

1. I am emailing my support for Yearsley Pool remaining open, and preferably in Council ownership.

Yearsley Pool is now the only public pool which is readily accessible to us by bike, and five of us are regular swimmers on Wednesday mornings.

You will know that the Pool was recently improved by City of York Council, so that it is now probably the only 50 yard Edwardian swimming pool in northern England. The Pool is in good condition and is well maintained, with competent and loyal staff.

The pool has good, covered, cycle parking and some casual car parking, and its main benefit to us is its situation. Other existing and planned pools are too far away for easy access.

Thank you for arranging the public meeting at Monckton Road community centre on 16 March, which I expect to attend, and please add my name to those wishing the Pool to remain open.

2. We should like to register my support for Yearsley Pool remaining open, and preferably in Council ownership.

Yearsley Pool is now the only public pool which is readily accessible to us by bike, which is our normal means of transport, and our weekly swim at Yearsley is part of our regular fitness regime.

We are both retired and we greatly enjoy our visits there. The pool has a comfortable, friendly atmosphere, helped by the pleasant and efficient staff.

One major benefit to us is its situation. Other existing and planned pools are too far away for easy access, and it is unlikely that we should attend them regularly, if at all, as we do the Yearsley pool.

We hope to attend the public meeting at Monckton Road community centre on 16 March, and thank you for organising this.

Please add our names to those wishing the Yearsley Pool to remain open.

3. I am not able to attend the meeting booked this month to discuss the closure of Yearsley Swim Baths and wanted to provide some comments for your consideration.

I swim three times a week, around 45 mins each time, nonstop lane swimming, before work, at the 7am sessions for adult lane only swimming at Yearsley and have done this for the past 4 to 5 years.

I have used the new pool at the University complex in Heslington, but it is half the length of Yearsley and when participating with other keen lane swimmers for fitness, I notice a negative difference. It is not as easy to achieve a good momentum with a shorter pool length and the velocity of swimmers is more restricted. Ultimately you don't get such a good work out. Therefore your new sports complex will not offer the same facility in this respect.

I am concerned about the location of the new sports complex. At Yearsley we do have a lot of local York residents who bike to the pool and their journey to the new sports centre will be increased if Yearsley is closed. This will add to time needed to get there and back before going to work and therefore is not an increase or replacement of facility. The new sports complex will not be able to offer the same location of the facility. York residents will be deterred from exercise and this is a negative.

A lot of people who use Yearsley are on reduced incomes and Yearsley provides not only a place to exercise but to bathe. The fabric of the building, its history and the excellent working relationship of the staff with their customers encourages healthy living in this respect. The new sports complex will be very imposing and therefore will put off use by these residents – so the new facility will not be able to offer the same.

There are a lot of residents who work at the hospital who use Yearsley before and during their working day as its very convenient location wise. The new sports facility will not offer the same ease of location to these important low paid workers, but a further challenge to get to the new sports complex/use/return to work.

Yearsley swim bathes was given to the residents of York by Rowntree for York residents use. If York city council closes this facility then YCC is not sticking to its agreement to maintain and have available for the residents of York.

For me Yearsley is most convenient as on the way to work. The new sports complex will be out of my way, add to my car journey and cost and time. I will not use it.

I hope these thoughts are useful. Please get in touch if you would like to discuss further.

4. I have recently started using Yearsley Pool and really enjoy using the facilities there. The pool is fantastic and the staff very professional. To close this pool would be a crime so many people rely on this pool it is the only one left now at this side of York and like me most people probably only want to swim and not join a gym.

It has many memories as when I was at primary school this was the pool we used to go to. So please don't close this pool.

5. I am unable to attend the public consultation on the 16th of March. I would be grateful if you could take my following concerns into consideration. I hope this is a genuine consultation and not just a bureaucratic exercise with regard to following due process. I was diagnosed with cancer in 2012 and following chemotherapy I started swimming as a form of recovery and rehabilitation.

I used to attend Energise and although the staff are superb, the pool was overcrowded and as my swimming has improved it no longer meets my needs. The pool at Yearsley is 45 metres and since going there I have greatly improved my technique and endurance and visit 3 times a week. Swimming has been central to my lifestyle change and I fear the closure of Yearsley will mean the new smaller pool at Huntington will be overcrowded like Energise and I will have to travel outside York to continue with my training.

I also believe closing Yearsley will limit the potential of young swimmers as they will miss out on opportunities that young people in Leeds and other nearby cities enjoy. As a child I used to swim at St John's College with school, and at the Barbican and Edmund Wilson baths, all were proper size pools and all have been demolished. I am also aware many groups use the pool for scuba diving, canoeing and octopush and these groups will have to find alternative arrangements.

I would also like to know what the proposed plans are for Yearsley baths are if it closes, as the only Edwardian pool in the North of

England I am sure it has some legal protection as a heritage asset. There would be a considerable cost in maintaining the site if it is mothballed.

As someone who works in adult social care I appreciate the need to save money to pay for statutory services. However, I believe a major part of a Council's remit is the concept of a civic society and to enable its people to better and improve themselves. I fear this ideal is being ignored and once public amenities are closed they will never be replaced.

6. I am emailing my support for Yearsley Pool remaining open, and preferably in Council ownership.

Yearsley Pool is now the only public pool which is readily accessible to us by bike, and five of my friends are regular swimmers on Wednesday mornings.

You will know that the Pool was recently improved by City of York Council, so that it is now probably the only 50 yard Edwardian swimming pool in northern England. The Pool is in good condition and is well maintained, with competent and loyal staff.

The pool has good, covered, cycle parking and some casual car parking, and its main benefit to us is its situation. Other existing and planned pools are too far away for easy access.

Thank you for arranging the public meeting at Monkton Road community centre on 16 March, which I regret I will not be able to attend, so please add my name to those wishing Yearsley Pool to remain open.

7. I note there is to be a meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> March regarding Yearsley pool. I will not be able to attend this meeting as it's during normal working hours, however I'd like to add my comments.

For my part, I use Yearsley pool twice a week, always on a morning. I'm a working father of 2 young children who is keen to stay fit and healthy, so I fit my exercise in when I can. That means a couple of mornings per week I have early starts and go to Yearsley pool for lane swimming before I go into the office. My office is in town, I live in Heworth – Yearsley pool is just about on my way into town (with a minor detour), so fits nicely in with my desire to cycle / swim before getting to work. I don't expect you to keep a (apparently loss-making) swimming pool

open just so it fits in with my routine, but I guess if there are enough people like myself then it might be of interest to you. There certainly seem to be plenty of people using the pool whenever I'm there.

I hear the new leisure complex will be great – that's all good with me. Where it is located means I would need to drive out there if I wish to swim before work – adding pollution to the environment and another car to the queues. Again, if there are enough people in the same situation then the impact becomes significant.

What length will the pool be at the new leisure complex please? I'm sure you already know that Yearsley is 50yds – I believe this is the only pool in York that offers this length. It has made a big difference to my fitness levels, using this length of pool. Longer swim / less breaks = fitter.

There's a real community spirit at the pool – quite a mix of ages actually, all secretly racing each other but not admitting to the fact. I don't for a second see that as a game-changer in your decision to close the pool (which I'm guessing is inevitable), but thought I would mention it. Perhaps the same will ultimately be true of the new complex.

So, to sum up, for me the convenience of location close to town and the length of pool are the factors which draw me to Yearsley pool. I hear it has history too, dating back to Edwardian times. That will be of great importance to many people – perhaps not so much to myself (much as I'm a lover of history) and certainly not to yourselves / your accounts dept, who are no doubt under huge pressure to make cuts. I just hope hasty decisions aren't made for short-term gain and negative legacy.

8. I am unable to attend the meeting 16th March hence this e-mail. Yearsley Baths are the only swimming pool of this length in York. this really makes a difference to the swimming experience and using swimming as a way to get and keep fit. Other pool lengths feel very short in comparison and do not serve the same purpose.

The pool at the University sports village is not that easy to access by bicycle. Considering the building was funded by CYC its availability to the public is limited and often varies at the last minute eg part of the small pool is closed due to lack of staff. the large pool is closed from 4pm. Yearsley has a programme that remains the same so it is possible to find a time to swim every day.

The changing facilities are good . I like separate showers for each sex

and separate changing cubicles not all pools provide this in York. I do not want to join a gym I walk and cycle but I do like to be able to go swimming. Yearsley is easily accessible from the cycle tracks from varied areas of town.

I would hope that Yearsley baths will be here for a long time to come. I learnt how to do the front crawl about 5 years ago at the pool again the lessons are accessible to adults. I learnt so that I could continue to take exercise as I get older as swimming is of particular benefit to older people, many of whom use Yearsley baths.

I hope my views will contribute to the meeting.

**9.** I am concerned about the issues surrounding the future of Yearsley Swimming Pool.

I represent the Yorkshire Region Canoe Polo Committee, charged with developing and organising the sport of Canoe Polo in this Region. You may not have heard of the sport, but it is a popular and successful sport with a number of this region's canoeists representing Great Britain in the recent World championships. In fact we have had significant success with our junior paddlers, bringing them through from novice to representative level and ultimately World Champions.

We currently use Yearsley Swimming Pool every Saturday evening from September to April to hold competitions, spread across 5 Regional and National leagues with approximately 500 people participating.

In order for us to continue to the run the leagues we need a Pool the size of Yearsley as a small 25 metre pool would not be big enough to fit 10 canoes on the water at the same time.

We want you to understand that if you decide to close, or replace Yearsley pool with a smaller pool, you will effectively kill off the sport in Yorkshire, as this pool is the cornerstone of our ability to run competitions.

We urge you to ensure that you maintain the pool as a viable option with proper council support.

**10.** As a regular user of Yearsley swimming pool we would like to make the following statement to the Scrutiny Committee as unfortunately we are

unable to attend the meeting on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March;

We have been using Yearsley pool for several years now on a weekly basis for Scuba Training. Yearsley pool is the only facility in York where Scuba Diving is offered as an activity for the public and we would struggle to run the training sessions without the facilities at Yearsley.

Our pool training sessions are very popular and allow individuals to do taster sessions, full training courses and refresher courses. We also run a regular kids scuba club. We are currently in the process of becoming a BSAC Snorkel centre and will be introducing snorkelling courses for children and adults in Yearsley pool. This will be done in conjunction with the Yorkshire Wildlife trust who will be running snorkelling sessions off the Yorkshire coast for qualified snorkelers over the summer months.

We are also in the process of teaming up with one of the top free diving instructors in the UK to offer free diver training and to run a free diving club within our pool session. This will be the only opportunity for residents of York and the surrounding areas to get involved with the sport of free diving which has excellent fitness benefits for those involved.

We regularly have in excess of 30 individuals in the pool during a training session. The size of the pool at Yearsley makes this possible. If we were to use a smaller 25 metre pool we would have to severely reduce the training that we are able to offer as there would not physically be room in the pool for all our trainees. This would mean the loss of our kids club and reduction in places available for other training and would seriously impact on the feasibility of running these training sessions at all in York. We would also not be able to continue with our plans for snorkel and free diving training in York.

Scuba diving is an increasingly popular activity and there is a large group of divers in the York area. It would be a tragedy to lose the only facility where people can come to learn and participate in scuba diving in the city. It would have a hugely negative impact on Overland Underwater, but also the individuals who come along and enjoy the activity on a regular basis.

We believe that getting children active is essential in today's times when some children do nothing but sit in their rooms playing computer games. Snorkel and scuba training and our kids club is an excellent

tool for engaging children and getting them involved in activities that in some cases become a lifelong passion or even career. Scuba and snorkelling connects children with the aquatic environment in a way that swimming never can. It makes them more water confident, more environmentally aware and I believe more responsible individuals as they become adults.

Only last week we had a ten year old girl come along for a taster session who told her mum that it was “the most awesome thing she had ever done” (you can see the quote on our facebook page) after her session. We have worked with several children with varying degrees of autism and for them the calmness and peace of being underwater seems to be a hugely positive experience that is really valued by both the children and their parents. We have had adults too who have found our training life changing and it has led to careers and life experiences that they would never have dreamed of.

What we do at Yearsley pool is so much more than a 90 minute session where people come along and snorkel / scuba dive - it is a gateway to a whole new world of experiences that can and do have major positive impacts on people’s lives. Our training provides so many benefits and opportunities for both adults and children that would be lost to the residents of York if Yearsley pool were to close as we simply could not provide the same service to the people of York in a small pool.

We sincerely hope that a plan can be worked out to save the facilities at Yearsley pool. We believe that the loss of this historic pool would have a negative impact on the city as a whole and hope that this committee can find a way to secure the pools future for everyone in York.

- 11.** We have heard that there have been discussions about closing Yearsley swimming pool. This is a pool that we enjoy swimming in individually and as a family. Swimming is a very important form of exercise but also fun and relaxation. I feel very strongly that there should be swimming available for everyone.

There has already been three swimming pool closures that I am aware of in York. There has to be some provision for people to swim. Water is 12 times more dense than air so there is a lot of benefit from swimming in the water. Also when swimming there is less stress on the body so people who have injuries, arthritis etc can still exercise, which could help them to avoid costing the tax payer loads of money on medical bills.



Yearsley swimming pool is also used by a huge number of people for canoeing. I have been along to these sessions and there are so many people there that the pool isn't really big enough!

Everyone always says that swimming pools are expensive, but they are an important community asset. It keeps people fit and healthy which keeps that budget down on other things, such as

<http://www.bmj.com/content/327/7412/415>

**Conclusion** Swimming pools in remote communities were associated with reduction in prevalence of pyoderma and tympanic membrane perforations, which could result in long term benefits through reduction in chronic disease burden and improved educational and social outcomes.

<http://www.livestrong.com/article/171708-what-are-the-benefits-of-swimming-pools/>

Special Benefits for Asthmatic Children

Findings released in 2009 from a study in Taiwan found that unlike other forms of cardiovascular exercise, swimming is unlikely to provoke asthma attacks. The study found that the children who participated gained additional benefits that complemented their increased fitness, such as increased confidence and increased lung volume.

I would like to comment on this, we have a huge problem with asthma now in our country and we should be doing everything we can to encourage people to swim. I would like to see the swimming pools to be heavily subsidised so that a lot more people could attend, particularly from poorer communities.

<http://locality.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Guidance-for-community-owned-and-managed-swimming-pools.pdf>

Swimming has a unique role in society today. It will be one of the main sports at the 2012 London Olympics and, at the same time, enjoys the highest level of participation outside of walking. In addition to helping to deliver the Government's health agenda, swimming as an activity can provide considerable enjoyment for all the family and the ability to swim helps to make family members safer near water. With swimming, there is literally something for everybody. None of this would be possible

without a network of well run pools and community enterprises will have a big part to play in this network in the future.

<http://sportwales.org.uk/community-sport/adults/free-swimming/about-free-swimming.aspx>

Swimming is a life skill and does save lives

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/1506923/Closure-of-swimming-pools-is-damaging-our-health.html>

Duncan Goodhew, the former Olympic champion, said he had been contacted by an average of three groups of residents a month trying to save their local pool.

"Pools are badly in need of protection from the accountants. They are given targets to cut budgets, so unless something is safeguarded they will cut it."

"I don't have a problem with closing pools that are old if there's another one built first. Otherwise you deny a generation of the right to learn to swim."

Kate Hoey, the former sports minister and Labour MP, has argued against swimming pool closures. She wrote in The Daily Telegraph: "All the fine words about tackling obesity and the fitness of the nation proclaimed by politicians are worthless if not translated into resources to keep our swimming pools.

<http://www.swimming.org/asa/>

<http://www.swimming.org/asa/facilities/everyday-swim/>

The success of the eight pilot **Everyday Swim** projects was supported by an overall increase of 10,901 new adult swimmers in the Everyday Swim authorities, counter to the national trend.

<http://www.westmidlandsnews.org.uk/news/residents-take-over-castle-vale-swimming-pool-to-stop-it-closing-down>

<http://www.swimming.org/asa/facilities/poolwatch/>

Finally, I would just say that from everything I have read I think that

Yearsley pool should be put on the map, upgraded and made into the pride of York. We are a city which people visit from right across the world we should be leading the way.

- 12.** I don't think I'll be able to attend the meeting on the 16th, so please can you pass on my contribution? I and several more of my friends and workmates regularly use Yearsley Pool. It's the only swimming pool within walking/cycling distance and hardly any of us own cars, so if it's closed down we will no longer have convenient access to a pool.

I personally have suffered from a bad back in the past, even though I am now still only in my early thirties, and swimming has alleviated that a lot. I don't think it would be an exaggeration to say that my wellbeing would suffer as a result, if Yearsley closed down.

Thank you for offering to pass this on, on my behalf!

- 13.** Unfortunately I am unable to attend the meeting on 16th March but would appreciate the opportunity to express our concern and disappointment at the news that the council are considering closing Yearsley Pool.

There are families in our community (Burton Stone Lane area) who for financial and environmental reasons do not own and run cars. There is little need to do so in a city so rich in facilities within walking distance, significantly, access to Yearsley Pool.

As a busy family with both parents working full-time, if required to take a bus to an out of town facility such as Monk's Cross we would be unable to continue to swim regularly as a family. I am sure we are not the only family in this situation.

Aside from the obvious loss to our family and neighbour's community there is of course the pool's historic and social significance but perhaps more relevant today, the benefit of a rare 50m pool to the rest of York and surrounding area for the training needs of serious swimmers. I am sure these points have been raised by people better equipped to present the arguments than I am but it does add to our disappointment that the Council would even consider this closure.

Having said that I imagine there is a financial reason for the threat of closure that would need to be addressed even if the contribution to the community and the city as a whole that the pool makes is

acknowledged. We would certainly prefer an increase in the swim fee to no swim at all. Perhaps there is an issue with attendance numbers and if this is the case I am sure the communities around the pool would take part in an organised drive to increase those numbers - a 'use it or lose it' campaign? Please feel free to add this email address to any emailing lists for any such campaign that is in action. Since November we have had numerous leaflets through our door regarding refuse collection but not one about this issue.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

- 14.** I don't think I will be able to get to the meeting on Monday 16th March as I will be at work. I imagine there will be a number of people unable to attend because of work commitments & also a number of people unaware that the meeting is taking place.

I am a strong supporter of Yearsley pool & would be devastated if it were to close. I swim weekly & when I retire at the end of next month I would hope to swim more often.

The great thing about Yearsley is the length of the pool, 50 yards. The pool proposed for the new leisure centre is only 25 metres. Yearsley is central & has been ideal for me to get to during my 36 years of working at the hospital. I live in Huntington & consider Yearsley more accessible than the new leisure complex.

New houses are being built on New Lane adding people & traffic. The area is very busy & is only going to get busier increasing traffic & congestion.

Yearsley is ideally sited on the edge of town & easily accessible by public transport. It is the only pool in the area of a decent size. There are no frills which appeals to people like me who want to swim in a good sized pool with clean water which is what Yearsley provides.

PLEASE don't close Yearsley pool. It is unique & worth saving. It is a far better standard than anything that might be built at Monks Cross.

- 15.** Hear we go again. I don't understand. I started swimming with a friend and remarked on all the young people who we are told sit in front of TV too much and older people who are keeping fit and away from

hospitals. It gives you health, confidence and friendship. I don't want it to close.

**16.** Submission for the meeting concerning the future of Yearsley Swimming Pool at 68 Youth and Community Centre on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2015.

I may not be able to attend the meeting, but as a long-term user of Yearsley Pool I would like to make this written contribution. There are many points I would like to make, most of which I am sure will be put forward by many others. This in itself would give an indication of the value placed on Yearsley's continued existence by so many people.

- i. It may well be a rather 'basic' facility when compared with other more modern leisure facilities in the York area, but Yearsley Pool was originally built for one activity, swimming. The 36 yard by 17 yard dimensions of the rectangular pool now actually provides a very versatile facility. The current timetable itself provides a guide to the wide variety of aquatic-based activities able to be carried out there.
- ii. It has very good access facilities for disabled swimmers.
- iii. It is a useful complement to the other leisure facilities in the area.
- iv. It is a demanding and challenging course for swimmers who wish to have an extensive work-out, much superior to the new facility on Hull Road where the swimmers are squeezed into narrow lanes and is only 25 metres in length.
- v. The staff are friendly and helpful. There is a 'family' atmosphere there.
- vi. There is a tremendous feeling of community and continuity by those who use the pool. This has probably a lot to do with the long-term association with York City Baths Club and historically with Rowntree's factory workers and now with the workers at Nestle. In addition, Yearsley Pool serves the local community in Clifton and Rawcliffe and the City central area.

- vii. Yearsley Pool is an integral part of the long-term sporting tradition of York and its contribution to the cultural history of York should not be underestimated in a city which is changing so rapidly. Sometimes good management is about making small changes or maintaining things as they are.
- viii. Yearsley is easily accessed by a large population and by those who do not have a car. It is on public transport routes.
- ix. I have used Yearsley for over twenty years. My children used it. I think there are probably families who have used it for four generations.
- x. It is convenient for many schools in the area.
- xi. It is an ideal venue for galas and charity fund-raising events, and Yearsley has been actively involved with these for many years.
- xii. It is well-used.; I have rarely been there when it has not been busy.
- xiii. It should remain as a vital part of the health provision in this area of York.
- xiv. It may not fit with the glossy image which City of York Council wishes to promote for its leisure facilities, but it is none the worse for that.

I am not sure what the term 'value added' means, but I think it is about how we value a facility and how it contributes to the well-being of the local population

- 17.** Just to let you know that I have received the email about the open meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> March.

I already have a commitment in London that day, so will not be able to make the meeting.

However, in any submission by YCBC, I think it would be useful to set in context the incremental degradation of the competitive swimming facilities available to the citizens of York, to the point where it is no

longer possible to hold a swim meet of any substance within the city's (local authority backed) facilities.

On top of this, all the benefits that Yearsley has brought and continues to bring to the ability of the club to deliver safety to the children of the city – with two rivers in it – and the opportunity to have the water capacity and pool length for high quality training and preparation for national competition.

In spite of the paucity of swimming facilities contributing to York not being able to support a national swimming centre of excellence, when some years ago it could have made this positive move forward possible, further erosion of swimming facilities will make it even more difficult to sustain the current position that the club occupies in enabling the considerable swimming talent in the local population to be fully realised.

- 18.** Ahead of the meeting on 16 March, I would like to add my support for keeping Yearsley pool open. In my opinion, it would be a very sad loss to York if the pool was closed. With its extended (100 yards) length, the pool is unique, and is a real boon to those wanting to practice endurance swimming.

A lot of money has been spent on the pool in the last years, including a new roof and refurbished showers, bringing it up to very good standards. The pool has a real history in York, emerging, as it did, from an open air site using the river Foss; essentially part of the City's heritage.

On a personal note, I learned to swim in the pool nearly 50 years ago, and it is a credit to the pool that it is still going and in such fine condition.

- 19.** I understand that there is to be meeting on 16 March 2015 to appraise City Councillors about the merits of maintaining Yearsley Swimming Pool and its value to swimming in York. I will not be able to attend the meeting but would like to register my comments by e-mail.

I have used Yearsley Pool for over 30 years and learned to train and compete there. I am also a swimming teacher and coach and have worked on the site taking lessons and coaching for at least 15 years. I have benefitted from its use as an athlete and teacher and believe that it has many qualities that shorter, smaller pools do not possess.

The value of Yearsley Swimming Pool is its size, both length and width. Most swimming competitions take place in a 50metre pool and this is a close as York comes to having such a large facility. The benefit of swimming 50yards as opposed to 25metres without the need to turn is huge and prepares swimmers for competition at all levels. Olympic, Commonwealth, National and Inter-County events all take place in a long pool.

Triathlon and Open-Water event training also benefits from being held in a long pool to develop both stamina and technique. It is interesting that when Leeds City Council closed its 50metre pool in the city centre they chose to build a 50metre pool at their new aquatics centre in order continue to produce swimmers of a high standard as well as offering high quality facilities to schools and the public.

I have taught beginners of all ages at Yearsley Pool and find that they also benefit from the space available in both depth of water at each end and distance. The longer and wider pool means that it is possible to have more lessons being taught at the same time.

Recreational swimmers also benefit from swimming in a longer pool having more of a challenging workout and more space to swim.

Yearsley Swimming Pool is one of York's unique venues which continues to benefit the city and is worth preserving because it is still being used for its original purpose and it works.

- 20.** Unfortunately I will not be able to attend the meeting on 16 March, but would be grateful if you could take the following points from me.

I swim at Yearsley pool once or twice a week and go to deep water aquafit on Monday evening. Whilst I understand the financial difficulties facing the City Council, I believe the pool offers significant benefits to the community, which will not be available from other leisure centres in the City.

First there is the deep water aquafit; this isn't possible at Energise or the Sports Village and as I understand it will not be available at the new leisure pool either. Deep water offers different opportunities for exercise to shallow water, and for someone such as I with knee problems is a better form of exercise than shallow water.



Second, whilst the pool is no longer appropriate for full competition use, the longer length enables swimmers to gain speed and develop stamina: quite frankly, in the smaller pools, one is constantly slowing to turn just after getting going along the length. As Yearsley has a solid base of loyal swimmers, it is clearly an advantage that is appreciated.

I believe that most of the swimmers at Yearsley would be open to discussion of a pricing and programme structure that would allow the pool to remain available for the community. Yearlsey is comparatively central, close to bus and cycle routes and therefore easier for many residents who cannot or do not wish to use their car to be able to swim – the other pools are on the periphery of the City: this means the pool supports a sustainable approach towards fulfilling the objectives of council and Sport England strategies for improving access to sporting facilities.

- 21.** I am a 72 yrs old woman living in York. I use the pool weekly I especially benefit from regular aquarobic session.

It would mean a great loss for me if the pool was to close as otherwise I could not get there.

- 22.** Just a short email from everyone at Team Jorvik swimming club who use Yearsley regularly.

It would be a blow to the sport at all levels if the pool was closed. Yearsley provides a lot of space for swimming lessons, which provide crucial lifesaving skills for all. It also gives the city a USP for swimming in that it has a long course pool. YCBC would suffer immensely if the pool were to close (I imagine) and even as a rival club I don't want to see them go under for the sake of the young athletes. We also use the pool to prepare us for competitions in Leeds, Sunderland and Sheffield. Competitive swimming teaches time management, dedication and an appreciation of process -- things we all parents want to see in their children.

The city is in need of a single, very large pool to amalgamate all the private lessons and clubs to get a proper progression going, but in the mean time let's not close one of the best training facilities we have. Building more 25m pools will not achieve this. If you want, I can put

you in touch with people who can tell you, from experience, about the benefits of a very large pool when it comes to lessons and competitive swimming.

On behalf of the 65 swimmers and 130 parents,

- 23.** I am writing about the meeting with councillors on Monday 16 March. I will be at work and unable to attend, but have a few comments to make regarding the question of parity of facilities.

I am well aware how expensive and uneconomic swimming pools are, and the huge tank of water at Yearsley Pool will never run at a profit: the three new pools in the City are all associated with large gyms and it is these that provide the subsidy for the much smaller pools. Greenwich Leisure, looking at the issue from a purely economic perspective, are quite right regarding the problem of finding a way of making Yearsley Pool run so as to cover its costs. However, there are considerations beyond profit and loss alone.

I am aware of the acute financial problems faced by the City Council and how little room for manoeuvre there is raising the subsidy monies through Council Tax, and understand why the council is transferring assets to the private or third sector to enable them to attract investment the council does not have.

I swim most mornings at Yearsley and go to deep water aqua fit. The new leisure pool at Monks Cross looks very nice. However, Yearsley Pool has benefits and adds value to the overall sporting offer:

- It is the only pool in the city centre: the others are all on the edge of the city, and really only accessible by car. A lot of the early morning swimmers at Yearsley come on bicycle, which means they are pretty local. The sustainable travel and convenience of location would be lost if all had to move to the other pools. I sometimes swim at Energise, and I notice that everyone who swims early in the morning comes by car, and this is not the case at Yearsley
- The pool is the only deep one in the city: this means I can attend a deep water aqua fit class: these classes exercise a different and broader range of muscle groups than shall water, and I have found it very good for my knee problems. The adverts for scuba diving suggest a possible range of uses that the shallow pools could not offer, and I wonder

what attention has been paid to exploiting the deep water aspect?

- The pool is 50 yards - whilst no longer acceptable as a competition pool, it is a more satisfying swim than the 25 metre pools, one is constantly turning without being able to really get a rhythm and movement in the pool, and develop better stamina. The junior swimming club on Monday evening seem to really enjoy the longer distance for swimming.

There are costs associated with closure and mothballing, and the site itself may have only limited development value is not a good development opportunity because of the Nestle car park running through it.

A slightly challenging comment from me is that there appears to be some public consultation only after decisions have been taken to transfer the pool to Greenwich Leisure without including any contractual obligations regarding the pool or its future or use. This does not appear to be in line with the council's duty to consult. It will now be very difficult to pull this back and find ways of continuing to keep the pool open, which seems unfair for the users and local people.

- 24.** I am writing to you in support of keeping open Yearsley swimming pool as unfortunately I can not attend the meeting in person on Monday 16 March.

I swim regularly twice a week at Yearsley swimming pool and have done so for several years as I am able to go on my way to work. It helps me keep fit and I have made several friends there. It seems to be very short sighted to shut such a good community resource at a time when the Government and council is concerned about the fitness of the population. The more places where children especially can be encouraged to exercise the better. It is also the longest pool in York and is used by the swimming club.

I hope that you will see that the pool has the support of the nearby community and that it should be kept open.

- 25.** As I am unfortunately unable to attend the meeting about Yearsley Pool, please find my contribution below.

For me, what contributes to Yearsley Pool's value over and above that

of the proposed new leisure centre is mainly two points:

1) The location. Yearsley Pool is the only public pool anywhere close to the city centre. I both live and work in the city centre and swim most mornings. I do not have a car, and Yearsley Pool is easily reachable by pushbike and even at walking distance. As I currently hold two jobs, swimming in the morning before work is about the only time I can take out to do so regularly. While I understand this is very personal, I cannot be the only person for who this situation is similar.

2) The unique size of 50 yards. Swimming is my favourite sport; I always try to improve my technique and need to swim proper lengths to be able to do that. The type of pools that keep being added to leisure centres may in some best case scenarios be 25m, but often are small in feel, overly crowded, and not lending themselves very well to intensive lane swimming. The 50 yard length of Yearlsey Pool allows for a roomy, fast-paced swim, and even for the pool to be divided to allow for multiple activities at the same time. Swimming as a sport in York would certainly be compromised with the loss of Yearsley Pool.

Other points are the sense of community I get in the lane swimming hours, the history of the building itself and the pool's very compact and unique layout.

**26.** I would like to add my name and objection to the closure of Yearsley pool to the other residents of York.

Unfortunately, I cannot attend the meeting planned for tomorrow evening, so I'm emailing you my comments as instructed.

I would be personally unhappy to lose our only 50 metre training pool from York. Its size is of real benefit for comprehensive training. A number of other pools around York don't offer either the length or depth, for effective training programmes. Yearsley is the only pool which has both of these over other York pools.

There's an increasing demand for long-course training pools especially for triathlon training (which is an increasing sport), and Yearsley has this and is ideally situated close to York centre which makes it easily accessible for residents.

The building itself is also a York treasure which should be preserved. It

underwent refurbishment in 2007, and it would be a shame to lose a part of our history.

I know I'm not alone when I say the residents of York want the pool to remain open.

I hope appropriate funding can be secured, either from our council tax, or perhaps there's lottery funding which could be secured to allow the residents of York, and me included, to continue to enjoy Yearsley pool for many years to come.

- 27.** I understand you are take submissions for the "Yearsley Pool Ad Hoc Scrutiny Committee".

My family and I use the pool for casual swimming every week, and my son plays Underwater Hockey on a Saturday afternoon, and occasionally comes to the "commando run" with his friends on a Sunday afternoon.

We really appreciate the fact that the pool is so big (even though 50 yards is less than 50 metres!) All the other pools in the city are only 25m, and none of the plans I've seen for the new facility in Huntington suggest that will be a 50m pool. To be honest I'm not emotionally attached to Yearsley - I can see it's a bit tatty round the edges, and understand its running costs are non-trivial. But the city really needs a 50m pool, not only to provide for the the clubs that need the space, but to "raise the game" among the casual swimmers. It could also be used to encourage competitive swimming from an earlier age, especially if there were better facilities for spectators.

In fact, I don't understand why the new pool at the university wasn't built to 50m, given the amount of land in that area, and the prestige such a facility would bring. Similarly, if the new pool at Huntington were 50m, with provision for clubs & competitions, you might find it easier to justify closing Yearsley.

- 28.** I am a resident of York and am writing to you about the Yearsley swimming pool in response to the Council's consultation process. I am, unfortunately, unable to attend the meeting today due to work obligations.

I have been living in York for the past 7 years and have been using the pool every week during this time - at least once a week, and

sometimes twice a week, to help with a chronic joint condition. I was dismayed to discover that the plans for a new complex outside of town would come with the closure of the pool, and I hope that this decision is still being reconsidered.

The Yearsley pool is a proper pool for swimming and its size and length will not be rivalled by the new development (when it comes to swimming pools, 'new' rarely means 'better'). The pool is also, as many York residents have stressed, an important part of York's architectural heritage. Most importantly, it is one of the only facilities that residents living in and near the centre of York can access easily and without needing a car (there is a bus stop nearby and it is easy to get there on a bike). In a tourist city like York there are not many facilities for residents and it is important to preserve what little there is. Ease of access and size of pool are absolutely paramount criteria for swimming pools, and on both fronts the Yearsley pool is unrivalled.

Monk's Cross is difficult to access by car (at weekends especially, there is much traffic to M&S and John Lewis, and this is not going to change). This, and the distance, will be genuine deterrents for York residents. It is impossible to get there without a car; it's too far (and no one wants to spend an hour in public transport just to have a swim - most people don't have that extra time on their hands). Those of us living in the city centre are using the council's parking permits, and if I - for example - take the car out during the day at the weekend, there is very little chance that I will get a parking space when I come back because my street (St Saviourgate) is always full. I wonder how I would get to this other pool. This is another problem entirely, but it is not irrelevant or unrelated to my points above about the role of Yearsley within the York community and its services to the community.

With many thanks for listening.

- 29.** I am writing to you as a representative of the York Octopush Club which has played the sport at Yearsley Pool for nearly 7 years.

Octopush or Underwater Hockey is a non-contact underwater sport, played by two teams of 6 players who use mask, fins, snorkel and a short stick or pusher to move a puck along the bottom of the swimming pool into the opposing team's goal.

Our Club appeals to young people who predominantly do not actively take part in mainstream sports and gives them an opportunity to be

successful team players. All members have been given the opportunity to represent the club at national level over the past two years.

Whilst our membership is relatively small, we have played Octopush in 43 out of the last 52 weeks at Yearsley Pool with an average of 14 players at each session. The Club has struggled financially and continues to struggle to attract adults to get involved in running sessions however our popularity and membership slowly increases.

Hopefully, by playing sport, being successful and feeling positive about themselves, our members will ultimately contribute far more to society than the cost of the subsidy provided by City of York.

Any decision that affects the future of Yearsley Pool needs to be carefully considered.

- 30.** Re: Yearsley pool public consultation meeting – March 16<sup>th</sup>  
I live and work in York and swim at Yearsley Pool every week, without fail.

I don't have time to attend the meeting today – I work full time and as a father of a young child I have responsibilities at home, every evening. I don't even have time to write to you but I feel that I absolutely must.

I discovered the pool about 4 years ago and fell in love with it – I couldn't believe how long it was and immediately realised how much better it was than every other pool I'd known. I decided that I would teach myself to swim, I mean properly swim, which I am happy to say I can now do. If you love to swim you will know that one of the joys of swimming is working on technique, perfecting it and constantly improving. I did not realise this at all and, before I discovered Yearsley, I was like many other adults who had learned to swim as a child, but not terribly well, and had decided they didn't really like swimming. Today I consider swimming to be one of my favourite pass times – all thanks to Yearsley Pool which welcomed me and taught me how to enjoy swimming.

I go there now, every week, to get away from it all, to clear my mind, for my health, for my fitness and, not least, for my back as I have recurring problems caused by my job – sitting at a desk all day – at its worst I have had to have weeks off work with unbearable sciatica. I have used the NHS to help with this during periods of acute pain and should mention that after every physiotherapy session I have had at

York General Hospital I have gone for a swim at Yearsley Pool. Swimming has done more for my back than anything else.

If it was not for Yearsley Pool I would not have realised **any** of these benefits. I work in York (Peasholme Green) and there are no other pools that are close enough for me to reach in a lunch break. I can't drive as I can't park at my place of work, so I cycle – it takes me about 5-10 minutes and so I can get there and back in just over an hour.

This is the perfect lunch break, for me, and surely the sort of lunch time activity that the city council should be encouraging (of course, it does).

I use other pools in York (and have used them all at one time or another) – for example I take my son for a swimming lesson at York Sport Village (YSV) every Thursday and often go there at weekends. I live quite close to YSV and it is a good pool for learners but it is not a patch on Yearsley if you just want to swim, swim, swim. All other pools feel tiny compared to Yearsley, like swimming in a bath, constantly hitting the wall and turning, hitting the wall and turning. Not fun. Even though YSV is much closer, newer and has the great benefit of windows with sunshine, I still go to Yearlseey Pool if I am on my own and want to swim. This is another subject, but the design of YSV, from a swimmer's point of view, is terrible – if the new pool is to be anything like this one I will demand to know who is responsible. As an example (and there are other issues), the shower facilities (only partially remedied now) were a disaster from the start – surely it should have been obvious to the planners!?

I would like to tell you, hand on heart, that having been gifted this amazing pool the people of York have a responsibility to look after and keep it. For me, it is up there with the Minster! The new leisure complex is too far away for me to reach in a lunch break so if Yearsley Pool closes my swimming days will be over. No question. The End.

Swimming is one of those activities that a busy, full time worker and parent can fit in to the weekly schedule.

My son (aged 5) is learning to swim but it takes constant encouragement and dedication and this has to come from me. Where do I get the drive to do this?, from the love I have for swimming which I owe to Yearsley Pool. If not for me, then the for sake of future generations, don't take that away.

31. This fine swimming pool has been an integral part of the leisure facilities in this city for such a very long time and continues to be so.



As regular users we are saddened that the powers that be deem it acceptable to yet again ignore the voice of the ratepayers of this city. A pool of this stature is a rarity - should we not be pulling out all the stops to ensure its future?

- 32.** I am unable to attend the consultation meeting this evening re Yearsley Pool. However I would like to write to convey how strongly I feel that the pool is an incredibly important and unique resource for York, and that its future should be safeguarded.

My children learn to swim at the pool and I regularly use it for my own fitness and health. Because we live fairly near to the pool we can cycle or walk there. If the pool was closed the other alternatives are too far for my children to cycle and we would need to use a car, and this would be the case for the many people who live on the northern side of the city centre. It seems very short sighted to shut a health and fitness community facility which then results in increased car use and pollution....

In addition, Yearsley is the only place for many miles to offer a 50yard pool and this is a really unique resource that York should value - there are no new 50yard/metre pools being built these days outside Major Games venues.

From my own regular attendance I can see how popular Yearsley is - people of all ages swim there for health and enjoyment, the size of the pool gives York Swimming clubs an important resource for higher level competitive swimming, and it also offers excellent central facilities for other pool-based activities which smaller pool sizes cannot offer - kayaking, subaqua, polo, octopush, all benefit hugely from the larger pool size.

I hope that you can convey this email as part of the discussions this evening.

- 33.** I have just been informed that that there is a public meeting this evening to discuss the future of Yearsley Pool. Unfortunately I will not be able to be present at this meeting, but I feel the need to express my concern about the possibility that Yearsley might close at some point in the future. I am not sure that I understand the council's position fully and realise that there are no current plans to officially close the pool, but you will be aware of the concern that it could be closed 'by the back door' if decisions taken now lead to a lack of commitment to the

facility in the longer term.

Yearsley Pool is a unique facility in York for a number of reasons:

- It is the only pool greater than 25m in length in York;
- It is within walking distance for the population that live close to the city centre including several primary schools;
- Although not a listed building, I think it has historic importance for the city.

I realise that public resources are stretched, however to lose Yearsley Pool would be short-sighted. The pool is highly valued by all that use it, and countless children have been taught to swim there by the excellent staff.

As the only large pool in York it is important for training for those involved in competitive swimming who I believe would have to travel at least to Leeds for a similar facility. Do we really want to disadvantage our young people who show incredible commitment to their sport? I think the pool size also allows other sports (diving, kayaking) to be accommodated which are not possible at other pools.

Its accessibility by foot or bicycle for a large number of residents, schools and businesses should make it attractive for the council to retain in order to meet sustainability targets which I assume exist. Schools that currently walk their pupils to the pool for lessons would have their budgets squeezed further if they had to arrange transport to fulfil their teaching commitments.

Despite the many competing demands on the pool, it still manages to provide a comprehensive package of fitness, fun and training sessions to accommodate a diverse spectrum of users. From a transport perspective, it represents a highly sustainable facility. Although I realise that, as an older building it will be less efficient to run, but I would be interested to know how the long term finances compare with the 20? year lifespan of a pool such as the Barbican. Of course an analysis should include a life cycle analysis to incorporate the overall impact of different facilities.

I cannot stress enough how much of loss it would be if Yearsley Pool were to close.

- 34.** My son is a member of York Octopush club and plays every Saturday. He enjoys this sport immensely and has represented York in the

National competitions for the last two years.

I do not know what the club would do without the use of this pool, which is ideal for this sport.

I must impress upon you most sincerely my support to keep this valuable local resource open for all users, not just my son's club.

- 35.** I am unable to attend the meeting about Yearsley pool's future but I strongly believe that it is vital to keep the pool open. It is the only pool of its size so therefore crucial for club swimming in York. It is very well used by those in the local area, swimmers and learners of all ages. There is a requirement to provide swimming for primary schools of which there are a number in the area.

I do not want to see Yearsley close. It is a community pool but also a place which provides a training ground for York's not insubstantial contribution to national swimming. York clubs need to be able to offer full gala space and full length training lanes.

- 36.** Yearsley pool has a great source of emotional value to me and all of my community, as it is our local pool (I am from North Side York), it is a wonderful historic pool (the only 50 yard pool of its age in the North) and it is in an optimum position for the locals, schools and housing. I learnt to swim here as a baby, a child and now as a teenager I am in the octopush team that practices here each Saturday. We all feel very strongly about the possible closure of the pool. As I cannot make the meeting, I hope that you will take my comments into consideration.

- 37.** I swim for an hour plus every Sunday morning at Yearsley Pool. My wife and daughter do aqua aerobics twice a week.

It really is a fantastic pool and I find it is generally busy when I go. It would be a huge loss if it were to close.

- 38.** I am sorry that childcare commitments meant I could not attend the meeting.

I just wanted to express the importance of a 50 yard pool over another 25 metre pool.

I am a triathlete and member of York triathlon club. The events I

compete in require me to swim over 2 miles in open water. There is no wall to push off or hold onto every 25 meters! The value of Yearsley over every other pool in York is that it is twice as long and therefore the only pool you can effectively train for long distance swimming events.

Beyond the training benefits Yearsley is a fantastic historical pool. It is a great experience for everyone who swims there. It is simply unique, an historical and architectural gem in the midst of our fabulous city.

Please, please, please do not close this fantastic facility and replace it with a soulless pool half it's length.

**39.** Apologies for the lateness of the email, I have been at work all day.

I understand there was a meeting today regarding the future of Yearsley pool and its place in the community. Personally I feel Yearsley pool is a staple feature in York. The pool itself has so much history and closing it would be a huge loss to the city's history.

Although the new leisure complex will provide newer facilities, the facilities at Yearsley are fantastic. The range of activities such as aquafit and the almost constant open/lane swims would be a huge tragedy if lost. I myself took swimming lessons there for many years, and so did my siblings. I feel removing this pool will cause an added strain on the new facilities and instantly downgrade any merits the new pool has. The best way to keep a community feel and a surplus of swimming lessons and facilities for all members of the community, from young children to elderly residents, is to keep Yearsley pool open alongside the new facilities. Surely there is a way of running the two simultaneously.

Yearsley pool serves a different part of the city, and its pay-as-you-go style works wonders as there is no obligation, like a membership. I dont think any facility could replace the feel of Yearsley and the style in which is is conducted.

I believe the upkeep of the pool is more beneficial to the community as closing it would make the place and eyesore, and expensive to get rid of. Over the years plenty of work has gone into improving the pool and closing it would make all that effort pointless.

To summarise, I think closing Yearsley pool will alienate most of the

community surrounding the area and will remove a vital social place for a variety of York's residents. I also feel Yearsley is a part of York's history that we shouldn't just abandon in favour of new facilities.

Thank you for your time, I hope Yearsley Pool can stay open for the benefit of all.