

# **WWISE Presentation to Communities, Transport & Environment Committee - 16<sup>th</sup> Jan 2017**

**Susan Charles**

The Remedial Swimming Consultative Group was set up by the Council in 2004 following which funding was given by the 'Get Active Team' to set up the WWISE Network to identify the need for a warm water pool.

The need which was identified was for a small warm water pool from 90 – 1.2/1.3m deep (3ft – 4'6"/5') at a temperature of 32°C which was fully accessible to all ages.

In 2014 we addressed various Council committees and were then in discussions with the consultants negotiating the new contract stressing the need for such a pool.

In 2015 there was a change of Administration with a change of Cabinet member responsible for leisure, and a contract was set up with GLL. After the design for the refurbishment was brought out in March 2016 we were invited to talk with Jason Curtis, GLL area manager for Leisure Facilities, who said he would arrange for us to meet with the designers & architects. However, this meeting never happened despite constant phone calls which were never answered or returned.

Therefore we came back to you and the other relevant committees who were just as surprised as we were that the pool was not in the plans.

In August 2016 we were formally told not to discuss with anyone in the Council concerned with this subject even though we did not understand why.

The BANES Water Engineer concerned says there is no technical problem in including such a facility and identified several possible area in the Bath Leisure Centre, but he had not been consulted by GLL.

WE are reliably informed the the money for this would come from the capital budget, rather than the current budget

So, in the new design we will have a main pool at 28°C suitable to fast swimming, keeping fit & galas. A gym suitable for the more able bodied to maintain health & mobility, losing weight, preventing heart disease, diabetes etc as we are all encourage to do. So, a small warm water pool for the less able for gentle swimming, exercise & relaxation to maintain health & independence would seem like a good facility in this day & age. Not a medical facility but one for social & recreation.

Instead this group of people are being discriminated against despite the Council's Health & Wellbeing and Fit for Life strategies as well as the Children & Young People's Plan.

In paragraph 4 on the first page of this report it says the Council is committed to provide facilities that support people to live healthy lifestyles. This group is being neglected.

We ask that you, as councillors, put pressure on GLL and those concerned to find a solution as to how a warm water pool can be included

Thank you