

CORRESPONDENCE

From:

Sent: Thursday, May 4, 2023 12:31 PM

To: Town Clerk, Belper Town Council <clerk@belpertowncouncil.gov.uk>

Subject: SAVE BELPER LEISURE CENTRE

Good afternoon.

Please see below, which I have sent to Pauline Latham MP, Nigel Mills MP and David Taylor, Mayor of Amber Valley. Could you please also distribute to the Belper Town Council new / current Mayor and new / current councillors. I appreciate today is election day, but could you please ensure it gets onto the next available agenda.

many thanks

To: pauline.latham.mp@parliament.uk; nigel.mills.mp@parliament.uk;
04/05/2023 10:17

Dear Mrs Pauline Latham MP and Mr Nigel Mills MP.

It is with grave concern that I feel the need to reach out for your assistance as our elected Member of Parliament for Mid Derbyshire and Amber Valley, respectively. I have also written the same to the Mayor of Amber Valley, as the funding and support for the assistance I respectfully request appears to lie there.

My family and I, my wife is 51, eldest son is 15 and youngest 8, have lived in Belper now for 16 years and for all of this time at least one of us has been a member at Belper Leisure Centre. We swim, gym and kickbox around 8 hours per week, over 4 sessions, at the Centre.

My boys will be reliant upon the connection Belper School has with Belper Leisure Centre for at least another 9-10 years. They exercise there, get educated, sit exams and socialise with their friends.

To lose Belper Leisure Centre would be catastrophic loss to the town and region; social impact damage, mental and physical health detriment; carbon emission rise; cost of transportation...the impacts are clear to see for individuals, families, society and community.

Belper has been seen as a poor relation to other Amber Valley towns when it comes to investment in sports and leisure services. We love Belper Leisure Centre, but have to make do with a dilapidated 50 year old building. We look at Ripley, Heanor and Alfreton Leisure Centres with a degree of envy, but to expect us to incur cost and time to attend classes and exercise at these centres is simply not an option. We live very centrally in Belper, so for us, Ripley Leisure Centre is a 11 mile / 30 minute round trip; Heanor Leisure Centre is a 13 mile / 45 minute round trip and Alfreton Leisure Centre is a 16 mile / 40 minute. It speaks for itself; we do 4 trips to Belper Leisure Centre each week. Consider the time / impact on our mental health and the cost of fuel / CO2 impact for us alone. Consider the same for the other constituents who use Belper Leisure Centre and will be forced to look otherwise. It simply makes no sense but to support the vital community resource that Belper Leisure Centre

affords. If the Council cannot support Belper Leisure Centre, then I would like to hear the reasoning in a public forum.

Please take this matter with urgency, as it appears time is not on the side of Belper Leisure Centre.

yours sincerely,