



Botley & North Hinksey Parish Council BNHPC



Botley and North Hinksey Parish Council
5 Church Way
West Way
Botley
Oxford
OX2 9TH

03.07.24

Dear Bethia Thomas - Leader of the Vale of White Horse,
Mark Stone – Chief Executive, and
Councillor Sue Caul - Cabinet Member for Housing, Leisure Facilities and Community Buildings

Botley and North Hinksey Parish Council wish to communicate the distress created in the local community by the recent announcement of the closure of the Harcourt Hill swimming pool facility. This facility is a much loved, much needed and much used by our community as well as being used by 12 local schools for essential swimming lessons for children.

We urge you to find a way to keep it open for at least the coming year and to work with all those who can help towards a longer-term solution.

We understand that when Brookes leaves the Harcourt Campus altogether as is proposed for the future there will still be the chance that another body could take over the responsibility of delivering this essential service to our local parishioners. We are keen to work with The Vale of White Horse and whomever else, to make the case for swimming pool provision to remain in our parish in the long term. To this end, the Parish Council is setting up a working group to include members of other local councils and residents and users.

Upon hearing the news of the swimming pool closure, we launched a petition to “Save our Swimming Pool.” This was launched on the 6th of June and has as of today gained **1473 signatures**. The petition is addressed to Brookes and the Vale and specifically asks both bodies to:

- Reconsider the planned closure of the Harcourt Hill pool
- Develop a short-term plan for continued use, and
- Work with the community and the site owners on a long-term solution.

Please find the petition signatures pdf attached.

To quote one of the comments from the petition:

“The pool is a fantastic local facility, I use it regularly as do my family. It’s within walking/ cycling distance for a lot of Botley and Cumnor Hill residents. Swimming is such a valuable form of exercise and the nearest pools are Abingdon and Summertown, neither of which have a direct bus service from Botley.”

We urge you to do everything you can to help to keep the pool open for as long as possible.

Kind Regards
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