

**Dooley,J**

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**Cc:**  
**Subject:** SWIM POOL PRESENTATION 21ST JUNE  
**Attachments:**

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The text below has been adapted from previous submissions most notably that for the Well-Being application. You both need to be 'schooled' in it and when familiar we can reduce it to a series of major bullet points. JDB

### SWIMMING POOL PRESENTATION 21ST JUNE 2006

#### 1. PROPOSAL

The aim is to increase swimming provision in north-west Leeds by identifying a site for a pool and then developing it in Horsforth which would both serve Horsforth and offer extra choice to residents of surrounding parts of north-west Leeds.

The project involves funding in 2006/7 for a feasibility study costing around £5,000. Horsforth Town Council has offered to fund half the costs of the feasibility study up to £2,500.

#### 2. NEED

The existing pool provision is simply inadequate for the demand. There is a thriving sporting life in Horsforth involving sports as diverse as rugby, cricket, golf, archery and horse-riding, which would be both complemented and enhanced by a pool which would allow new clubs in swimming, lifesaving, water polo and possibly diving. At present all Horsforth residents who want to swim need to access facilities some distance away and not quickly accessible other than by car and not at all on foot. Public transport access to pools in nearby areas of Leeds is difficult, especially for target groups like youngsters, the elderly and disabled.

To develop their swimming primary schools have to spend considerable amounts of time and money on travel to and from pools some distance from Horsforth which limits provision. At secondary level, Horsforth School also has keen competitive swimmers who for reasons of distance are unable to train effectively. Other groups, including senior citizens with mobility problems, would likely take advantage of a community pool as would several thousand students based at TASC and Park Lane College Horsforth.

As well as providing a facility which could help reduce anti-social behaviour, a pool would greatly contribute to communities in north-west Leeds reaching the national target of increasing participation in active fitness activities by 2% each year over a three-year period, this equating to five half hour sessions per week.

#### 3. CONTEXT

A group of residents and people working in Horsforth have recently come together to campaign for improved sports facilities centred around a swimming pool but they lack the resources to commission a feasibility study.

The study would need to demonstrate:

- a. why there is a need for a pool in Horsforth and how it would better meet the needs of various groups who presently face difficulties in getting to pools elsewhere in Leeds.
- b. where a pool might be constructed given questions of land ownership, construction costs and access on foot and by both public and private

transport with special regard to access by both primary and secondary school students.

- c. what the likely overall costs and sources of funding for a pool would be and how ongoing repair and maintenance costs could be met.
- d. which adult community groups would also use the pool and how much help they might provide in its operation as volunteers

#### 4. THE TADCASTER MODEL

Following advice from Glen Johnson, manager of the Tadcaster Community Swimming Pool, which co-ordinated the project which led to the opening of a brand new pool in Tadcaster in 1994 a number of residents are in the process of setting up a charity to be called the Horsforth Community Swimming Pool Trust. Like Tadcaster's this would be administered by a number of local trustees. The Chair of the Trust is John Dooley, Horsforth Town Councillor and Deputy Head at Horsforth School. The secretary/treasurer James Bovington also teaches at Horsforth School. The trustee with responsibility for fund-raising is Mrs Lynn Chappell who has been active in Aireborough Swimming Club for some years. It is not the intention for the pool to become an additional recipient of scarce subsidy finance from Leeds Leisure.

#### 5. CONCLUSION

The panel is asked to make funding for a feasibility study available in conjunction with Horsforth Town Council on the basis that benefits from a new pool in Horsforth would accrue to residents throughout north-west Leeds by offering enhanced choice and improved accessibility.

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