

22 July 2011

Cllr Peter Doyle  
Chairman – Area Board  
Wootton Bassett and Cricklade  
Wiltshire Council  
Bythesea Road,  
Trowbridge BA14 8JN

Mr Rob Doran  
32 Wood Street  
Wootton Bassett  
Wiltshire SN4 7BQ

Dear Mr Doran,

**Re: Petition to Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Board - 6 July 2011.**

Thank you for the petition which you handed in to the Area Board on 6 July 2011 about the Lime Kiln Swimming Pool.

**Background to the Campus Programme**

The background to the community campus programme was explained at the March 2011 Area Board Meeting when the Board decided to establish two Shadow Boards to develop proposals for community campuses in Wootton Bassett and in Cricklade. The role of the Shadow Boards covers communications, securing local engagement and influencing the design of the campus facilities to be recommended to the Area Board for implementation by Wiltshire Cabinet.

The establishment and composition of the Shadow boards, including that for Wootton Bassett, was subsequently ratified at the 25 May Area Board Meeting. The Wootton Bassett Shadow Board then embarked on an initial public consultation whose findings were reported in the written report presented at the 6 July Area Board.

The report from the Shadow Board envisages the potential provision of improved public swimming facilities in a split site campus together with other improved community facilities. The Area Board expects to receive a more detailed campus proposal from the Shadow Board in the autumn following a second consultation phase during the summer.

**Temporary Closure of Lime Kiln post Fire**

It is accepted that the closure of pool facilities following the Lime Kiln fire incident is indeed very unfortunate and inconvenient to many local residents. The future of the Lime Kiln is, however, now intimately associated with the development of the campus proposal. Given that the campus proposal could potentially involve the demolition of the existing pool building it would not be a prudent use of public funds

to affect a temporary repair when partial or complete demolition might subsequently be required shortly thereafter.

Many of the questions asked about the temporary closure of the Lime Kiln pool following the fire incident and about the campus programme have been previously answered in full in a variety of documents which can be found on the Area Board website at :

- <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/areaboards/woottonbassettandcrickladeareaboard.htm>

on the campus website:

- <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityandliving/communitycampuses/woottonbassettcommunitycampus.htm>

and/or in a Frequently Asked Questions document on the campus website

- <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/community-campus-wootton-bassett-proposal-consultation-questions-060711-area-board-mtg.pdf>

To address a number of other specific issues raised as part of the petition received:

### **Insurance Monies**

Questions about the use of insurance monies has also been raised by some members of the public and was so again during the ensuing debate on 6 July. Funds, from whatever source, once spent are not available to spend a second time. Thus the expenditure of insurance funds to affect a temporary repair could potentially jeopardise any business case for the provision of improved swimming facilities that may form part of the detailed campus proposal.

### **Educational Requirements**

Questions have also been raised, in the petition about educational needs in relation to delivering the requirements of the national curriculum relating to swimming. I should stress that all local schools have direct access into the consultations being conducted by the Shadow Board through the representative for the education and youth sector – Mr George Croxford, head teacher at WB School or via direct representation to myself or the Department of Education.

The national curriculum requirement upon schools is that they must deliver the swimming programme of study (PoS) at some stage over the seven years of primary schooling. It can be taught at either Key Stage or both, and there is no prescription on what year groups should be taught. There is no time allocation prescribed for being able to cover the PoS but the professional view is that it can be covered adequately to deliver the outcome measure (swim 25 metres) in approx 20 hours teaching. Most children should be able to achieve the standard with that amount of good teaching. With the flexibility of being able to spread 20 hours over all the primary years, the temporary unavailability of a swimming pool should not impact

significantly on being able to deliver the requirement. The Department of Education has not received any requests from any individual school for assistance in meeting its curriculum delivery requirement as a result of the temporary closure of Lime Kiln pool and neither have any concerns been raised through the Primary Heads Forum.

I have responded separately to the Head Teacher of Noremarsch School whose letter was included with your petition together with letters from pupils at Noremarsch. At the kind invitation of the Head Teacher I have also personally thanked all those pupils for their letters.

### **General Aspects of the Walk and Petition – Supporting or Protesting ?**

Turning to the more general aspects of the 'Walk to the Area Board' and some of the representations made both during the Area Board Meeting on 6 July and following this. There seemed to be considerable confusion on the part of many participants as to what they had turned out to 'support' or 'protest' about. Many reported that they were supporting a campus proposal for Wootton Bassett that provided modern facilities, while others were protesting about the temporary unavailability of swimming facilities. Some others perhaps supported a combination of both views expressed.

### **Enabling Input to the Campus Consultation Process**

Irrespective of the precise motives of individuals or clubs that supported the walk or petition I think most will wish to see the future long term needs of the wider community in Wootton Bassett and the surrounding area properly provided for. Whether this is in terms of sporting or other social or community needs, the best advice the Area Board can now offer is for those individuals and/or clubs to engage positively with the second phase of consultations that the Shadow Board will conduct over the summer months.

I know that the Shadow Board will be inviting representatives of clubs/societies to face to face meetings over the summer to provide an opportunity for the presentation of any proposals they might wish to see included in the campus proposal. Individuals and clubs are also able to submit written proposals to the Shadow Board for consideration through the campus consultation office at [campusconsultation@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:campusconsultation@wiltshire.gov.uk)

While I recognise that I may not have been able to provide the precise response you may have been hoping for I nevertheless hope that you will accept it is a full reply and that you will be encouraged to engage in those consultations with the Shadow Board to ensure that the whole community both in Wootton Bassett and the wider area is well provided for going into the future.

**Yours sincerely**

**Cllr Peter Doyle**

cc. Carolyn Godfrey – Director of Education