision has not yet been made about the pool?

**A** whose statue will be at the door

**B** the exact opening times

**C** who will open it

Questions **15-20**

*Which feature is related to each of the following areas of the world represented in the playground? Choose **SIX** answers from the box and write the correct letter, **A** – **I** next to questions **15-20**.*

*Features*

**A** ancient forts

**B** waterways

**C** ice and snow

**D** jewels

**E** local animals

**F** mountains

**G** music and film

**H** space travel

**I** volcanoes

*Areas of the world*

**15** Asia \_\_\_\_\_

**16** Antarctica \_\_\_\_\_

**17** South America \_\_\_\_\_

**18** North America \_\_\_\_\_

**19** Europe \_\_\_\_\_

**20** Africa \_\_\_\_\_