

Aspenden Parish Council

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Ward Freman Community Pool Group CIO

Letter of support for Ward Freman Pool from Aspenden Parish Council

Aspenden Parish Council writes to wholeheartly support the application to the Community Ownership Fund (COF) for the Ward Freman Community Pool Group CIO to obtain funding to fix and take on the running of the Ward Freman swimming pool in Buntingford.

Ward Freman Pool has been a longstanding community asset for many years and has provided a wide range of valuable activities from swimming lessons for all ages to aquacise classes, fun sessions and recreational swimming. The facility also enabled swimming to be included as part of the National Curriculum Key Stage 1 & 2 for many local schools as well as a PE facility for the adjoining Freman College.

Buntingford has grown in size exponentially over the last few years with many young families now making up the community. The closure of Ward Freman Pool is a huge loss to the Buntingford community as well as to those in many nearby villages, like Aspenden, who's residents also used this valuable asset having no health or leisure facilities within their own village.

Aspenden Councillor Thomas Poulton remembers having swimming lessons at Ward Freman Pool when he was attending Layston School and some 40 years on his own children had swimming lessons at the pool and continued to enjoy the facility until its closure.

With the current promotion of health and wellbeing to lose a facility that caters to a wide demographic with a range of services and activities to support that is very short sighted. With the development of Active Travel routes and new pathways in and around Buntingford, Ward Freman Pool is easily accessible by foot, bicycle or mobility vehicle. Currently, the nearest pool is in Royston which necessitates travel by car or bus and would preclude many youngsters and older people having independent access to such a facility.

Sent on behalf of Aspenden Parish Council

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