

*Dear Councillor Warren,*

When we heard last December that the HLF had turned down the Cleveland Pools Trust's application for Stage 2 funding, we wrote to the CPT proposing a fundamental re-think of what we are trying to achieve, and how best to achieve it, led by BathNES Council, with the full participation of the local community here. There was no response. The Cleveland Pools Immediate Neighbours put together their own alternative proposals for the future of the Pools, which they sent to BathNES Cabinet members seeking a discussion with you to develop them further, and the subsequent discussion was quite constructive. However, in March the CPT sent a circular around the Bathwick Estate, saying that the HLF had encouraged them to apply again, and that the HLF and B&NES had confirmed that they would only support the CPT scheme. The CPT also said that while they had been informed of the Bathwick Estate Residents' Association's opposition to the scheme, they had no way of knowing if this was a true expression of feeling from all locals.

We concluded from this that the most useful thing we as BERA could do was to conduct an opinion survey of the whole Bathwick Estate to gauge support for the restoration of the Cleveland Pools and elicit comment from all local residents. We drafted a set of questions and covering letter with the assistance of our Ward Councillor Richard Samuel (who has remained neutral on the Pools issue) to ensure fairness. One survey letter/ questionnaire was delivered to the addresses of each of the 674 Bathwick Estate residents on the Electoral Roll in early July, on paper colour-coded by street area to enable us to see how opinion varied around the Estate. (A copy of the survey letter is attached for information.) We have now collated the results.

I am delighted to say that we received 222 responses, a 33% response rate, which is very high for this type of survey, and provides a deep insight into local attitudes. The overall picture was that 79% of those responding wanted the Pools restored. But when asked if CPT Plans, taking account of local impacts, would be good for the Bathwick Estate, 28% said Yes, and 67% said No. The equivalent figures for the CPIN's plans were 59% Yes, and 34% No. The attached table shows the detailed results for all the questions, including the variation by street area. Most areas follow the same broad pattern, with the River Flats (furthest from the Pools) and Hampton Row area (closest) outliers, both on views and turnout.

We also invited comments and received a great wealth of feedback. Our summary of this feedback is also attached. However, we are aware of the issues that can arise over the interpretation of this kind of material, so a complete transcription of all the commentary received, by road area of the source, is also attached, so that you or others can also analyse it further if you so wish.

We undertook this survey because we thought it was important for the Council, HLF, CPT and others to have a good understanding of opinion on the Bathwick Estate on the Pools issue, and to take account of it before decisions are made, as we will be most affected by what is decided. You now have the results of the only systematic survey of opinion ever taken on the Bathwick Estate about all this, and the outcome is clear. While there is strong support for restoring the Pools in some way, the CPT scheme is not acceptable to the local community. Please respect these views. We are ready to work with you and others to find an acceptable alternative way forward.

I am writing in similar terms to other BathNES Cabinet Members, Councillor Anketell-Jones, our Ward Councillors, the CPT, HLF, and other interested parties.

*Your sincerely,*

*Charles Draper*

*Chairman*

*Bathwick Estate Residents' Association.*