

New swimming pool: questions councillors need to consider

From: Steve Jones, Whitcliffe Avenue, Ripon

WITH regard to the proposal to build a new swimming pool at Camp Close, I hope that Ripon City Council and Harrogate Borough Council will consider the following:

I understand that most of Camp Close is the subject of a covenant which protects it as open space for recreation. Are Ripon councillors certain that if this covenant still exists that it could be altered to allow building to proceed?

If the intention is to use the current facilities of the leisure centre, such as the changing rooms, for the swimming pool as well, would this mean that the pool would be built alongside the existing leisure centre? The two buildings would need to be on the same level as that could mean that the swimming pool would need to be built deep within a newly-excavated hollow. Would such a position be the most favourable site for the pool?

When councillors consulted residents and other interested

parties on the swimming pool proposal, were other sites and options considered?

What response have councillors had from local primary schools, some of which can currently walk their pupils to the Spa Baths?

Are councillors aware that the ground conditions at Camp Close are potentially difficult and providing adequate foundations could be very expensive? How much will a thorough grounds conditions survey cost?