

Subject: FW: Please include a new swimming pool + leisure centre as part of Wood Green regeneration plan

From: Eva Hanson

Sent: 23 March 2017 19:56

To: LDF

Subject: Please include a new swimming pool + leisure centre as part of Wood Green regeneration plan

Dear Sirs,

RE: Lack of facilities for swimming in the borough of Haringey

Please address the issue of the urgent need for a new swimming pool/leisure centre complex in the borough. The need was identified in the Council's infrastructure assessment in 2013 and with an ever growing population in the borough, it can only be more urgent four years on. Haringey only has two public swimming pools/leisure centres whereas Hackney, Islington and Camden all have four. As a parent of a competitive swimmer, there are limited facilities hindering the swimming club's growth, development of athletes and nurturing of talent. Where other boroughs have nice new pools with proper equipment such as diving blocks and adequate spectator areas, swimmers in Haringey have make do without any of these facilities. The club now also faces turning new members away as they simply haven't got enough pool time to accommodate all the young people who want to take up swimming as a sport in the borough. It really is a sad state of affairs and an enormous opportunity missed if the Wood Green AAP doesn't include plans for more and better facilities for swimming and other sports .

Please consider the following points:

- Haringey residents have access to a third less pool space than the average Londoner (2010)
- Haringey had the largest deficit of pool space in North London (2010)
- There is considerable unmet demand for swimming (2010)
- Wood Green has been without any public swimming pool since Western Road pool shut in 1997
- Swimming is second only to walking as the nation's most popular physical activity but proximity to a pool is critical for regular participation.
- Haringey Council's infrastructure assessment (2013) clearly identified the need for a third major leisure centre and pool to meet demand due to population growth; it considered Wood Green to be a prime site for the leisure centre/pool complex• Despite all past assessments of need and the total absence of public facilities for swimming and other aquatic sport in Wood Green, the significant requirement for and benefits of such facilities are barely mentioned in the Wood Green Area Action Plan.
- The Council's focus on other pressing issues may have precluded key and timely opportunities for planning with private and public partners
- The Council's lack of planning for such facilities may ultimately lead to a proliferation of private clubs, gyms and commercial pools that cannot handle a growing Haringey population as well as have restrictive pricing for Haringey families. Surely the Council must see the importance of breaking down barriers where this is little or no culture of swimming and physical activity and increase access to swimming for all Haringey residents, not just those who can afford to be members of a private health club.

I would very much appreciate if you would consider this matter most carefully.

Yours sincerely,

Eva Hanson