



# Media Release

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pr1095.save our paddling pools.doc    DATE: 6 January 2005

## Save our paddling pools: plea

New guidance on paddling pools could be the death knell for these facilities a Council has warned.

The national Pool Water Treatment Advisory Group (PWTAG) has given the thumbs down to manual chlorination of paddling pools - guidance points providers to installing an expensive automatic filtration system. Coupled to this is guidance from the Health & Safety Executive (HSE), which directs Councils towards full-time supervision of paddling pools. The bill for Harrogate District's three paddling pools would come to £223,000 with £25,000 every year for running costs.

Faced with these massive changes to satisfy the national guidance and Health & Safety regulations, Harrogate Council's Cabinet was forced to close the three paddling pools.

Councillor Pat Jones, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Amenity Services, said: "A blizzard of guidelines and directions from quangos has overwhelmed common sense and forced closure of our much-loved paddling pools. Paddling is one of those things we took for granted as children but faceless bureaucrats who probably don't know our district even has paddling pools have put a stop to that."

The Council has written to the Government to make them aware of Harrogate District's plight calling for a rethink on the regulations.

Councillor Jones continued: "We need the government to help us preserve what has been a pleasure to children for generations. If they refuse to listen to our pleas the pools will have to close."

**Ends.**

**Further information: Councillor Pat Jones - 01423 872466**