

BINGLEY TOWN COUNCIL



Bingley Town Council, Myrtle Place, Bingley, BD16 2LF

Regeneration of Bingley Pool

Dear Anna,

Bingley Town Council is writing to you in full support of the letters already provided by the Friends of Bingley Pool and the Ward Councillors for Bingley Ward (BMDC).

As you are aware the Levelling Up Fund project 'Revitalising Bingley' was successfully granted the go-ahead in March 2024, to renovate the pool and associated public realm improvements. The project has now been put on hold by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (formerly the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities). Knowing you have already written to ministers to continue this funding, we urge you to continue this effort with further letters and actions until a **decision to proceed** is made.

Bingley has been campaigning to retain its pool for many years. Significant concerns in the community led to the creation of the Friends of Bingley Pool in 2015 to save our pool. The reopening of a pool is a priority for the town as swimming facilities are needed for safety, health and wellbeing as well as being of economic benefit to our community. Bingley is blessed with being on both the Leeds and Liverpool Canal and the River Aire, but our position presents water safety issues, especially for young people, so having a local pool where they can learn to swim is of paramount importance.

Whilst Shipley and Keighley are benefitting from Town's Funds, Ilkley has its Business Improvement District, and Bradford spends millions on regeneration in the city itself, Bingley is noticeable for the absence of regeneration activity.

A pool/leisure facility would bring much needed revenue into the town centre, benefiting our shops, cafes, supermarkets, and bars. Transport links are second to none in the district, with the pool less than five minutes' walk from the train station.

The lack of a pool has a detrimental effect on people's ability to exercise, which has a further impact on mental wellbeing. Thirteen of our schools have lost access to swimming lessons. Sporting clubs that used the facility have had to go elsewhere, leading to a loss of members and an erosion of our community spirit.

Bingley Pool has been at the heart of our town for nearly a hundred years. We urge you to lobby the government to reinstate 'Revitalising Bingley' so that we have a permanent leisure facility which we can be proud of once more.

Kind regards,

Bingley Town Council