

Presentation to B&NES Council meeting – July 10th 2014

Susan Charles, Chair Warm Water Inclusive Swimming & Exercise Network.

You haven't heard much from us for a while but we have been working away in the background keeping abreast of developments and waiting for the appropriate moment to speak to you again. Now is that moment!

You currently have a fantastic window of opportunity to provide leisure facilities which will benefit an enormous number of people, help you achieve many of the objectives you've set yourself in a number of your visions, plans & strategies and furthermore enable you to make better use of finances in the long term. It will also be a great example of innovation and forward thinking and create flagship facilities of which B&NES could be justly proud

Negotiations are under way to award a long-term contract to run all the BANES leisure facilities for up to 30 years, a contract which includes the rebuilding of Keynsham Leisure Centre and the remodelling or redeveloping of Bath and other Leisure Centres. It is vital that an integral part of that contract is the provision of a fully accessible warm water pools at 32°C, with changing facilities suitable for all ages and all levels of disability. Having such pools in the community will not only greatly assist you in the delivery of your Vision as a Council, but also your Health & Wellbeing Strategy, your Children and Young People's Plan and now your Fit for Life Strategy. It also has the potential of enormous savings to the NHS & Social Service budgets, while further finally ensuring that B&NES has leisure facilities that are at long last truly inclusive for all members of the community.

We want to know that this has total Council-wide support and that there will be no room for compromise over the provision of these pools in the new contract.