



# **KIPPAX A.S.C.**

Affiliated to : Y.A.S.A., N.E.C., Leeds & District A.S.A. and Airedale & Wharfedale District A.S.A.

Colin Bulmer  
Head Coach

28<sup>th</sup> January 2009

**Presentation:**

My Lord Mayor and councillors, good afternoon. My name is Colin Bulmer and I am here on behalf of Kippax Amateur Swimming Club regarding the proposed closure of Kippax Leisure Centre.

I have been coaching swimming at Kippax for over 30 years and can boast several National and International swimmers. In 2006 Leeds City Council presented me with an award for 'Outstanding Services to Sport' in Leeds.

I am joined today by our club secretary, Angela Britton and Mark Bulmer, who is a member and parent. Joy Bate and Doug Morley are also supporting us from the Kippax Parish Council.

With respect, the Council are the guardians of sport and general fitness and well being of the people and youths within the City. It is felt that it is vital that the Council must not relinquish responsibility and certainly control of the 'Peoples' Sports Centres in Leeds. It is also worth remembering that these Sports Centres serve the 'local' schools.

Not only are there the needs of the communities within the area to consider (we serve Garforth, Swillington, Great Preston, Allerton Bywater, Ledston, Ledsham, Fairburn, Austhorpe, Colton and Whitkirk to name but a few) but also the consideration of the families and largely the youths. These are hard working families and rely on the Centre, which of course supports the health of young and old and provides facilities to support sportsmanship and competitive excellence. It offers the opportunity for all children to try a sport and develop personal skills.

It is worth mentioning that Sport also helps build confidence in individuals both in scholastic studies and youth projects. Achievement helps promote complete self-confidence.

**The introduction to teamwork and individual performance is character building, whilst at the same time offers opportunities to make friends and helps develop a strong sense of team spirit. Certainly, all our members are from local communities and have benefited from extending their circle of opportunity and strong friendships, which without the centre would have otherwise not been possible. The Centre has been used as a hub for the communities.**

**Kippax ASC is based in Kippax and has to use other Centres' due to the difficulty in hiring pool time to suit our training programme. It is an important point as it is vital that young swimmers perform at correct times, ensuring their health and school commitments are not jeopardised. The consideration of the parents and family routines must be considered in order for the child to be able to commit to regular training. Otherwise, this could result in the child and the city missing out on potential sporting success.**

**The level to which Kippax ASC aim to perform have in the past proved to be one of the top Junior International age group teams in the Country. Kippax teams' have competed successfully in top International competitions in Canada, Holland, Germany and as far as Australia producing seven junior International swimmers and numerous Leeds & District, County, North Eastern Counties and National champions.**

#### **ALL THE YOUNG SWIMMERS WERE LOCAL.**

**With limited transport links and the extensive travelling time, these children would not have become involved in swimming had there not been a local Centre for them.**

**Yes, we want the proposed top facilities as well as – not at the expense of loosing our existing centres. The broader the base the higher the pinnacle.**

**We ask that Kippax Sports Centre and it's pool remains, managed by the council and is modernised to support the community and develop young swimmers. – And of course the sporting needs of the local people.**

**Thank you.**