Name

Address Line 1
Town
Post Code

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you as a resident of Bingley, in regard to the imminent closure of Bingley Pool.

I would like to raise some points regarding the need for swim space in Bingley.

Bingley is a town of approximately 20,000 residents and is in a valley area. We have ten primary schools and three main secondary schools within the urban and rural districts. I believe we need swim space in Bingley for the following reasons:

1. If Bingley Pool closes permanently, there will be no affordable swim space in the town or surrounding district for residents. There are two private facilities – Nuffield Fitness Club which is private membership and Duck and Dive which is a small scuba diving school with a small purpose built pool. Of the two pools situated in each of the secondary schools, one permanently closed and the other is a hydrotherapy pool at Hazelbeck School, which is specifically for children with disabilities and has no public access.
2. It has been suggested that Bingley residents can access the pool space at Shipley Pool and Keighley Leisure Centre. However, this also raises several issues;
    i. The valley nature of the urban and rural district of Bingley means that many residents would have to travel using two buses, a bus and train, etc. This is going to be difficult and take considerable time and expense. Public transport in these areas, especially rural, is being reduced all the time.
    ii. Travelling to other towns would also have a detrimental affect on residents with disabilities, or on a low income. Swimming is beneficial for mental and physical health and a large proportion of the residents who would benefit most from the provision would lose access to this. The NHS BEEP scheme would also not be optional for many Bingley residents.
    iii. The increased travel for a large district like Bingley, of 3-6 miles to another town to access swim space also has consequences for the environment.
    iv. Children in 10 primary schools will likely lose access to school swimming lessons. This is part of the National Curriculum and should be provided for all Key Stage 2 pupils in the UK. Schools will not have time in the timetable to transport pupils 3-6 miles to another town for swimming. Swimming is a lifesaving skill and is beneficial for children's health and fitness. Bingley's children should not be denied this.
    v. Keighley Leisure Centre is offered as a viable alternative. However, this is not a standard swimming pool, but a leisure pool. It is not suitable for many swimming activities for either children or adults.
    vi. There has been no evidence that swim space in the area is adequate to meet the needs of 3 towns the size of Bingley, Shipley and Keighley. Both towns have a larger population than Bingley and swim space already offered to Bingley Swimming Club

indicates that one child can attend a swimming session every 10 weeks. This would suggest that Shipley Pool and Keighley Leisure Centre cannot feasibly offer any swim space to the people of Bingley.

vii. Bingley has a proud history of swimming – Bingley Amateur Swimming Club is 100 years old and has nearly 200 members who now have to use a school swimming pool in Bradford and our nationally accredited Bingley Lifesaving Club now has to travel 10 miles to use a pool.

I respectfully ask that Sport England re-consider the mapping of swim space in the Bingley area and consider recommending that Bingley does need swimming provision for the future.

Yours faithfully

Bingley Resident