

## LEISURE STRATEGY CONSULTATION RESULTS

## Appendix A

**1**

**From:**

**Sent:** 15 November 2015 11:11

**To:** Leisure Services

**Subject:** Park Pool

Consultation Response to Draft Leisure Strategy.

I am writing on behalf of the West Lancs. Sports and Social Club for the disabled, who meet every Friday evening at Park Pool, Ormskirk from 8pm until 10pm.

At our recent committee meeting The West Lancashire Borough Council Draft Leisure Strategy plan was discussed. Deep concerns, and total bewilderment at the statement made re: future consideration of Park Pool.

(Page 21 c) we would like to see the reference to closure of Park Pool removed, and replaced with investing in the facilities. We have a wonderful building, ideally situated. Great parking facilities, this should never be considered or worded in an document for closure. It would be a total disgrace, and sadness to the community.

What security can you now give to the community who use Park Pool. which has been stated by yourselves that it is making a operating surplus.

**2**

From

Sent: 09 November 2015 11:40

To: Leisure Services

Subject: CONSULTATION RESPONSE TO DRAFT LEISURE STRATEGY

Dear West Lancashire Borough Council Leisure Department, In response to your consultation on your Draft Leisure Strategy, as a resident of Ormskirk for the last 38 years, I would like the reference to the closure of Park Pool at page 21 removed and replaced with a commitment to invest in and develop the Park Pool facility as an excellent and well used resource for the Borough.

In the case of my own family all three of my sons were members of Ormskirk Otters Swimming Club and Park Pool has been used regularly by all our family members.

The swimming facilities at Edge Hill University are primarily for University use and not available for local schools or community use for much of the week.

Therefore to close Park Pool either in the short or longer term would represent a very serious loss to Ormskirk and the wider Borough at a time when activity, exercise and fitness are being promoted by the Government to combat rising obesity and ill health.

Please acknowledge this email in order that our views on your Leisure Strategy will be taken into account.

Thank you.

**3**

**From:**

**Sent:** 09 November 2015 17:43

**Subject:** Park Pool, Ormskirk

Consultation Response to Draft Leisure Strategy.

Further to the continuing confusion as to the future of Park Pool would you please remove the reference to **closure** of Park Pool (at Page 21 c) and replace it with with an **honest and open** commitment to invest in and develop the facility.

I am a 73 year old pensioner living in Scott Ward who visits the facility three times a week in order to try and stay reasonably fit. I submit the following to help you focus on the absolute need for the future of Park Pool to be strongly positive. During the working day when I go, there is a large fluid group of people engaged in healthy exercise. This community includes many pensioners, some in their 80's, Grannies while their charges are at school, new-born to four year infants learning how to swim with their young Mums, the unemployed, people who work unsocial hours, the disabled, Doctor's Referrals and some students.

Two years ago I used to go to the Edge Hill facility but I stopped for two main reasons. Often, when I arrived the gym or the pool it was quiet rightly being used for course work by the students; so, turn round and go home. Othertimes, because of the lack of sensible parking I went straight home. Even with today's acres of parking at the Uni I think the same problem would still exist for many of the above group. Pushing prams and walking several hundred yards across the car park on dodgy knees, hips, lungs and hearts, particularly in inclement weather, to get to the sports hall/pool is not a very healthy option. For those without their own transport I cannot find a viable bus service to the Uni from anywhere; they seem to supply the students with a private service. At Park Pool the Council parking means a maximum of fifty yards walking, this is often less than ten yards.

I trust that the above will help you to positively secure the future for Park Pool.

Would you please acknowledge receipt of my email.

Thank you,

**4**

**From:**

**Sent:** 17 November 2015 07:34

**To:** Leisure Services

**Subject:** CONSULTATION RESPONSE TO DRAFT LEISURE STRATEGY

Dear West Lancashire Borough Council Leisure Department, In response to your consultation on your Draft Leisure Strategy, we sent you an email outlining our views on November 9th 2015 requesting that you send us an acknowledgement in order that our views will be taken into account.

To date, we have not received an acknowledgement and so we again ask that you kindly send us one.

Thank you.

**5**

**From:**

**Sent:** 23 November 2015 08:54

**To:** Leisure Services

**Subject:** Consultation response to Draft Leisure Strategy

I understand that the option of closing the Park Pool has been reinstated in this document (Page21 c). It is a matter of regret that, despite recent assurances, this has occurred. Whatever plans the current Labour administration has in mind for a new (and much needed) Pool, closure of the current facility would be a retrograde step in the provision of a leisure facility that additionally improves the health of its users.

Please acknowledge this email

**6**

**From:**  
**Sent:** 21 November 2015 15:53  
**To:** Leisure Services  
**Cc:** 'Our West Lancashire'  
**Subject:** Consultation Response to Draft Leisure Strategy

I want the reference to the closure of the Park Pool at Pg 21c) removed & replaced with a commitment to invest in & develop the facility.  
Please acknowledge receipt of this email.

**7**

To whom it May concern,

I recently signed a petition to stop the closure of the Park pool leisure centre and show my support to the valuable service it provides to our local community.

I would like to further my support for this cause by requesting that you remove reference to the closure of Park Pool from page 21 c) and replace it with a commitment to invest in and develop the facility which provides a crucial benefit to the local community?

Please can you acknowledge that my email has been received by the council and keep me informed of any development in this matter?

Kind Regards,

**8**

To whom it may concern

I was very disappointed to learn that at a recent council meeting, despite assurances to the contrary, Park Pool is still under threat of closure.

Please remove reference to closure of Park Pool from the Draft Leisure Strategy on Page 21 Section c. Instead a commitment should be made to invest in and develop this facility which brings in much needed revenue and teaches hundreds of children to swim every year (not only privately, but also through the national curriculum requirement) - not to mention the health benefits. The same services can not be delivered elsewhere in the area.

Please acknowledge receipt of this email  
Regards

**9**

19<sup>th</sup> November 2015

RE: Consultation Response to Draft Leisure Strategy – Park Pool

Dear Members

I am writing with passion to urge that the reference to closure of Park Pool at Page 21 c) be removed and replaced with a commitment to invest in and develop the facility. Park Pool is a pivotal part of our community, it is a place where our children can develop fitness, community cohesion and other developing interests (life saving badges, swimming etc). This is essential and continues to stop groups of teenagers roaming or huddling into groups around our town. It also plays a vital role for all people in our community – anti natal classes, baby clubs, OAP classes. Park Pool was originally built by the community to serve the community, this is a role it continues to play and why it is very important that the West Lancs Council continue to invest and develop.

Would you please ensure that you acknowledge that my email has been received by the council and I would be grateful if you could please keep me informed of any correspondence you make on this matter.

Thank you for your kind attention in this matter.

Yours sincerely

**10**

**From:**

**Sent:** 18 November 2015 16:56

**To:** Leisure Services

**Subject:** Consultation Response

To those responsible for the draft Leisure Strategy

I would like to say that as a West Lancashire resident I would not like to see Ormskirk bereft of its own community swimming pool. I mean Park Pool. It is a facility whose services cannot be fully duplicated by another entity due to its 100% community focus. Also as it was provided with the help of West Lancashire tax payers' money it should not be considered for closure. To this end I would like to see all consideration of it as a target for closure removed from the Draft Leisure strategy document on page 21c. Rather I would like to see there a commitment to invest in this vital leisure service for continued community use for years to come.

Yours Faithfully

**11**

I write as a concerned resident of Ormskirk in relation to the recently circulated draft leisure Strategy for West Lancashire. I would particularly like to express my displeasure at the fact that still contained within the strategy is reference to the "Closure" of Park Pool in Ormskirk which appears on page 21 section c of your strategy.

I am led to believe an amendment was proposed at a recent council meeting to remove the specific reference to this closure from the draft strategy but this was voted down by Labour councillors.

As a tax paying resident of West Lancashire, which I have now been for over 25 years, I want the reference to the closure of Park Pool at page 21c of the report removed and would want to see this replaced with a firm commitment from the borough council to invest in and further develop the facilities at Park Pool.

I would also ask that I receive acknowledgement of the receipt of this email by return and that I be kept abreast of any developments in relation to this draft strategy either directly or via my ward councillors who I have copied on this email.

Yours sincerely

**12**

To whom it may concern;

Please can you remove the reference to the closure of Park pool (p.21 c ) and replace it with a commitment to invest and develop the facility further. As someone who learned to swim there, spent time there, and have taught my children to swim there I feel this is an important piece of the locality and should remain present.

Please can you both acknowledge that this has been done and keep me informed of any further changes to this proposal.

Kind regards

## 13

**From:**

**Sent:** 18 November 2015 17:34

**To:** Leisure Services

**Subject:** Remove the option of closing Park Pool

I find it hard to believe that West Lancs Council would ever consider closing Park Pool. I urge the council to remove the option of closure from the draft consultation document.

The following statement (circulated by Our West Lancashire) should make it quite clear that such a move would be against the interests of the people of this area. Moreover, there is no financial reason for recommending closure.

"Park Pool makes an operating surplus, serves 15 primary schools with swimming to meet their national curriculum requirement, 9000 swimming lessons a year and has provided employment for a growing number of local people as its use has actually increased in recent years. It is a highly popular and well located facility whose construction was part funded by the people of Ormskirk. The new facilities at Edge Hill are primarily for University use and are not available to the community or schools for much of the week."

## 14

**From:**

**Sent:** 18 November 2015 18:37

**To:** Leisure Services

**Subject:** Consultation Response to Draft Leisure Strategy

To the Council

I want the reference to closure of Park Pool at Page 21 c) removed and replaced with a commitment to invest in and develop the facility .

With Regards

## 15

**From: Sent:** 18 November 2015 21:08

**To:** Leisure Services

**Subject:** Re Consultation Response to Draft Leisure Strategy.

Dear Sir,

I request the reference to closure of Park Pool at page 21c be removed and replaced with a commitment to "Invest and Develop The Park Pool Facility"

I request a receipt for this email.

Yours sincerely

## 16

**From:**

**Sent:** 18 November 2015 21:29

**To:** Leisure Services

**Subject:** Consultation Response to Draft Leisure Strategy

Further to reference to 'closure' of Park Pool that remains in the draft Leisure Strategy.

As a local resident and member of Park Pool for a number of years I would like to see this reference to closure of Park Pool at Page 21 c) removed and replaced with a commitment to invest in and develop the facility would be enormously helpful.

Thanks

**17**

**From:**  
**Sent:** 18 November 2015 23:04  
**To:** Leisure Services  
**Subject:** Consultation review

To whom it may concern,

I am writing with reference to the closure of Park Pool and would like removed page 21 c) .  
I would like to see it replaced with a commitment to invest and develop the facility.  
Please can you confirm receipt of this email and keep me informed on this matter.

Regards

Ormskirk Resident

**18**

**From:**  
**Sent:** 19 November 2015 02:46  
**To:** Leisure Services  
**Subject:** Consultation Response to Draft Leisure Strategy

To whom it may concern,

I write to request that the reference to closure of Park Pool page 21, section c, be removed and replaced with a commitment to invest in and develop the facility.

Park Pool is a valuable and irreplaceable resource for the community. Failure to develop and invest in such a resource would be a grave error in judgement and leadership.

I ask that the council acknowledge receipt of this email and thank you in advance for considering my comments.

Yours sincerely,

**19**

**From:**  
**Sent:** 19 November 2015 12:55  
**To:** Leisure Services  
**Subject:** Consultation Response to Draft Leisure Strategy

Dear Sir/Madam,

With reference to the "Draft Leisure Strategy" document.

I want the reference to the closure of Park Pool at Page 21 c) removed and replaced with a commitment to invest in and develop the facility.

Please send an acknowledgement that my email has been received by the council.

Regards  
Skelmersdale Resident

**20**

**From:**  
**Sent:** 19 November 2015 13:02  
**To:** Leisure Services  
**Subject:** Fwd: Consultation Response to Draft Leisure Strategy

Date: 18 Nov 2015 9:54 pm  
Subject: Consultation Response to Draft Leisure Strategy  
To:  
With reference to closure of Park Pool at Page 21 c) removed and with commitment to invest and develop the facility would be enormously helpful. I would be pleased to receive an acknowledgment to this email

**21**

**From:**  
**Sent:** 08 November 2015 18:31  
**To:** Leisure Services  
**Subject:** Consultation Response to Draft Leisure Strategy

Dear Sir,

Please remove the reference to the closure of Park Pool at Page 21 c) and replace it with a commitment to invest in and develop the facility.

Yours sincerely,

Ormskirk Resident

**22**

**From:**  
**Sent:** 18 November 2015 16:41  
**To:** Leisure Services  
**Subject:** Park Pool proposed closure

I write with reference to an e mail that I have received regarding the pool. I implore you not to even consider it's closure in the future when Serco's contract expires. This is a facility that must stay with the people of Ormskirk. I along with many others are appalled at the prospect. I would ask you to acknowledge receipt of this 'e' mail.

Regards

**23**

**From:**  
**Sent:** 18 November 2015 18:13  
**To:** Leisure Services  
**Subject:** Possible Park Pool Closure

Dear Sirs

I am emailing to express my wish that the reference to the closure of Park Pool on Page 21 c) removed and replaced with a commitment to invest in and develop the facility

Thank You  
Ormskirk Resident

**24**

**From:**

**Sent:** 26 November 2015 11:13

**To:** Leisure Services

**Subject:** Park Pool Leisure Centre's Threatened Closure

I wish that the statement at 21c be removed and amended that Park Pool will be invested in and developed more for the good of all West Lancs citizens.

Thank you.

**25**

**From:**

**Sent:** 26 November 2015 11:57

**To:** Leisure Services

**Subject:** PARK POOL PROPOSED FUTURE CLOSURE - OBJECTION

Dear Sirs,

I am writing in response to information stating that there may be plans to close Park Pool in the future.

This would be a massive mistake for the health and social interaction within the community of Ormskirk.

This facility provides easily accessible and affordable facilities for all ages. It has prime position, very helpful staff and the majority of Ormskirk residents do not need a car to get there. Additionally if a car

is needed to be used the parking facilities are good enough to cater for the leisure centre's needs.

I am 60 years old and have recently joined the gym, classes and pool use. I have osteopenia and arthritis and

it has been critical and helpful for me to be able to use these facilities to improve my health in this area and

reap the benefits of the positive effect that this improvement provides.

I cannot express my exasperation and frustration at this even being thought about.

Yours sincerely,

**26**

**From:**

**Sent:** 30 November 2015 12:01

**To:** Leisure Services

**Subject:** WLBC - Draft Leisure Strategy and importance of Ranger services

Hello,

I have referred to this document whilst aware of the pressure on local authorities provisions of services.

The particular focus for my comments relates to the Ranger Services, which I am seriously worried will be eroded according to my reading of the wording at the end of the document.

*3 In the context of the finances available explore the scope for reshaping the Ranger service including the role of volunteers*

*3 Engage with local users to develop and provide volunteer support for Tawd Valley Park*

*3 Develop the role of volunteer groups in the management of the Council's facilities*

*3 Provide information packs and invitations to colleges and commercial organisations on the opportunities for engagement for students and staff on*



*supporting local parks and green spaces.*

There does not seem to be recognition of the limitations of voluntary support, welcome though that may be whenever it is provided. Such volunteers will always need a level of supervision and training which only a dedicated band of qualified Rangers could provide. In my view and experience, volunteer activities are much less efficiently achieved than what would be provided by fully employed staff for you need to take into account that productivity in certain tasks would only be 50%, and other tasks could not be undertaken at all by volunteers.

It is also the case that volunteer support is very erratic and undependable.

It does not seem to be recognised that the running and management of Green Spaces requires a background of training and expertise in countryside management and the natural world which could not be assured from the voluntary sector.

It is also vitally important that the number of Rangers is maintained for they cannot possibly run a duty roster with fewer staff.

The rangers' role is crucial in helping to foster good health in the community whether by active walks or in simply in maintaining the green environment for the population to benefit from.

Their role is probably under-appreciated by population but the use of Green spaces surely is a mirror upon their valuable activity. Maybe, they could undertake more public walks with an educational focus on their background activity. Can such walks be charged to the local general practitioner services in their prescriptions for restoration for healthy living?

Yours sincerely,  
Ormskirk, Resident

**27**

**From:**

**Sent:** 30 November 2015 12:10

**To:** Leisure Services

**Subject:** WLBC Draft Leisure Strategy - Rangers and follow-on comment

Hello,

As a follow-on to my previous email about the Ranger Services, I think laudable though the proposal for a cycle route between Ormskirk and Skelmersdale and even more so a new Park Pool swimming pool be, maintenance of the Ranger Services is of much higher priority. I say this also as a keen cyclist and swimmer.

Yours sincerely,  
Ormskirk, Resident

**28**

**From:**

**Sent:** 01 January 2016 12:37

**To:** Leisure Services

**Subject:** Consultation into possible closure of park pool ORMSKIRK

I realise that austerity is at the forefront of your decisions about where to impose council cuts. I beg you to keep park pool open. I regularly use the facilities there as my children do and their children. 20 members of my family have been taught to swim there over the years. It is a real hub of ORMSKIRK community and to close it would be devastating to a great many people of all ages.

Sincerely

**29**

**From:**

**Sent:** 01 January 2016 13:24

**To:** Leisure Services

**Subject:** Consultation response to draft leisure strategy

Sir, Madam

I want the reference to closure of Park Pool at Page 21 c) removed and replaced with a commitment to invest in and develop the facility.

I ask for an acknowledgement that this email has been received by the council.

I wish to point out that Park Pool makes an operating surplus, serves 15 primary schools with swimming to meet their national curriculum requirement, 9000 swimming lessons a year and has provided employment for a growing number of local people as its use has actually increased in recent years. It is a highly popular and well located facility whose construction was part funded by the people of Ormskirk. The new facilities at Edge Hill are primarily for University use and are not available to the community or schools for much of the week.

Best regards

**30**

**From:**

**Sent:** 01 January 2016 13:47

**To:** Leisure Services

**Subject:** Consultation Response to Draft Leisure Strategy

Dear Sirs,

I wish the reference to closure of Park Pool at Page 21 c) removed and replaced with a commitment to invest in and develop the facility.

Points I wish to make are: Park Pool makes an operating surplus, serves 15 primary schools with swimming to meet their national curriculum requirement, 9000 swimming lessons a year and has provided employment for a growing number of local people as its use has actually increased in recent years. It is a highly popular and well located facility whose construction was part funded by the people of Ormskirk. The new facilities at Edge Hill are primarily for University use and are not available to the community or schools for much of the week.

Thank you

**31**

**From**

**Sent:** 01 January 2016 14:07

**To:** Leisure Services

**Subject:** Consultation Response to Draft Leisure Strategy

To whom it may concern

I would like to place on record that I want the reference to the closure of Park Pool at Page 21c removed. To be replaced with a commitment to invest in and develop the facility, which would enhance the social facilities of West Lancashire provided by the Council.

Park Pool makes an operating surplus; serves 15 primary schools with swimming to meet their national curriculum requirement; 9,000 swimming lessons each year; has provided employment for a growing number of local people. Its use has significantly increased in recent years. It is a highly popular and well-located facility. The construction of Park Pool was part funded by the people of Ormskirk. The proposed possible alternative of the new facilities at Edge Hill University are primarily for the use of the University, and are not available to the community or schools for much of the time.

Please acknowledge receipt of this communication.

Sincerely

**32**

**From:**

**Sent:** 01 January 2016 14:06

**To:** Leisure Services

**Subject:** Response to Leisure Strategy Consultation

FAO

Leisure Strategy Consultation Team,  
WLBC.

I am an Ormskirk resident of fifteen years' duration, a member and regular user of the gym and pool facilities at Park Pool leisure centre, and a frequent cyclist on West Lancashire's roads, as well as a habitual pedestrian/leisure walker in and around the town and adjacent countryside. I also visit the parks and from time to time attend cultural events such as theatre, music and art exhibitions.

I have skim-read the draft strategy, and agree that for health, social and environmental reasons it is increasingly important to apply public resources to the provision of leisure, with an emphasis on public participation and physical and mental fitness.

A few specific points I would make are:

1. It is important not only to cater for the defined needs and groups of 'users' of sports and leisure resources, but to anticipate and promote fitness and participation among groups of people where "take up" levels could be higher, in the interests of the overall health of the community as well as individuals' quality of life.

2. While I am in favour of an 'options review' in relation to Park Pool, I strongly disagree that closure should be an option, as implied in point (c) on page 21 - replacement may, depending on economic and environmental costs, be worthy of consideration, though I would think enhancement a more desirable aim unless there are serious structural weaknesses in the existing building. [Without personal knowledge of the other built facilities in the area, I can only say that this would seem to me to be a working principle in general, also.]

3. I believe WLBC should take this opportunity to end its involvement with Serco, a company found in an Ethical Consumer survey to have possibly the worst overall human rights and environmental record among an appalling field of corporations to which public services are outsourced [www.ethicalconsumer.org/commentanalysis/ethicaleconomics/outsourcingukpublicservices.aspx] It is gravely implicated, for example, in shocking child abuse accounts at Yarl's Wood detention centre [https://www.opendemocracy.net/ourkingdom/clare-sambrook/uk-border-agencys-long-punitive-campaign-against-children-helped-by-g4s-an] Under Serious Fraud Office investigation, Serco has also been found guilty of overcharging the Government for services. <http://www.theguardian.com/business/sercogroup>  
I question why WLBC is using my council tax money to further feed this corporation's profits.

4. While I would support a growing integration, as far as possible, of health and leisure opportunities and facilities provided by WLBC and by Edge Hill University, the Council's Strategy must be realistic about the priorities of EHU, to provide for its students and staff. Public access to University resources and memberships may be promoted, but must not be exaggerated, as a part of this Strategy; for example, timing restrictions for the general public need to be made clear. It should also be borne in mind that central facilities such as Park Pool are more conveniently located for local residents, particularly those who choose not to or cannot use cars.

5. I strongly support the intention to link cycling - and, I would add, walking - routes to hubs of activity such as town and village centres, because of the well-established health and environmental benefits of walking and cycling. I would like to see routes to and from sport and leisure facilities pro-actively included in this.

6. Cycling and walking routes which are as far as possible separated from traffic, especially heavy or fast-moving traffic [but designed by active cyclists and walkers, to avoid common inconsistencies and inconveniences such as very short marked lanes or significant detours and loss of priority at roundabouts and junctions] would be particularly welcomed.

7. An essential aspect of the Strategy will be its promotion and publicity, making it clear to the public what opportunities are available - not least, easy-to-find-and-read maps and routes for walking and cycling. Identifying and allocating resources to publicise healthy living and leisure opportunities in libraries, other public buildings, town and shopping centres, as well as in the press and virtual media, has to be a priority.

I thank you for taking the time to read my comments, and look forward to your acknowledgement that you have seen and will give due consideration to them.

Yours faithfully,

Ormskirk, Resident

**33**

**From:**

**Sent:** 01 January 2016 15:40

**To:** Leisure Services

**Subject:** Park Pool

I have sent you an email a while ago about the long term future of Park Pool Ormskirk and would request an acknowledgement.

I understand that the pool is making an operating surplus so financially it is viable. It serves its purpose well, with 15 primary schools using it to fulfil their obligation (in the National Curriculum) to teach swimming to students.

As well as school swimming lessons, many private lessons are taught there which in an area with a canal nearby is most important.

It must be remembered that the pool was funded by the people of Ormskirk, for the local people who do not have unlimited access to any other local facility such as Edge Hill Pool which is primarily for Student use. I

Both my sons learned to swim there (now aged 43 and 37) and I have grandchildren who benefit from weekly lessons.

It is strongly felt among the community, that Park pool is an asset which should be kept at all costs. I await your response and acknowledgement of the email.

Burscough, Resident

**34**

**From:**

**Sent:** 01 January 2016 18:58

**To:** Leisure Services

**Subject:** consultation response to draft leisure strategy (ORMSKIRK PARK POOL)

F.A.O the department of the possible closure of Ormskirk Park pool.

It is in the interest of my family and so many more around West Lancs that the reference to closure of Park Pool at Page 21 c) is removed and replaced with a commitment to invest in and develop the facility instead.

It saddens us deeply that Ormskirk park pool is under threat of closure.

I used the pool myself as a child for lessons with my primary school and with park pool, and I have brought my 2 children now for many years. They both learned to swim there as it is the only pool I can travel to.

My daughter has been attending swimming lessons there now for several years, she has Autism and doesn't usually integrate well in social settings, but at swimming she responds so well in the group and likes her swimming teacher a lot.

Routine is key with her and I think she is so comfortable in the setting and surroundings that she has adjusted so well at Ormskirk pool.

Its also the only exercise she truly enjoys so I welcome the lessons she has every Saturday.

The government are all about health and fitness at the moment, so this is such a shame as it's a great source of exercise for the locals.

To close Ormskirk would most probably be the end of swimming for my daughter as she is so well adjusted to Ormskirk, she wouldn't want to start anywhere new- a new place, new teacher, new surroundings would damage her progress and knock her confidence that has taken such a long time to build.

There are so many children catered for in the whole week of swimming lessons (at Ormskirk) to move them all to SKEM or EDGE HILL would definitely over subscribe those places, so what happens to the children who don't get a place at the new venue?

Please reconsider the possible closure of Ormskirk Park pool, myself and so many other parents, teenagers, children and toddlers would be devastated at this loss.

Please can you acknowledge this email and I would be very grateful of a response from you.

Yours sincerely

**35**

**From:**

**Sent:** 01 January 2016 20:08

**To:** Leisure Services

**Subject:** Consultation Response to Draft Leisure Strategy.

Dear Sir/Madam

**I am writing about the future of Park Pool, Ormskirk.**

**I would be very grateful if any reference to it's closure would be removed from the literature.**

**Instead, the commitment of the council to invest in it and develop it further would surely benefit so many people in our town.**

**Personally, my husband and I use the facilities regularly and I am aware of how frequently the schools and private swimming lessons take place there. To say that we could use the facilities at Edge Hill Uni is of no use to me. I would be exhausted before I had even walked there; I do not want to add to my expense of catching public transport and, for those who have a car, I believe it would be impossible to find anywhere to park.**

**PLEASE DO NOT CLOSE OUR POOL.**

**An acknowledgement to this e mail, would be gratefully received. Thank you.**

**Yours faithfully**

**36**

**From:**

**Sent:** 01 January 2016 21:39

**To:** Leisure Services

**Subject:** Park pool closure

Lancashire council,

With reference to closure of Park Pool at Page 21 c). This requires removal and replacement with a commitment to invest in and develop the facility would be enormously helpful.

Although I am a Merseyside resident, myself and many other Southport families use the pool as it is far better than our own council run one.

Kind regards,

## 37

**From:**  
**Sent:** 01 January 2016 21:42  
**To:** Leisure Services  
**Subject:** Consultation Response to Draft Leisure Strategy

I am writing this email as I want the reference to closure of Park Pool (at Page 21 c) removed and replaced with a commitment to invest in and develop the facility. As a local resident living in a family home in Park Avenue with ownership dating back 100 years, I know that my grandparents were among local residents who raised money to fund the opening of a swimming bathes for the Ormskirk people as the local council wouldn't fund it therefore making it more important that we honour the people who tirelessly worked to create Park Pool for the people.

Park Pool has played an enormously important role in the lives of most residents spanning from their childhood to adult life. I would like to state some facts about Park Pool:-

Park Pool makes an operating surplus, serves 15 primary schools with swimming to meet their national curriculum requirement, 9000 swimming lessons a year and has provided employment for a growing number of local people as its use has actually increased in recent years. It is a highly popular and well located facility whose construction was part funded by the people of Ormskirk. The new facilities at Edge Hill are primarily for University use and are not available to the community or schools for much of the week.

## 38

**From:**  
**Sent:** 01 January 2016 23:21  
**To:** Leisure Services  
**Subject:** Consultation Response to Draft Leisure Strategy

Dear Sirs

I refer to the above consultation. I would like the reference to closure of Park Pool at Page 21 c) removed and replaced with a commitment to invest in and develop the facility. Park Pool is an important local amenity. The Facilities at Edge Hill University are not in the Town Centre, difficult to get to unless once has a car and even then parking is a major problem which is a long way from the swimming facility.

Please acknowledge this email.

Regards

Ormskirk Resident

## 39

**From:**  
**Sent:** 02 January 2016 11:03  
**To:** Leisure Services  
**Subject:** Consultation Response to Draft Leisure Strategy

At your next meeting I would like to see the reference to closure of Park Pool removed, and replaced with a commitment to invest and develop this popular facility, for the following reasons:

- 1) Serves 15 primary schools.
- 2) Numerous swimming lessons
- 3) Ideal Parking facilities (which could not be provided at Edge Hill).
- 4) This was Part funded by the residents of Ormskirk.

On behalf of the West Lancs. Sports and Social Club for the Disabled, of which I am secretary, and have been meeting at Park Pool for 40 years, every Friday evening from 8pm until 10pm, serving families from several districts within the West Lancs. Borough.

Park Pool has become more popular over the years, Edge Hill can not fulfill the needs and requirements of all the above, so many people will suffer in the community should Park Pool close. Edge Hill is for the benefit of students whose paying £9,000 per year for all the facilities on campus.

I would be grateful for my records if you would acknowledge that you have received this email.

**40**

**From:**

**Sent:** 02 January 2016 12:54

**To:** Leisure Services

**Subject:** Leisure Consultation Document and Park Pool, Ormskirk

As a child born in 1955 and living in Burscough my only access to a swimming pool was via a train journey to either Southport or Wigan. After much campaigning Park Pool came along in my teenage years and has been enjoyed by my children and their childrens children. It is used by over 25 Primary Schools in the area and its own swimming lessons are currently being enjoyed by my grandchildren. The planning department of West Lancs Council is agreeing permission to build on many green spaces in our area thus increasing demand on local services. I see any reference to closure as being a major step backwards in the development of West Lancashire. Yes private leisure/gym facilities fill the gap but it is impossible to join with sole access to a swimming pool and outside many peoples income..

Therefore please remove any reference to close Park Pool at page 21 c) and replace with a commitment to invest and develop this facility.

Please acknowledge receipt of this email

Burscough Resident

**41**

**From:**

**Sent:** 03 January 2016 09:14

**To:** Leisure Services

**Subject:** Proposal on the closure of Park Pool Ormskirk.

To whom it may concern, please be informed that I am totally opposed to this proposal about the closure of the swimming pool and other facilities in the building at Park Pool.

The pool carries out vitally important work teaching children how to swim along with the fact it's helps the community stay fit and also employs people.

The council's short sightedness will create more problems than it solves.

I would like to give you an example, would you like your child to die because he or she couldn't swim if they were unfortunate enough to fall in water somewhere and couldn't manage to get to safety.

We all know that council's have to save money, but this proposal is outrageously lacking in common sense.

Please be aware that I require a notification that you have received this email.

**42**

**From:**

**Sent:** 03 January 2016 18:51

**To:** Leisure Services

**Subject:** Consultation Response to Draft Leisure Strategy

To whom it may concern

I am writing to request that the reference to closure of Park Pool on Page 21 c) removed and replaced with a commitment to invest in and develop the facility.

It is unthinkable that the council would even consider closing this facility.

As a nation are we not supposed to be tackling obesity?

Is it not important that children are taught to swim?

What else do we have to occupy young people?

This building of this pool was supported by local residents myself included; I joined a sponsored 20 mile walk to raise funds in the early 70's.

Please reconsider this decision it is so important for the community both locally and surrounding area.

Regards

**43**

From:

Sent: 04 January 2016 12:17

To: Leisure Services

Subject: Park Pool

Dear Sir/Madam

I would just like to express a view that reference to the possible closure of Park Pool in Ormskirk should be removed from the Draft Leisure Strategy. Whenever I have visited Park Pool during the past few years it has always been busy and is obviously a key leisure facility for many members of the community. To lose this facility would be a great loss to Ormskirk and the surrounding areas. It would severely detract from the attraction of West Lancashire as a good place to live.

I wonder if it would be possible to acknowledge your receipt of this email.

Kind Regards

**44**

**From:**

**Sent:** 04 January 2016 12:32

**To:** Leisure Services

**Subject:** Park Pool Ormskirk

Please change Park 21c to say it will close to you will provide funds to improve existing site.

This pool is essential to the people in the Ormskirk area and would be a great loss .

Yours sincerely

**45**

**From:**

**Sent:** 04 January 2016 12:38

**To:** Leisure Services

**Subject:** Consultation Response to Draft Leisure Strategy

Hi

With regard to the above, I would like the reference to the closure of Park Pool at Page 21 c) removed and replaced with a commitment to invest in and develop the facility.

I believe that any closure of the pool would severely curtail the leisure facilities in the town and would be nothing short of a disaster for the future. The Council should be looking at ways of improving the facilities available rather than knee jerk reactions such as that proposed.



I would appreciate an acknowledgement of this email please.  
Yours faithfully

**46**

**From:**  
**Sent:** 04 January 2016 19:06  
**To:** Leisure Services  
**Subject:** Consultation Response to Draft Leisure Strategy

Dear Sirs,

It has just been brought to my attention that a consultation document refers to the possible closure of Park Pool in Ormskirk. I lived in Ormskirk for many years and although I now live in Rufford, still visit the pool. My children both learned to swim there and I can't imagine why it has ever been a consideration to close the pool. It is not only an essential form of exercise for many who cannot walk, run or attend gym facilities, but a lifesaving and essential lifelong activity.

In my opinion the reference to closure of Park Pool, apparently at Page 21 c) should be removed and replaced with a commitment to invest in and modernise this invaluable facility.

Rufford

**47**

**From:**  
**Sent:** 04 January 2016 20:31  
**To:** Leisure Services  
**Subject:** Draft Leisure Strategy

FTAO – Council Leisure Services

RE: Draft Leisure Strategy

Please remove the reference to closure of Park Pool at Page 21 c) and replace it with a commitment to invest in and develop the facility.

Park Pool makes an operating surplus, serves 15 primary schools with swimming to meet their national curriculum requirement, 9000 swimming lessons a year and has provided employment for a growing number of local people as its use has actually increased in recent years. It is a highly popular and well located facility whose construction was part funded by the people of Ormskirk. The new facilities at Edge Hill are primarily for University use and are not available to the community or schools for much of the week.

If the above figures are incorrect please supply your own detail. Can you please explain why West Lancs Council do not communicate to residents important decisions such as the above. What other matters are you trying to conceal?

Regards

Ormskirk

**48**

**From:**  
**Sent:** 04 January 2016 20:51  
**To:** Leisure Services  
**Subject:** Consultation response to draft leisure strategy

Sir, Madam

I want the reference to closure of Park Pool at Page 21 c) removed and replaced with a commitment to invest in and develop the facility.

I ask for an acknowledgement that this email has been received by the council.

I wish to point out that Park Pool makes an operating surplus, serves 15 primary schools with swimming to meet their national curriculum requirement, 9000 swimming lessons a year and has provided employment for a growing number of local people as its use has actually increased in recent years. It is a highly popular and well located facility whose construction was part funded by the people of Ormskirk. The new facilities at Edge Hill are primarily for University use and are not available to the community or schools for much of the week.

Best regards

**49**

**From:**

**Sent:** 06 January 2016 00:17

**To:** Leisure Services

**Subject:** Consultation Response to Draft Leisure Strategy

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to request that the reference to closure of Park Pool at Page 21c be removed from the consultation document. I would ask that it be replaced with a clause that promises to develop this fantastic facility for the people of Ormskirk.

I remember the pool opening and it has been a part of all our lives in Ormskirk ever since. I am currently a gym member, and all my family have used the facility over the years, through schools, local clubs and individually. It is in a great location by the park, in the heart of the community of Ormskirk, providing thousands of essential swimming lessons, helping perhaps 20 local schools fulfil the national curriculum requirements. It's loss would be a catastrophic blow to Ormskirk. It's unimaginable!

I would be grateful if you would acknowledge receipt of this email because I feel I need to be reassured my views, along with countless other locals, have been heard and will be considered.

Yours sincerely

**50**

**From:** Ormskirk Residents

**Sent:** 07 January 2016 11:23

**To:** Leisure Services

**Subject:** Draft Leisure Strategy Consultation

FROM ORMSKIRK RESIDENTS GROUP

ORG has previously written to Councillors concerning the proposals for Park Pool and received a response from the Leader asserting that there would be no closure of Park Pool.

We therefore strongly object to the fact that on Page 21 "ACTIONS", there still remain references to the possible replacement/closure of Park Pool in the future.

The Pool is used by old and young alike, schools and lessons (for which there are waiting lists), disabled use features largely in its provision. It was originally partly funded by public subscription and is an asset to the town. Its services can in no way be provided by a private provider (Edge Hill).

We ask that proposals, however remote, to close Park Pool are removed by deleting any references to possible future closure and a commitment is given to refurbish the facility.

## 51

**From:**

**Sent:** 07 January 2016 17:04

### **Some Comments on the WLBC Draft Leisure Strategy 2015-2025**

I support the key aims and proposed actions but regret that they are not more ambitious.

It is not clear how demand for various types of facilities has been assessed. The strategy is more a list of existing facilities and concerns at the future funding of them. It would have been useful if some suggestions for sources of future funding were made, even if by an increase in Council Tax.

It seems likely that a case could be made for a swimming pool in the north of the Borough, possibly Burscough.

Equally the reinstatement of the Trim Trail/ circuit training in Tawd Valley Park, provision of adult outdoor sports exercise equipment in all public parks, and arts activities in the basement of Skelmersdale Library and other parts of the Borough in addition to the Chapel Gallery, Ormskirk, might have resulted from a clearly stated strategy.

The criteria of 10 minutes driving time to reach Sports Hall and the conclusion p8 that (95% of the population meets these criteria) would seem to be unsound as those most deprived and unhealthy are likely not to own or have access to cars.

The report does not take into account the decision of Lancashire County Council to close Glenburn Sports College and the probable consequence that the playing fields and sports hall there will be not available for public use very soon.

Has the WLBC had any discussions to maintain Public access to the Active8 facilities following the LCC decision to close the school? It seems unlikely that Lathom High would wish to use facilities "off campus". It is many years, 25 plus, since my children left West Bank High School, (since closed) and I have no idea what happened to the Swimming pool it shared with Glenburn. Has its existence been overlooked in the assessment of swimming pools?

The Report does not take into account demand to be generated by planned housing developments at Whalleys in Skelmersdale, Firwood Road Lathom and elsewhere in the borough. The poor condition and lack of signage does not encourage use of the extensive network of foot path and cycle ways created by the SDC. Wind and rain also play a part!

It is difficult to know where and how Sports Hall and swimming pool facilities could be provided in Skelmersdale Town centre as there is no land allocated for them in the approved St Modwen planning permission and to rebuild on the existing site would deprive users of the use of the facilities for some considerable time. This is not an insolvable problem but require thought and more attention than that given to the replacement of educational facilities at Glenburn- in temporary huts at Lathom. The Nye Bevan Pool is most unattractive and worn out facility and urgently needs replacement.

There has been no assessment of the impact on football pitches of the Environment Agency decision to switch of pumps and allow ground water levels to rise in the Alt-Crossens basin. Is the WLBC prepared to support an IRB?

To say there is no demand for cricket pitches in Skelmersdale is disingenuous as the WLBC allowed the long established Skelmersdale Cricket Club, based in the old mining village to make a planning gain and relocate in the green belt just outside the town in South Lathom. I know cricketers who maintained membership and play on the new, better facilities there. It's a pity that the football club relocated to the Stanley Industrial estate with it lack of car parking and public transport connections.

In view of the uncertainty of the continued availability of the cricket pitch in Dalton I suggest that the former cricket pitch in Elmers Green, now designated as Green Space in the local plan be protected/safeguarded for possible future use as a cricket pitch

7Jan2016

## 52

**From:**  
**Sent:** 07 January 2016 21:02  
**To:** Leisure Services  
**Subject:**

we have read the leisure strategy and have the following comments:

- Refurbishment/replacement of Nye Bevan pool is a priority for us. The facilities for changing young children there are horrible at present.
- it would be good to have the facility for spinning, body pump and other aerobics style classes combined with a gym at Nye Bevan, so you could have membership for these including a pool
- Park Pool is a useful facility, we would like to see it maintained but are not convinced it needs replacement. We would not see a facility at Burscough as comparable as the flexibility to be able to go into Ormskirk town afterwards is useful.
- we enjoy the green spaces in the area very much and regularly use Beacon Park. We would definitely not want to see standards in this area drop, your proposals for greater reliance on volunteers and partnership organisation could potentially put this at risk.

Regards,

## 53

**From:**  
**Sent:** 08 January 2016 11:09  
**To:** Leisure Services  
**Subject:** comment on Draft Leisure Strategy

Mr & Mrs R Hill, Ormskirk

Our only comment concerns the Possible Future closure of Park Pool. Despite assurances in the press that this will not happen we note that from the wording in the "Actions" Page 21, the references to the possible future closing/replacing remain. If Councillors were honest about safe guarding this much used facility, then any reference however slight would have been removed and there would be a commitment to refurbish Park Pool. This facility was partly funded by public subscription and must remain for use by public, schools, for lessons, classes and disabled group use.

The references to Sporting Edge are irrelevant for major use for the town. This is a private provider, with limited pool facilities, peripherally located in the town.

All references to Park Pool's closure must be removed.

## 54

**From:**  
**Sent:** 08 January 2016 11:43  
**To:** Leisure Services  
**Subject:** Park pool

I would like to lodge an objection to the closure of Park Pool in Ormskirk. The idea of closing it and using Edge Hill is a disgrace. Students can't park at Edge Hill due to lack of car park spaces. How on earth do residents have the opportunity to park. Please don't suggest Edge Hill take even more agricultural land to build a car park. Edge Hill controls Ormskirk and it's time the Council supported the residents and listened to their views.

Regards

## 55

**From:** Parish Clerk Newburgh  
**Sent:** 08 January 2016 16:42

**To:** Leisure Services

**Subject:** Newburgh Parish Council response to WLBC draft Leisure and Playing Pitch Strategy

Dear Sir/Madam,

Newburgh Parish Council would like to make the following comments in relation to the consultation on the draft Leisure and draft Playing Pitch Strategy:

Newburgh Parish Council welcomes the fact that West Lancashire Borough Council has drafted a strategy for the period 2015-2025 and is pleased to note that the Strategy includes plans for significant capital investment. However, there are concerns that the capital investment appears to be targeted mainly at the larger areas of the Borough – ie Skelmersdale, Ormskirk and Burscough. While this is understandable, it is vital that the smaller Parishes such as Newburgh are not left disadvantaged by the Strategy especially given cuts to other public services including those at Lancashire County Council level, such as subsidised bus services. Rural residents already face additional challenges due to lack of nearby facilities and cuts to public transport will make it harder for residents to get to the new planned and improved leisure facilities across the Borough. The proposed development of linear parks and other cycle routes are also targeted towards the larger towns and are unlikely to be of benefit to smaller Parishes. Current facilities in the smaller Parishes such as the Sports Club at Newburgh should also be supported with funding to ensure the long term health and wellbeing of all residents in the Borough. Residents living in the Parishes pay an additional charge on their Council tax to fund local facilities, which Ormskirk and Skelmersdale residents do not have to pay, so it is not fair that they should be disadvantaged in this way.

Regards

Clerk to Newburgh Parish Council

**56**

**From:**

**Sent:** 08 January 2016 18:17

**To:** Leisure Services

**Subject:** Consultation Response to Draft Leisure Strategy

New Way Tenants Residents Association wish for the reference to 'closure of Park Pool' at page 21 c) removed and replaced with a commitment to invest in and develop this facility.

Please send confirmation of receipt of this e mail.

Regards

Chair NWTRA

**57**

**From:** Lathom South PC

**Sent:** 09 January 2016 23:03

**To:** Leisure Services

**Subject:** Response to consultation

Please find below comments on the draft leisure strategy from Lathom South Parish Council

Clerk to Lathom South Parish Council

8<sup>th</sup> January 2016

**Re: Draft Leisure Strategy and draft Playing Pitch Strategy – Comments from Lathom South Parish Council**

**Strategy: a plan designed to achieve a particular long term aim (Concise Oxford English Dictionary).**

## 1. The Plan

The main body of this document starts at page 3. Pages 8 to 18 come under the heading "Assessment of Facilities". "Key Aims" start part way down page 19 and finish at the end of page 20. Then the Key actions timetable is listed on only three pages (21 to 23) and covers seven different aspects, from "built sports provision" to "sport and physical activity". One of the titles embraces "Countryside Sites, Parks, Green Spaces and Allotments" a very wide-ranging title which produces seven sub-titles with varying dates attached, three of which are for 2015/16; by the time that this document is finally approved, that period will be nearly over. Examination of the other four sub-titles reveals vague statements with no quantified targets and therefore no way of measuring outcomes against targets. Many of the so-called actions contain the word "support", which, in the context of a plan, is a meaningless and unquantifiable expression. This is typical of the whole four and a half page section that is supposed to be the plan.

## 2. What is the long term aim?

Quoting the document:

*"The Council's Vision is:*

*To be a Council which is Ambitious for West Lancashire*

*Our Priorities*

- *to retain and grow jobs, increase skill levels and encourage business and wealth*
- *to enhance the built and physical environment and its cleanliness*
- *to improve the health and wellbeing of local communities"*

## 3. How do the proposed actions support the long term aim?

### 3.1 Built Facilities

Under *Built Sports Provision* the aim is to "Address and rationalise present stock of ageing built sports provision **to provide facilities which meet contemporary standards**. This must be based on an affordable model of delivery that reflects the Council's financial position while also **providing sustainable gym/swimming provision to service anticipated needs** (our emphases).

Before the Council can address this issue it must be able to cost the financial needs of individual buildings but no estimates have been produced. Thus there is nothing to aim for in this period of financial stringency. The spectre of closures, staff reductions and limited hours working is ominously present, although down-played, in contravention of the stated long-term aim.

Without costings, suggested way of raising funding and recommended actions, this document falls short of anything that could properly be described as a strategy.

This is typified by the positions of Park Pool in Ormskirk and Banks Sports Centre:

On the Council's website, under "current consultations", the following statement about this document appears:

"This would include options for securing significant capital investment for the Council's built sports provision, subject to the finances available, as follows:

- Developing a new sports centre for Skelmersdale, to replace Nye Bevan Pool
- Replacing Ormskirk's Park Pool
- Refurbishing and/or enhancing the sports facilities at Burscough Racquets and Fitness Centre and Banks Sports Centre"

There is thus an apparent commitment to direct capital monies to these buildings, in order to achieve better facilities at all three of the locations mentioned. However, the text of the draft strategy

document contains statements of possible outcomes from "update, refurbish, enhance" to "**close**", **with a particular thread relating to the closure of Park Pool and using the new sports facilities at Edge Hill University instead. The built facilities assessment, at point 3 in its recommendations (page 33), contains the peculiar statement about Edge Hill** "This would be more central to the Ormskirk area". More central than Park Pool???

The draft strategy document states:

"Swimming is popular in West Lancashire and there is strong demand for all water based activities including lessons. There is no indication of unmet demand; 88.5% of West Lancashire's residents are resident within 10 minutes' drive of a West Lancashire public or school/ university swimming pool."

This emphasis on 'drive times' is justified only if there are (affordable and sufficient) parking facilities at, or close to, the venues. However, both the document and its supporting built facilities assessment fail to acknowledge this basic reality. In the case of Edge Hill, parking facilities are (or should be) fully allocated for the use of students and staff during the daytime and the surrounding roads are mostly unavailable for parking. The parking that does take place is largely in contravention of parking restrictions and/or causes friction between residents and the University.

For that reason alone, any dependence on members of the public being able to use the University's facilities is unreliable. However, it also relies on an underlying assumption that the University makes a reliable partner for the local authority, whereas its aims are often in conflict with local people.

In spite of these points, danger signs are evident in the draft documents, for example: (from the draft Leisure Strategy)

"Built Sports Provision

- Ageing Council sport and leisure provision tends to be in outdated buildings that do not reflect contemporary standards or expectations.
  - **Strong and developing private sector, University and West Lancashire College provision** (our emphasis)
  - No theoretical shortfall in existing provision
  - Public access to school based facilities tends to be limited during daytime hours"
- (from the Built Facilities Assessment):

"3. An economic viability assessment should be undertaken for Park Pool to determine the: financial viability of its retention and maintenance/improvement, projected lifespan and cost implications; and possibility of an improved shared access agreement with Sporting Edge (University) for access to its new facilities. This would be more central to the Ormskirk area, although such an arrangement may require a standing financial agreement.

4. In keeping with the above recommendations, **the costs and income potential/capital receipt that might arise from the clearance of the Park Pool and Nye Bevan sites should be assessed"**

Edge Hill is not more central than Park Pool. The location of Park Pool should be preserved (or within a short walk of the town centre (Edge Hill is NOT a short walk and therefore not a complete alternative). We don't have a problem with redeveloping the park pool site SO LONG as the pool can be relocated within a SHORT distance, if this enables its long term security).

The credibility of this draft "strategy" is put in doubt by contradictory statements relating to the future of Park Pool. Under Ormskirk, the document states, at page 21:

**"(b) Ormskirk**

**In the context of the impact of the new Sporting Edge facilities and the finances available, undertake an options appraisal in relation to replacing Park Pool in the future.**

However in point (c), **Burscough**, it states:

**"consider the option of enhancing the facilities at Burscough if Park Pool closure is considered."**

There is a world of difference between “replacement” and “closure” but the document treats the words as being interchangeable.

Park Pool currently caters for over two thousand child admissions a week, presumably supported by the fact that swimming lessons form part of their school curriculum. However, there is no mention of the need to find alternative educational provision, should closure be pursued.

Banks has been the subject of substantial housing development in the recent years and much more is planned. Even to contemplate closing sporting facilities in this outlying area shows disjointed planning. The apparent options of assuming that Banks residents could use facilities in Southport or at Tarleton High School have not been tested.

A proper options appraisal including figures for refurbishment or replacement is needed, and as part of this also ensure that long term maintenance is provided for, whether from investment of capital receipts from redevelopment, secure budget provision and business plans.

### **Countryside Sites, Parks, Green Spaces and Allotments**

The statement “Maximise external funding, use of devolved management, income generation/sponsorship and the use of volunteers and volunteer organisations in relation to the Council’s countryside sites, formal parks and green spaces” could have come from a whiteboard at the end of a brainstorming session but without supporting proposals it means very little. These headings require much more detail within each. But in addition, investment of CILs and other sums eg. from land sales, as endowments to secure the long term future management of parks and green spaces is needed. Consider using the specialist land management charity, The Land Trust, to calculate the required sums and invest and protect the resources in perpetuity.

One of the statements in the section, i.e: “**Deliver 2 new allotment sites in Skelmersdale**” is somewhat misleading, since one new site already has approval, even before this consultation period has ended and it is not clear whether it is the same site or the second one that is likely to be funded out of Community Infrastructure Levy monies that have already been collected.

### **Countryside Sites, Parks, Green Spaces and Allotments and Cycle Routes**

All countryside sites and parks are very valuable, our councillors use almost all of them regularly (and Blaguegate Playing Fields is also used as a valuable open space not just for sport, but for used as a park mainly for dog walking and as part of a circular walking route linking with the rights of way. We appreciate the work of the Ranger service and countryside management staff.

The suggestions of maximising external funding, use of devolved management, income generation/sponsorship and the use of volunteers and volunteer organisations are all useful. But also to ensure that income from CILs is directed into open space management. Consider using The Land Trust to either invest endowments to generate interest to use to maintain the open spaces, and /or to work with developers to ensure that the proper resources are made available for the future management of any open space associated with the development through service charges on each new dwelling or commercial building.

Cycling routes are important and the development of the linear park is welcomed. Although many cyclists use our country roads, in particular Spa Lane, a designated cycle route, however use by HGV’s who use it as a short – cut to Burscough are a danger to cyclists. To improve the cycle routes, HGV’s should be better directed to the main ‘A’ roads and motorways, as the current small signs are not effective.

**Clerk to Lathom South Parish Council**