

**4. Question from Mr Steve Grist, Chairman, Herefordshire Association of School Governors**

*I can still remember the feeling, at age five years, of slipping under the surface of the River Roding. I can still see my father diving into the river, fully clothed, dragging me to the surface and emptying my lungs of water. A year later I nearly drowned in the sea and again my father pulled me out of the waves. By the age of six years I was terrified of rivers, the sea and any expanse of open water. My father was, understandably totally fed up with pulling me out of those expanses of water, half drowned. The remedy was quite clear, that being that I should attend the LEA swimming pool to learn to swim.*

*It was a very cold summer and the LEA pool was an open pool. I shivered for six weeks gradually developing the confidence to move away from the side of the pool. Then I took a few strokes, then I swam..... and at the end of the summer holiday I was able to swim three hundred yards. Not only was I now able to swim and be safe around water but I developed a sense of confidence and self esteem that carried on into other areas of sport and learning.*

*It is essential that the children of Herefordshire have the same access to a swimming pool that I had. The Hereford Leisure Pool does not meet the requirements for teaching a child to swim, and I am aware that it is incumbent upon schools to teach each child to swim a minimum of twenty five metres. The majority of school governors are parents and they are adamant that their children are taught to swim from an early age. Herefordshire, after all is a County with a large river flowing through it and a number of very swift flowing tributaries. The Hereford Local Authority Pool must be re-opened, and rapidly. It provides both a life saving and educational service to our children.*

- 4 *A recent questionnaire to school governors poses the question, how will they as governors fulfil their obligations ensuring that children are taught to swim the requisite twenty five metres. I believe that question should now be posed to Herefordshire Council, that being how do they mean to provide the facilities, the LEA pool, whereby children may be taught to swim?*