



Haslingden Swimming Pool Options Consultation Report 2013



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1 Executive Summary

The latest Rossendale Council citizen's survey was undertaken with residents across the entire borough. The aim of the survey was to determine views on two specific options that the Council has identified to help solve a funding shortfall with the leisure facilities. These views will be used to help influence the final outcome.

A six page survey was posted to 380 members of the citizens' panel in Rossendale, and a further 389 panel members were sent an electronic invitation, on 16 January 2013. A reminder was sent out in late February to 524 panel members. The survey was also promoted on the Council's website and across several community groups. Fieldwork ended on 31st March 2013. In total 784 responses were received (including 18 Marl Pits users comments forms and two unknown respondent types).

The following is based on those that responded to the consultation, which reached wider than just citizen panel members. Percentages are based on the number of respondents that answered each question. Respondents may not have answered all questions and this is reflected in the 'base' number at the bottom of each chart.

1.1 General HSP swim users/other interested parties (635)

- 46% of the general swim users currently use Haslingden pool to swim
- 72% use it at least weekly
- 66% travel to the pool by car
- 39% currently use other leisure facilities in the borough to swim
- 81% of non users support option 1 (transfer of ownership)
- 80% of users support option 1
- 52% of users believe that option 1 would have a direct impact on them
 - Mainly that the pool will stay open but that prices may increase
- Willingness to accept small changes to prices, water time allocation and opening times
- 72% of users would be highly affected by closing the pool (9% for non users)
- 36% would be able to use another pool nearby
 - 46% would not

1.2 Swim session group users (114)

- 80% use the pool only (19% use the pool and health suite)
- Children's swimming lessons are the most popular group
- 98% use the pool at least weekly
- 62% travel to the pool by car
- 20% use other leisure facilities in the borough to swim
- 84% agree with option 1 (transferring ownership)
- 55% believe option 1 would have a direct impact on them
 - Mainly that it would ensure that they could continue swimming but that costs may increase
- Willingness to accept changes to opening times and water time allocation but lower willingness to accept price increases
- 89% would be highly affected by closing the pool
- 21% would be able to use another pool nearby
 - 58% would not
- 41% would not/ could not go to any alternative swim time arranged for them at Marl Pits

1.3 Schools (15)

- 82% travel to the pool by bus
- 33% use other Leisure Trust facilities in the borough to swim
- 80% support option 1 (transfer of ownership)
- 53% believe that option 1 would have a direct impact on their school
 - Mainly due to increased costs and reduced availability of time slots
- Willingness to accept changes to opening times but a lower willingness to accept changes to prices and water time allocation
- 80% of schools in the area would be affected by closing the pool
- 40% would be able to use another facility nearby
 - 33% would not
- 79% (11 of 14 schools) would like the council to re-arrange their swim sessions if the pool was to close. One did not answer.

1.4 Marl Pits users (18)

- Strong preference to keep Haslingden pool open to avoid over crowding at Marl Pits

2 Background and Methodology

2.1 Background

Councils all over the country are in the midst of streamlining and even cutting many of their services. One such decision for Rossendale is about the future of the leisure provision.

To help make the decision about how the future provision of leisure should operate, Rossendale Council commissioned a survey to gather residents' views on two specific options that have been previously identified by the Council. These are:

- 1) Transfer ownership of Haslingden Swimming Pool
- 2) Closing Haslingden Swimming Pool

The information from the survey will be used to help the Council make the most appropriate decision.

2.2 Objectives

The specific objectives of the survey are as follows:

- Understand users and non users views on the above two options;
- Understand the impact on users and how they could be potentially accommodated
- Understand the impact on neighbouring pool users such as Marl Pits;
- Understand the impact on schools and how they might best be potentially accommodated;

2.3 Methodology

The citizen's survey was sent by post to 380 citizens' panel members on 16 January 2013 (389 additional panel members were invited to complete the survey online via an e mail invitation). A reminder was sent on 18 February to 524 panel members, with a final closing date of 31 March.

The citizens' panel is a list of local residents from across the borough who have registered their interest in community engagement. As a result, they are an active audience who respond well. This approach also ensures that associated survey costs are kept to a minimum.

However, citizens' panels do have their weaknesses, namely that they can become 'conditioned' and also that they are not representative of the wider population. To help offset these drawbacks, invitations to take part in the survey were sent to pool users, and various community groups. The survey was also promoted in the public domain on the Council's website and via the Council's facebook page. The data has also been weighted to ensure that the results are more representative of the borough population.

2.4 Robustness of the data

How well the sample represents the population is gauged by two important statistics – the survey's margin of error and confidence level. For example, this survey has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5% at a 95 percent level of confidence. This means that if the survey was conducted 100 times, the data would be within 3.5 percentage points above or below the percentage reported in 95 of the 100 surveys (see figure 2.1 below). Typically 3% is considered to be a 'good' margin of error.

Figure 2.1: Margins of error at 95% confidence

Survey Sample Size	Margin of Error Percent
784	+/- 3.5%
700	+/- 3.7
500	+/- 4.4
250	+/- 6.2
100	+/- 9.8

3 Demographic composition

3.1 Gender

The un-weighted split of male and female respondents was slightly biased towards females. The impact of weighting the data has ensured that the split is much more even and in line with the composition of the borough.

Figure 3.1: Gender

Gender	Un-weighted	Weighted	Borough actual
Male	40%	49%	49%
Female	60%	51%	51%

Source: Rossendale Leisure Review 2013, Q23

3.2 Age

Given the low numbers of younger respondents, it was not possible to weight the under 30 age group in line with the actual borough percentage (having done so would have led to unreliably high weightings being applied to a small group of respondents). As a result, after the weighting, the youngest age group account for just over a fifth of all responses whilst the influence of the 60-69 age group has been suppressed to 18%. The impact of the weighting here has ensured that the analysis by age is much more reliable (as the weighted column is much closer to the actual borough column).

Figure 3.2: Age

Age group	Un-weighted	Weighted	Borough actual
Under 30	7%	15%	22%

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30-49	29%	35%	35%
50-59	19%	18%	16%
60-69	30%	18%	15%
70+	15%	14%	12%

Source: Rossendale Leisure Review 2013, Q24

3.3 Disability

Encouragingly the un-weighted split of disabled and non disabled respondents was very close to the actual borough split. The impact of weighting the data was simply to ensure that adjusting for gender age and ethnicity did not have a detrimental impact on the table below.

Figure 3.3: Disability

Disability	Un-weighted	Weighted	Borough actual
Yes	18%	18%	19%
No	82%	82%	81%

Source: Rossendale Leisure Review 2013, Q25

3.4 Ethnicity

Very few responses were received from residents from a BME ethnic background. The data has been weighted slightly to give BME respondents a greater influence but given the very small numbers this group could not be weighted enough to get close to the borough actual.

Figure 3.4: Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Un-weighted	Weighted	Borough actual
White	99%	98%	94%
BME	1%	2%	6%

Source: Rossendale Leisure Review 2013, Q27

3.5 Employment status

The data was not weighted by employment status but in most cases in the table below, the impact of the weighting has had a positive effect. FT work is much closer to the borough % whilst those classified as retired has also fallen closer to the borough % after the weight has been applied.

Figure 3.5: Employment status

Status	Un-weighted	Weighted	Borough actual
FT work	32%	38%	40%
PT work	13%	14%	14%
Self employed	7%	6%	10%
Govt scheme	0%	0%	n/a

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FT education	3%	8%	3%
Unemployed	1%	2%	4%
Carer	4%	3%	n/a
Unable to work	2%	3%	5%
Retired	39%	29%	15%
Looking after the home	4%	4%	4%
Not answered	1%	1%	n/a

Source: Rossendale Leisure Review 2013, Q3

4 Results comparison

This section is designed to provide an 'at a glance' comparison of those questions that were asked of all three of the following respondent types:

- General HSP swim users / other interested parties
- Swim session users
- Schools

The detailed results for each of these respondents types can be found in sections 5-7 below.

Question	General HSP users / other interested parties	Swim session	Schools
How do you usually travel to Haslingden pool?	66% - car 30% - walk 5% - bus	62% - car 24% - walk 15% - bus	82% - bus 18% - walk
Do you use any other facilities?	61% - no 39% - yes	80% - no 20% - yes	67% - no 33% - yes
Do you agree or disagree with option 1 (transfer of ownership)?	80% agree	84% agree	80% agree
Will option 1 have a direct impact on you?	52% - yes	55% - yes	53% - yes
Acceptability of price increases	86% support	75% support	58% support
Acceptability of changes to opening times	92% support	93% support	92% support
Acceptability of changes to water time allocation	88% support	90% support	77% support
What impact would option 2 (closing the pool) have on you?	72% - high 3% - not at all	89% - high 0% - not at all	47% - high 7% - not at all
Would you be able to use another pool facility nearby?	46% - no 36% - yes	58% - no 21% - yes	33% - no 40% - yes

5 Detailed Research Findings – general HSP swim users / other interested parties

General Haslingden Swimmign Pool (HSP) user and any other interested parties (to be referred to as ‘general users’) were invited to have their say on the proposals being explored for the future of Haslingden swimming pool. Anyone could take part, regardless of whether you used the pool or not. However, much more detailed questions were asked of those who use the pool as these people will be the most affected and will be the ones that will make any transfer of ownership successful. In total, 635 members of the general users took part in the consultation.

The table below highlights the geographic location of these 635 general user’s responses.

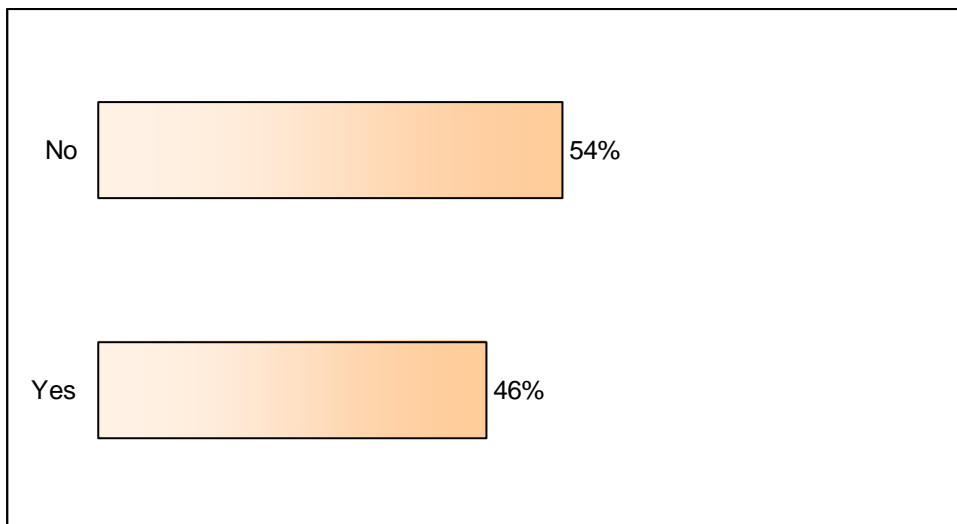
Ward	% of general user responses
Baxenden	0.4%
Cribden	5.4%
Eden	5.1%
Facit and Shawforth	3.2%
Goodshaw	5.3%
Greenfield	16.5%
Greensclough	5.6%
Hareholme	7.2%
Healey and Whitworth	3.5%
Helmshore	18.0%
Huncoat	0.2%
Irwell	3.0%
Longholme	9.3%
Milnshaw	0.2%
Peel	0.2%
Stacksteads	3.3%
Whitewell	4.0%

5.1 Pool usage

Q1 – Do you currently use the Haslingden swimming pool (HSP) to swim?

Just under half of those who responded from the general user category currently use the pool to swim. This is higher for women and those aged under 50.

Figure 5.1: Usage of HSP



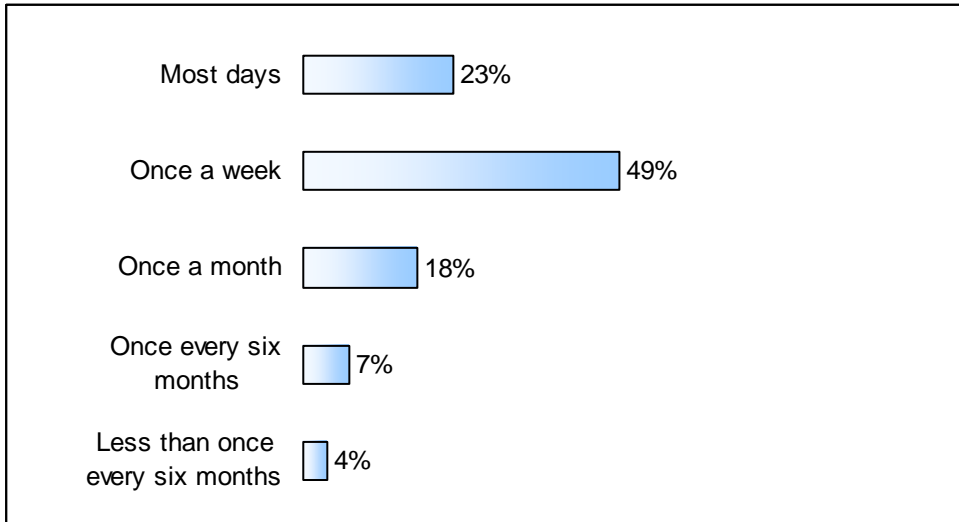
Source: Rossendale Leisure Review 2013, Q1 Base: 551

Q2 – How frequently would you say that you use the pool in Haslingden?

Of those who use the pool, 72% use it at least once a week. Very few residents use the pool less than monthly.

Figure 5.2: Frequency of use

Appendix 3

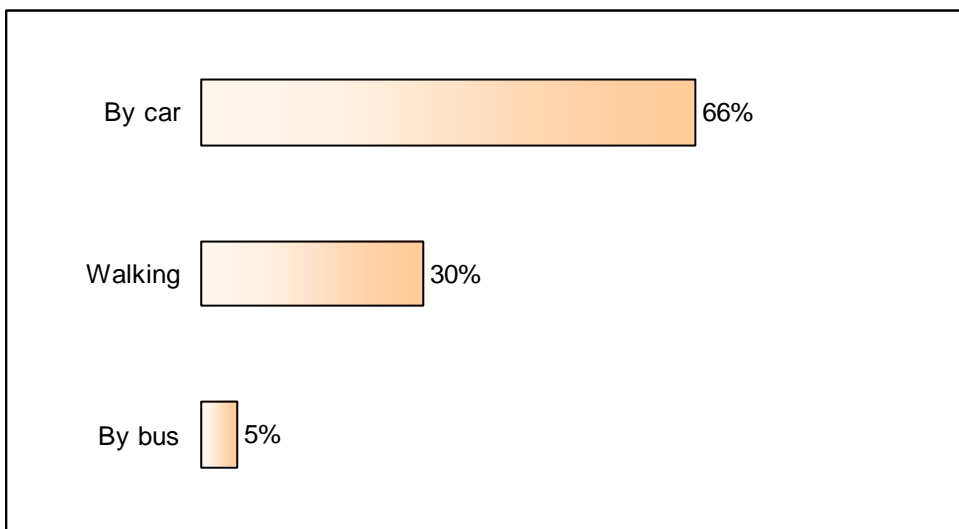


Source: Rossendale Leisure Review 2013, Q2 Base: 247

Q6 – How do you usually access/ travel to HSP?

Two thirds of those who use Haslingden pool use their car to transport them (lower for those aged 70+ but higher for those aged 30-49). Walking is also a popular means of transport, accounting for 30% of all visits (higher for those aged 70+). Bus accounts for very few visits to the pool.

Figure 5.3: Means of accessing HSP

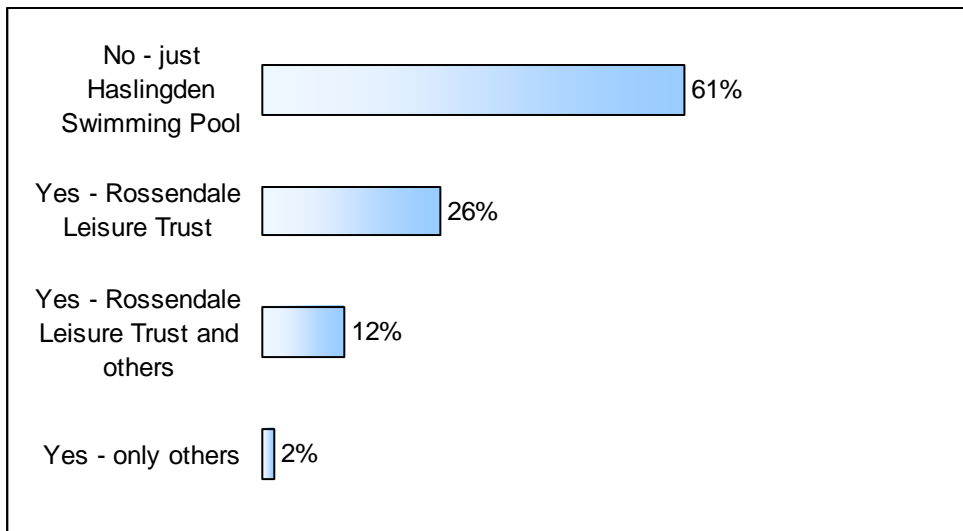


Source: Rossendale Leisure Review 2013, Q6 Base: 231

Q7 – Do you use any of the other Rossendale Leisure Trust facilities in the valley, or other leisure facilities nearby, to swim?

The vast majority of HSP users stated that the only use Haslingden pool – 61% use only Haslingden pool to swim. There is some usage of wider Rossendale Leisure Trust facilities but beyond this, usage of other facilities is low.

Figure 5.4: Wider use of leisure facilities



Source: Rossendale Leisure Review 2013, Q7 Base: 245

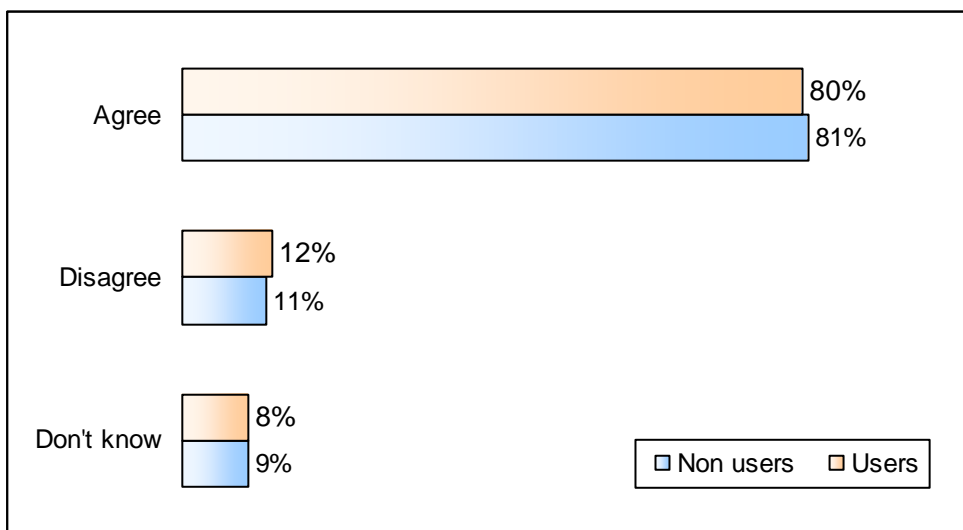
5.2 Option 1 – transferring ownership

As part of the consultation, respondents were presented with two options that the Council has identified as potential solutions to the funding shortfall. The first of these is to transfer ownership of Haslingden pool to another party.

Q8 – One option being considered is to look at transferring ownership/ responsibility of HSP. Do you agree or disagree with this option if it meant that the pool remained open?

If it meant that the pool remained open, 80% of users and 81% of non users would agree with transferring ownership. This is favoured more for those aged 30-59 but less for those aged 70+. Few people seem to disagree with the option with a small proportion not being able to decide wither way.

Figure 5.5: Level of agreement with option 1



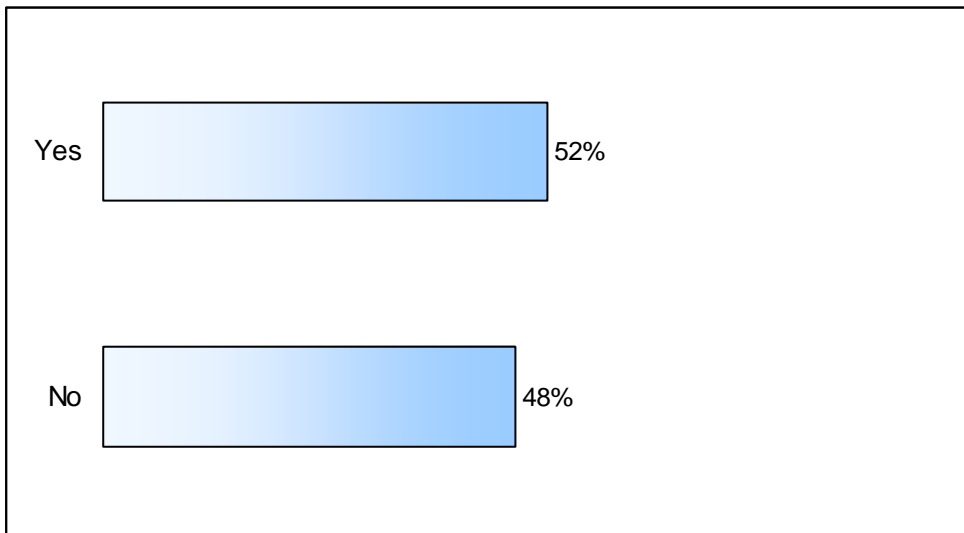
Source: Rossendale Leisure Review 2013, Q8 and Q3 Base (users): 248 Base (non users): 298

Q9 – Do you feel that option 1 (transferring ownership) would directly impact on you?

Just over half are of the opinion that transferring ownership will have a direct impact upon them. The reasons for this include:

- Greater feeling of longer term security (positive)
- It will mean that the pool remains open in some guise (positive)
- Likely result in increased charges (negative)
- Uncertainty around changes and the impact on current membership (negative)
- May have to travel further to use other pools (negative)

Figure 5.6: Whether transferring ownership would have an impact

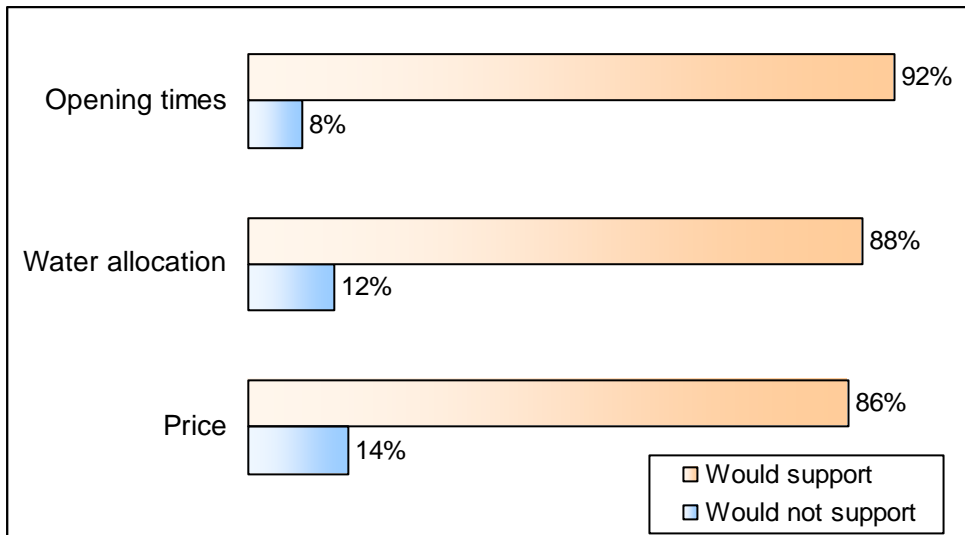


Source: Rossendale Leisure Review 2013, Q9 Base: 244

Q11 – If a transfer to a third party was pursued and some changes were necessary to ensure that it was sustainable/ financially viable, please tell us which of the following you would support.

As already alluded to under Q9 above, there is a strong degree of flexibility if it means that local residents retain access to their pool. The vast majority would accept small changes to the price, opening hours and water time allocation if it meant that the pool did not close down.

Figure 5.7: Acceptability of potential changes



Source: Rossendale Leisure Review 2013, Q11 Base: 243

Q11 – What might we be able to practically do to reduce the impact of option 1 on you?

The most common response to this question was to keep the pool open. Clearly the Council will endeavour to do this as far as is reasonably possible. A few other suggestions to help reduce the impact include:

- Fund raise to try and keep it open
- Improve the local bus service to help people get to and from Marl Pits
- Discuss the options in greater detail with the pool users
- Provide transitional funding to any new owners
- Look into making better use of corporate sponsorship

5.3 Option 2 – closing Haslingden pool

Q14 – If Haslingden pool had to close and you were no longer able to use the pool there, to what degree would this impact on you directly?

As you would expect, the impact of closing the pool would be at its greatest for those who currently use the facility. 72% of pool users would be impacted a lot by any potential closure. This impact is at its highest for those aged 50-59 whilst for those aged under 30 the impact is relatively lower. So why would the closure of the pool have such a large impact?

- It would be difficult to access alternative pools
- Concern that Marl Pits would be unable to cope with the additional demand
- Cost of time of accessing other pools
- Health of the local area would suffer

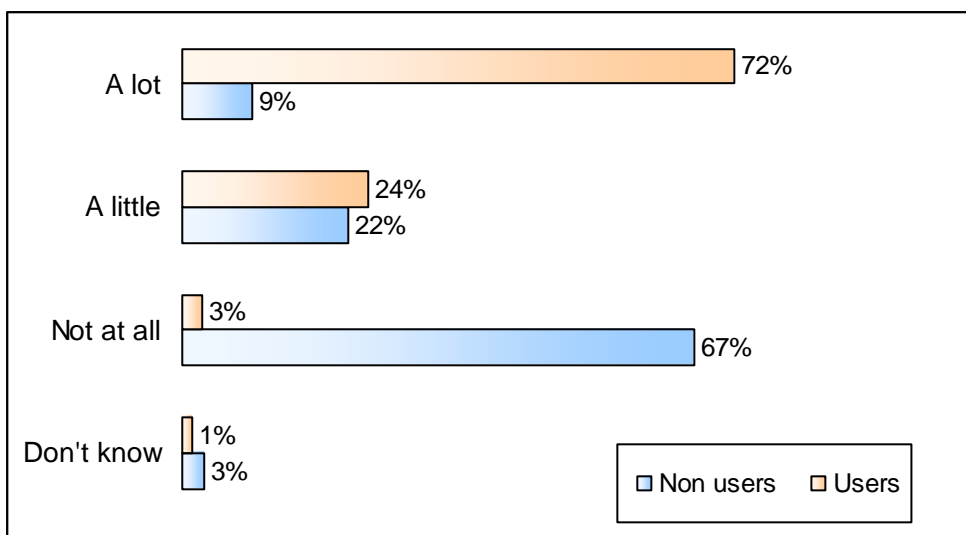
Appendix 3

- Marl Pits is seen to be too 'play' like and too shallow at one end for proper swimming
- There is no venue in the valley with the same facilities as Haslingden pool

That said, over 30% of non users would also be affected in some way by any potential pool closure. Here are the reasons why:

- Users of Marl Pits fear that their pool will suddenly become extremely busy
- Fear that children and grandchildren will lose an important local facility and that many children will grow up without a vital life skill
- Many non users intend to use their local pool in the future when their timetable and/or health permits it
- There is no health suite available anywhere else in the valley
- The pool helps to keep children fit and active and away from the television
- Seen to have an impact on wider family members, including older members who might struggle to access alternative venues

Figure 5.8: Impact of closing Haslingden pool



Source: Rossendale Leisure Review 2013, Q14 Base (users): 250 Base (non users): 297

Q16 – Would you be able to use another pool facility nearby?

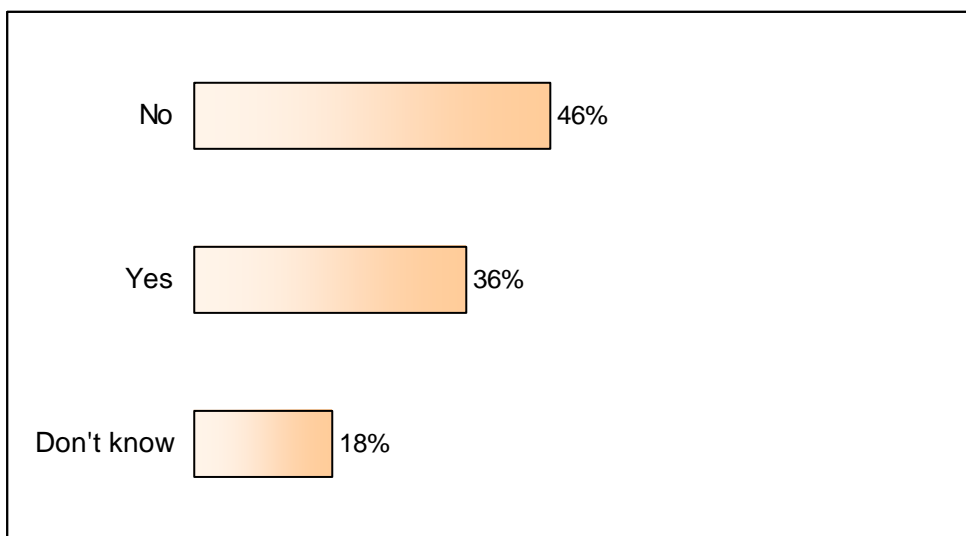
Appendix 3

This is an important question for understanding the impact of a potential closure and 36% state that they would be able to use another facility. This is higher for those aged 50-59 but considerably lower for those aged 70+.

However, the greatest proportion (46%) of respondents state that they would be unable to use another facility nearby. This is predominantly an issue for those aged 60+. So what is it that affects the ability to use an alternative pool?

- Difficulties in accessing other pools
- Cost of travel too high
- Time of travel an issue (irregular buses)
- Not enough available swim time at Marl Pits

Figure 5.9: Usage of alternative local pool facilities



Source: Rossendale Leisure Review 2013, Q16 Base: 244

Q18 – What might we be able to practically do to reduce the impact of option 2 on you?

Here are the main actions that residents identified as helping to reduce the impact of option 2:

- Keep the pool open
- Build a new pool at Haslingden sports centre
- Ensure swim lessons carry on as normal
- Extend the opening hours of Marl Pits
- Put on a (free) bus transfer to Marl Pits
- Reduce the cost of swimming at Marl Pits to compensate for the cost of getting there

6 Detailed Research Findings – user groups

Along with general HSP swim users, those who attend specific swim groups at Haslingden pool were invited to have their say. Colleagues at the Leisure Trust were promoting the consultation during January – March 2013 and encouraged people to complete a paper questionnaire. In total, 114 residents who attend a specific swim session took part in the consultation.

The map below provides a visual representation of where each of the swim group respondents are geographically located.

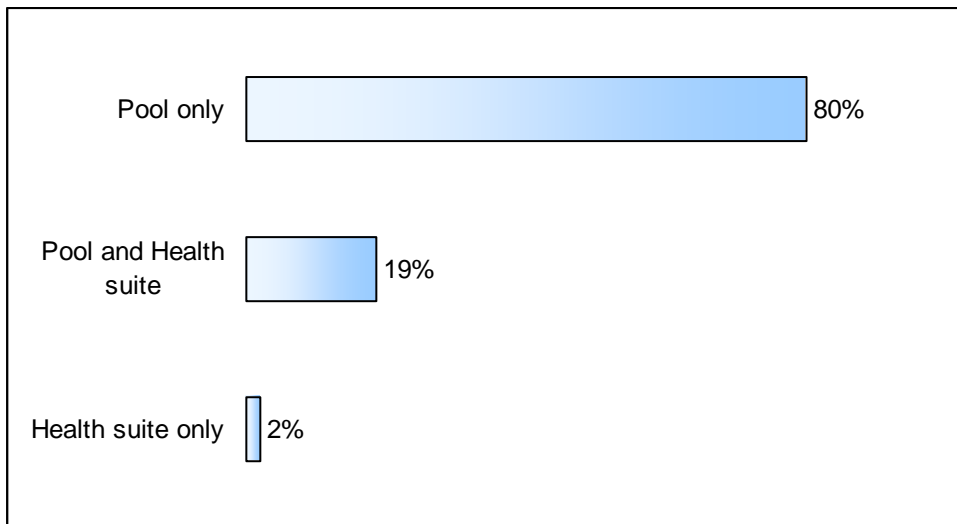


6.1 Pool usage

Q1 – What facilities do you currently use at Haslingden pool?

The vast majority (80%) of those who attend a specific swim session tend to use the pool only. This is higher for those aged under 30. Just under a fifth tend to use both the pool and the health suite. This is higher for those aged 50-59 and 70+.

Figure 6.1: Usage of Haslingden pool



Source: Rossendale Leisure Review 2013, Q1 Base: 97

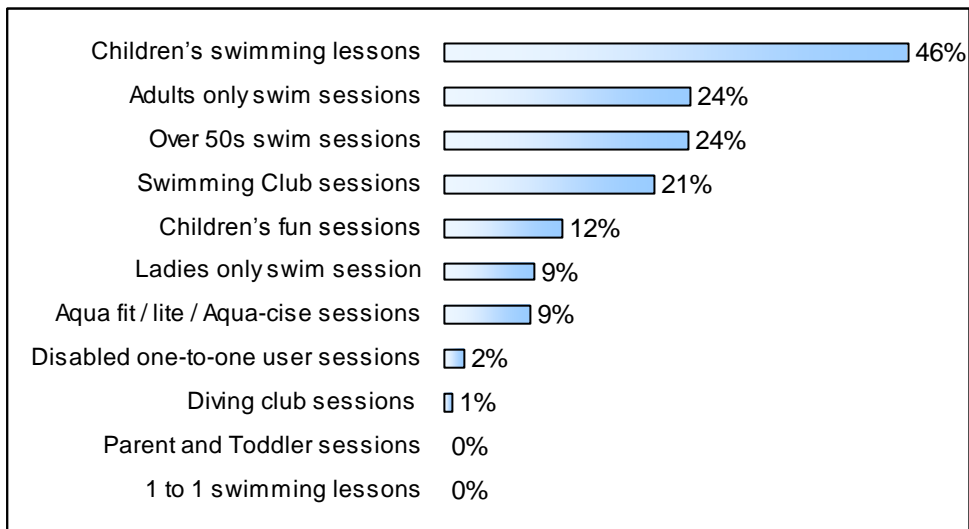
Q2 – Please tell us which of the following you attend?

The most popular swim session seems to be the children’s swimming lessons. 46% of respondents make use of this service, and the percentage is higher for those aged under 50.

Both the adult only and over 50s swim sessions are also popular, with just under a quarter of respondents taking part in these sessions. The latter is more popular for those aged 50-59 and for residents without a disability whilst the latter is more popular for the 60-69 age group.

Trying to retain these popular swim sessions will be important for the community and a challenge for the Council, regardless of which option is ultimately chosen.

Figure 6.2: Specific sessions attended



Source: Rossendale Leisure Review 2013, Q2 Base: 95

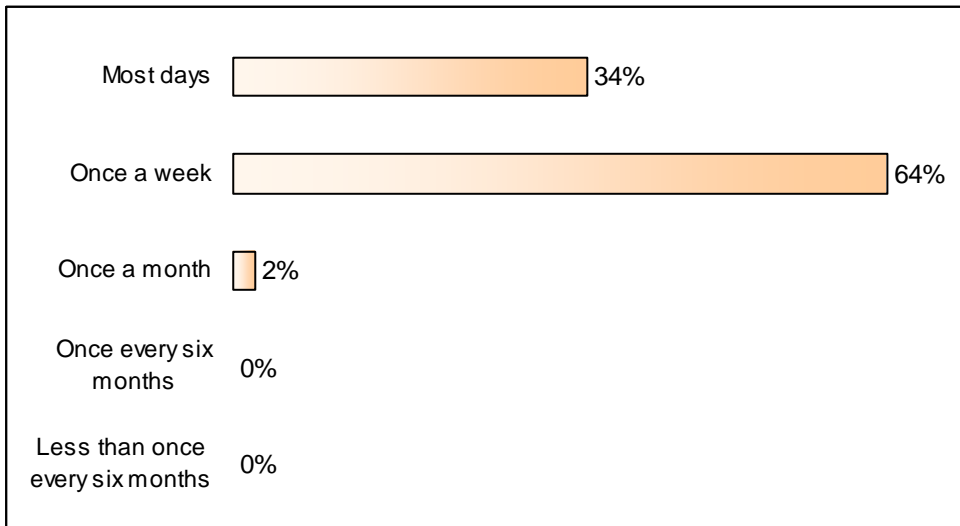
Q3 – How frequently would you say you use Haslingden pool?

The evidence suggests that if you attend a swim session, you will attend at least once a week. 98% of current swim session users attend at least on a weekly basis. Attendance seems to be more frequent for those aged 50+ and for residents without a disability.

It interesting to note that for those who use the pool but not the specific swim sessions, frequency of use falls to 72% at least weekly (see figure 4.2 above). Clearly, this has implications for the Leisure Trust – if efforts can be made to advertise swim sessions and to encourage people to attend, revenues should increase as well as customer loyalty.

Figure 6.3: Frequency of use

Appendix 3

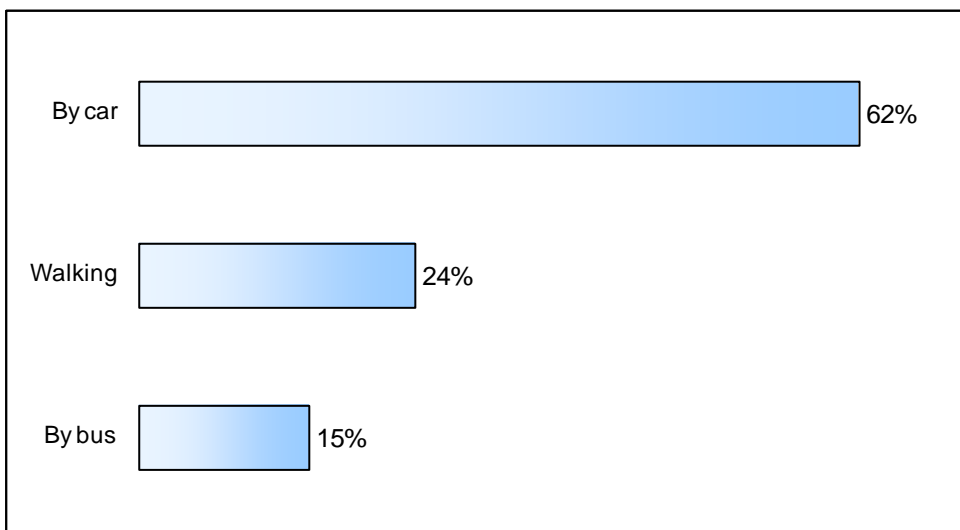


Source: Rossendale Leisure Review 2013, Q3 Base: 100

Q4 – How do you usually access/ travel to Haslingden pool?

62% of swim session users get to Haslingden pool via a car. This is higher for women, those aged 30-49 and residents without a disability. Walking is a more popular choice for those aged 70+ whilst public transport is more popular amongst those under 30 and residents with a disability.

Figure 6.4: Means of transport

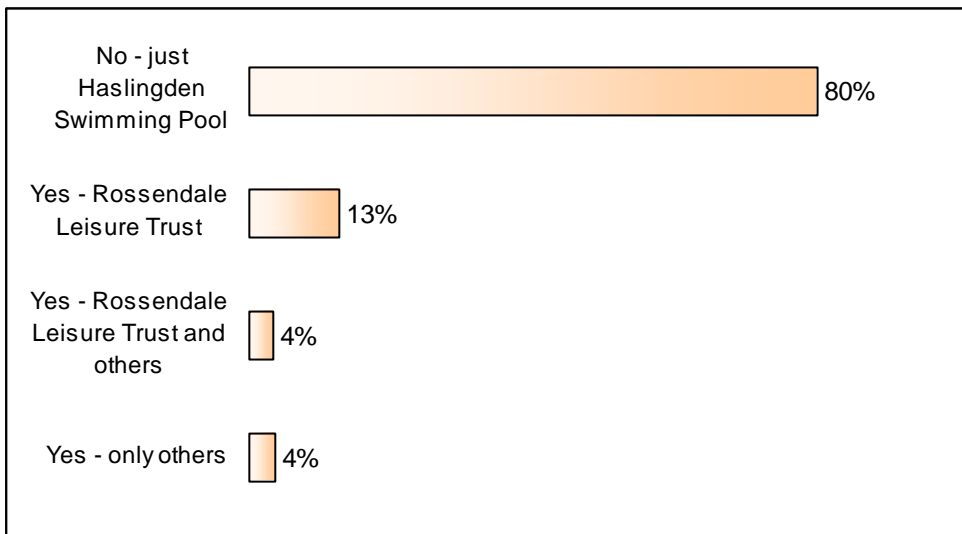


Source: Rossendale Leisure Review 2013, Q4 Base: 93

Q5 – Do you use any other Rossendale Leisure Trust facility in the valley, or other leisure facilities nearby to swim?

For swim session users, use of Haslingden pool only is extremely high. 80% use only Haslingden pool, higher for residents with a disability.

Figure 6.5: Wider use of leisure facilities



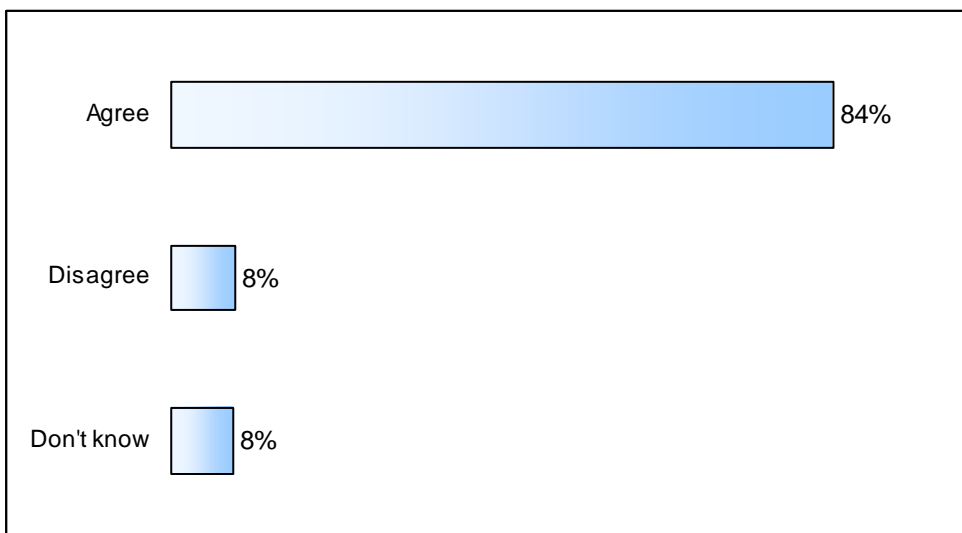
Source: Rossendale Leisure Review 2013, Q5 Base: 99

6.2 Option 1 – transferring ownership

Q6 – One option being considered is to look at transferring ownership/ responsibility of Haslingden pool. Do you agree or disagree with this option if it meant that the pool remained open?

84% of swim session users agree with the proposal to transfer ownership if it means that the pool remains open. This is higher for men and those under the age of 30.

Figure 6.6: Level of agreement with option 1



Source: Rossendale Leisure Review 2013, Q6 Base: 99

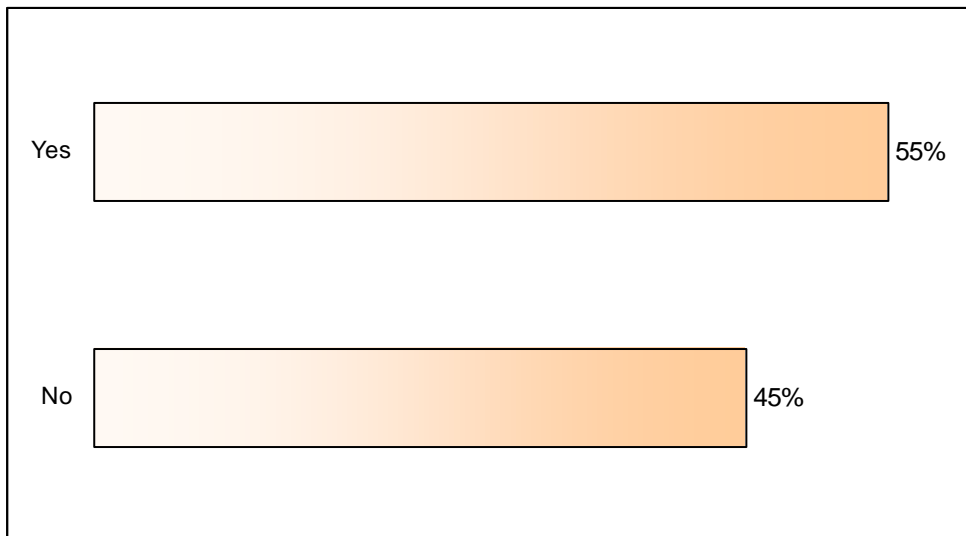
Q7 – Do you feel that option 1 (transfer of ownership) would directly impact on you?

55% believe that transferring ownership will directly impact upon them. This is higher for those aged under 30 and for residents with a disability.

Here are the reasons why:

- Costs may increase
- Could continue swimming
- Jobs would be kept
- New owners might be able to improve the facility

Figure 6.7: Whether option 1 will have a direct impact



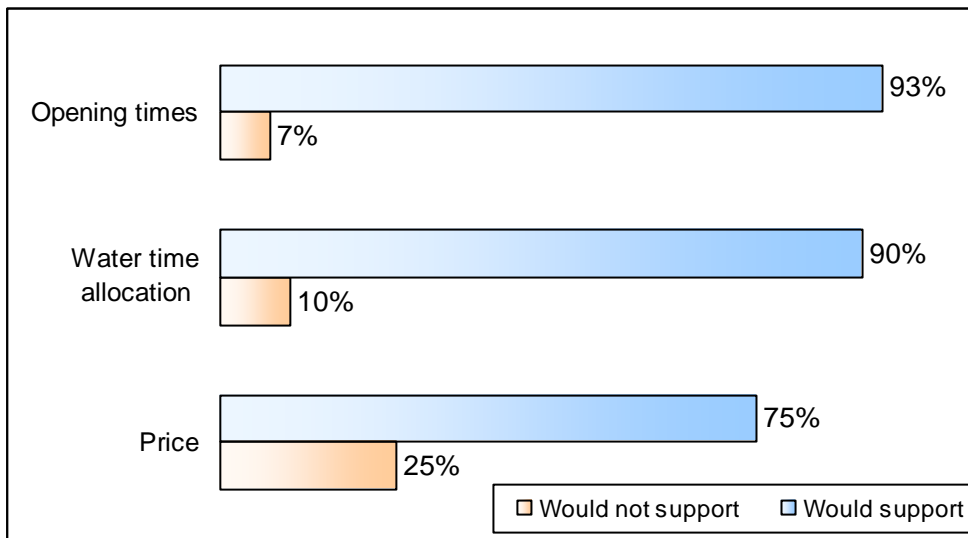
Source: Rossendale Leisure Review 2013, Q7 Base: 96

Q9 – If a transfer to a third party was pursued and some changes were necessary to ensure that it was sustainable/ financially viable, please tell us which of the following you would support.

Most swim session users would support changes to opening times and water time allocation if it meant that the pool remains open. 93% would support changes to opening times (lower for those aged 50-59) whilst 90% would support changes to water time allocation.

However, price changes would be met with greater resistance, despite 75% of respondents supporting this potential change (lower for those aged under 30 and for residents with a disability).

Figure 6.8: Level of support for potential changes



Source: Rossendale Leisure Review 2013, Q9 Base: 99

Q11 – What might be able to practically do to reduce the impact of option 1 on you?

Here are some of the main suggestions that were provided:

- Keep the pool open
- Build a new pool
- Minimise any changes to terms and conditions (i.e. prices, opening hours)
- Give new owners some financial help
- Improve transport connections to Marl Pits

6.3 Option 2 - closing Haslingden pool

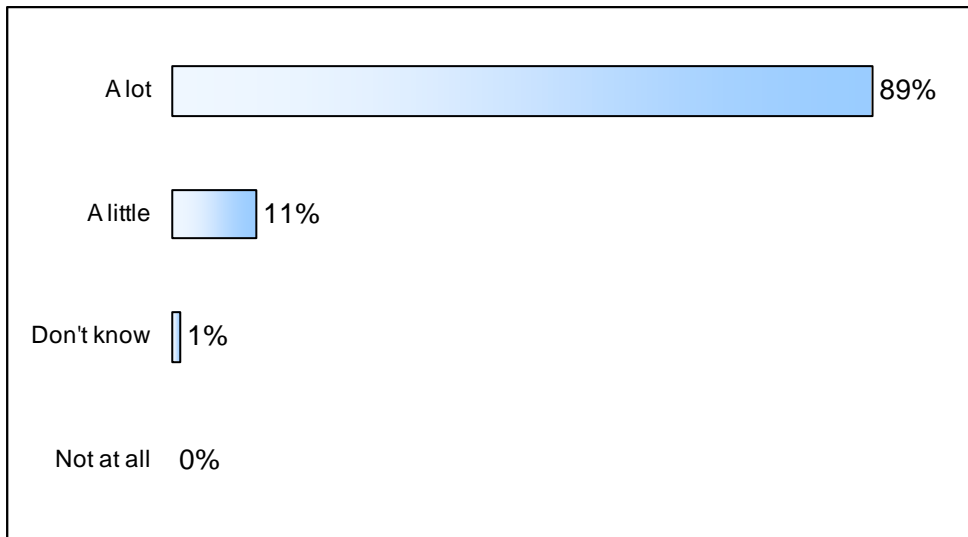
Q12 – If Haslingden pool had to close and you were no longer able to use the pool there, to what degree would this impact on you directly?

89% of swim session users would be directly impacted if Haslingden pool had to close. This is higher for those with a disability.

Here are the main reasons why it would have an impact:

- Would no longer be able to swim
- Would lose out on the social aspect of swimming
- Additional cost and time or trying to get to alternative facilities
- Health would deteriorate

Figure 6.9: Impact of potentially closing Haslingden pool



Source: Rossendale Leisure Review 2013, Q12 Base: 100

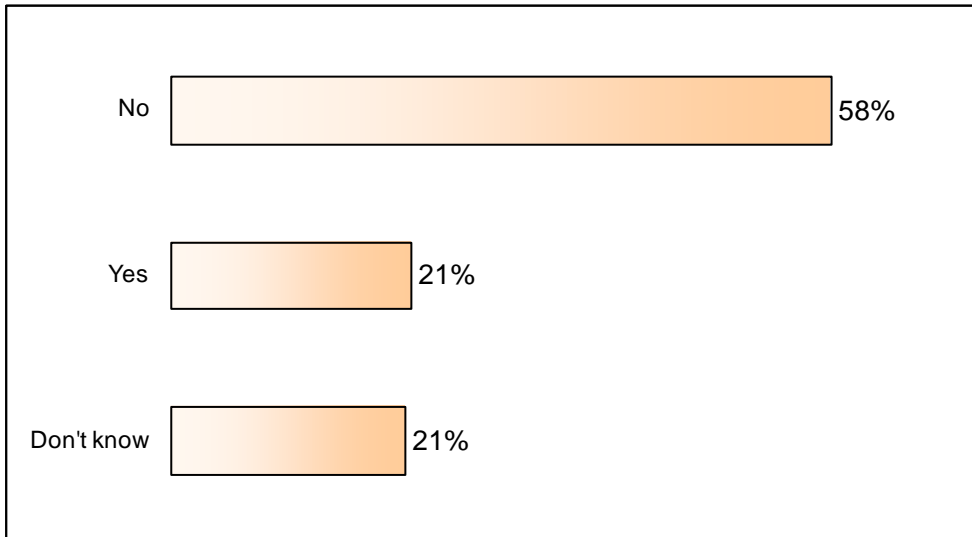
Q14 – Would you be able to use another pool facility nearby?

58% of swim session users would not be able to use another pool facility nearby. This is higher for residents with a disability.

Why would users not be able to access an alternative pool?

- Feel other pools are already full to capacity
- Time and cost required to get to another pool
- There is no health suite at Marl Pits
- Difficult to access Marl Pits by bus

Figure 6.10: Access to other pool facilities



Source: Rossendale Leisure Review 2013, Q14 Base: 98

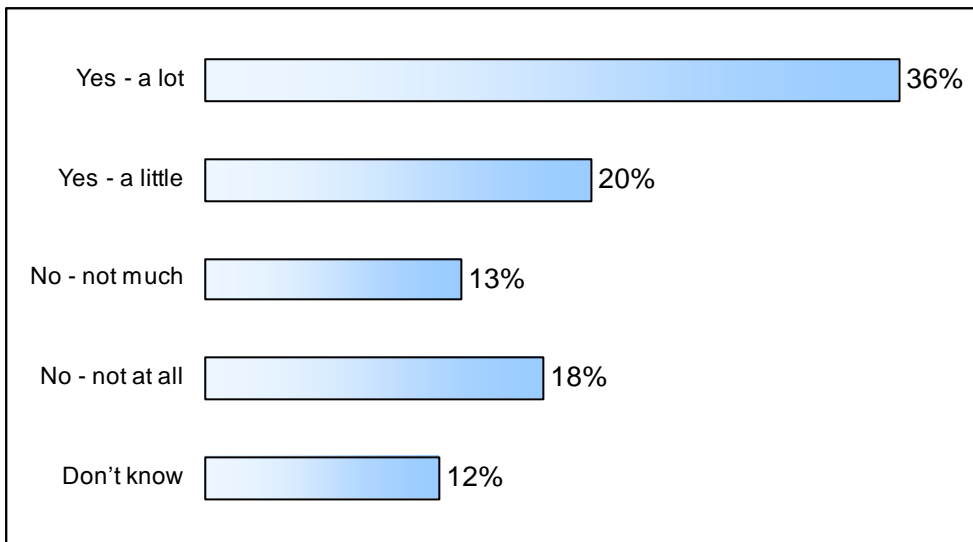
Q15 – The Council/ Rossendale Leisure Trust would try to help you find an alternative pool facility/ water time that meets your needs. If we are able to do this, to what extent would this reduce the impact that potential closure of the pool would have on you?

56% of swim session users believe that finding an alternative venue/ water time that meets their needs would reduce the impact of Halsingden pool potentially closing. This is higher for men, those aged under 30 and for residents with a disability.

For the 31% who stated that it wouldn't reduce the impact, here are the main reasons:

- Would struggle to meet the additional cost and time restraints
- Simply cannot access another pool in the area
- Another pool might not be able to cope with the additional demand
- Public transport is not reliable enough

Figure 6.11: Extent to which finding alternative water time would reduce impact



Source: Rossendale Leisure Review 2013, Q15 Base: 95

Q16 – If we were able to provide water space/ time for you during the possible swim time reprogramming at Marl Pits or in discussions with other leisure facilities, would you still go?

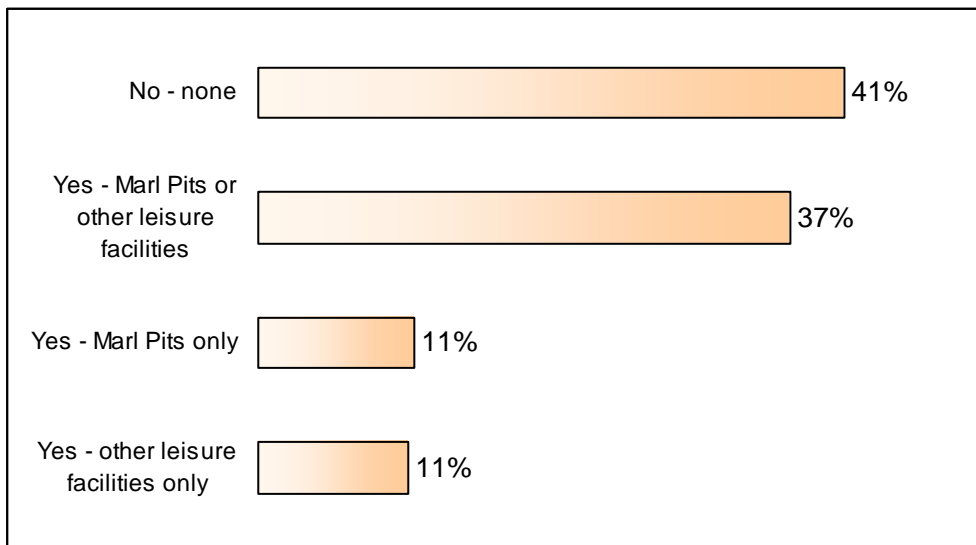
41% of swim session users would not attend any identified swim time at an alternative facility. This is higher for women, those aged 50-59 and residents without a disability.

The main reasons for not wanting to attend alternative venues are:

- No transport
- Pool might be too busy to swim properly
- Would take too long to get there and back
- Inaccessible in bad weather
- Unreliable public transport

However, 48% of current users would still go. Uptake is higher amongst men, those aged under 30 and for residents with a disability.

Figure 6.12: Uptake of swim time at Marl Pits or other leisure facilities



Source: Rossendale Leisure Review 2013, Q16 Base: 95

Q17 – If the pool did have to close, are there any specific factors that you would like us to consider so that, as far as practically possible, we can continue to accommodate your needs?

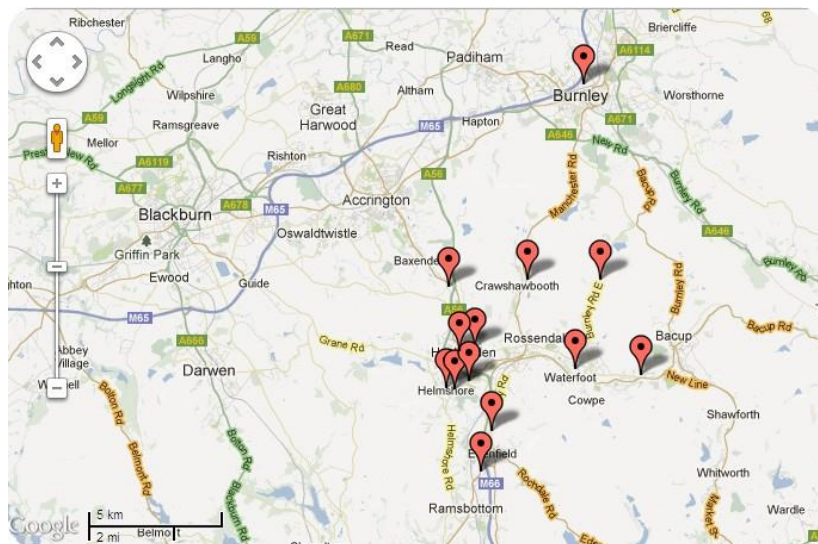
Here are some of the main suggestions that were put forward:

- Retain the existing swim session groups
- Build a new pool
- Build a new health suite
- Provide space for Haslingden swimming club to continue

7 Detailed Research Findings – local schools

As part of the consultation it is extremely important to understand the thoughts of local schools and how the proposed options may affect them. 34 schools were invited to take part. In total, 15 responses were received.

The map below provides a visual representation of where each of the schools are geographically located.



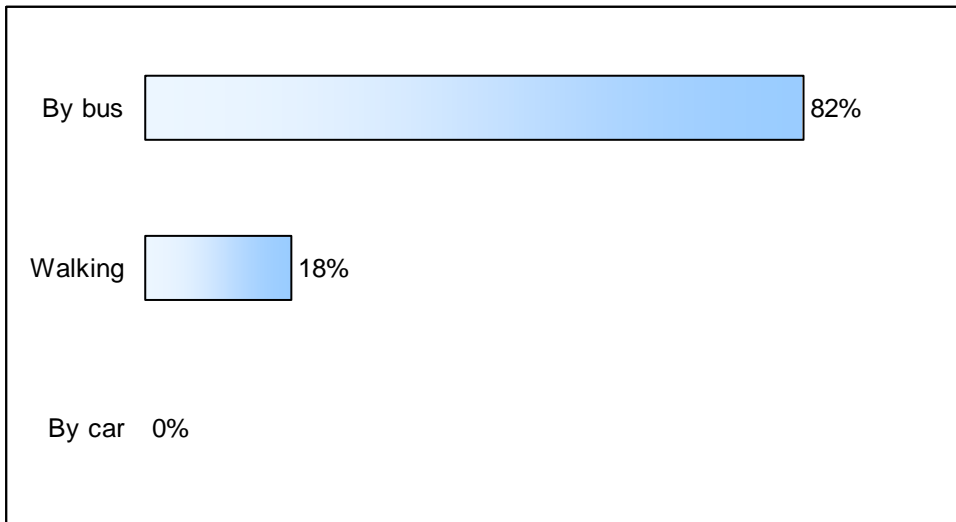
7.1 Pool usage

Q1 – How does your school usually access/ travel to Haslingden pool?

82% of schools who use Haslingden pool travel there by bus. 18% walk to the pool.

Figure 7.1: Means of transport

Appendix 3

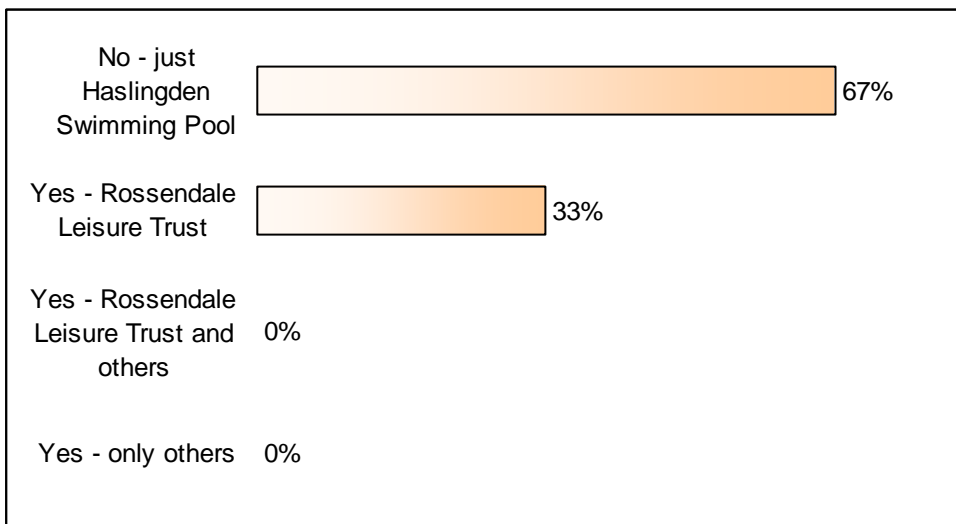


Source: Rossendale Leisure Review 2013, Q1 Base: 11

Q2 – Does your school use any of the other Rossendale Leisure Trust facilities in the valley, or other leisure trust facilities nearby, to swim?

Two thirds of schools tend to use only Haslingden pool for their swimming needs. One third also use other Leisure Trust provided facilities.

Figure 7.2: Use of other facilities



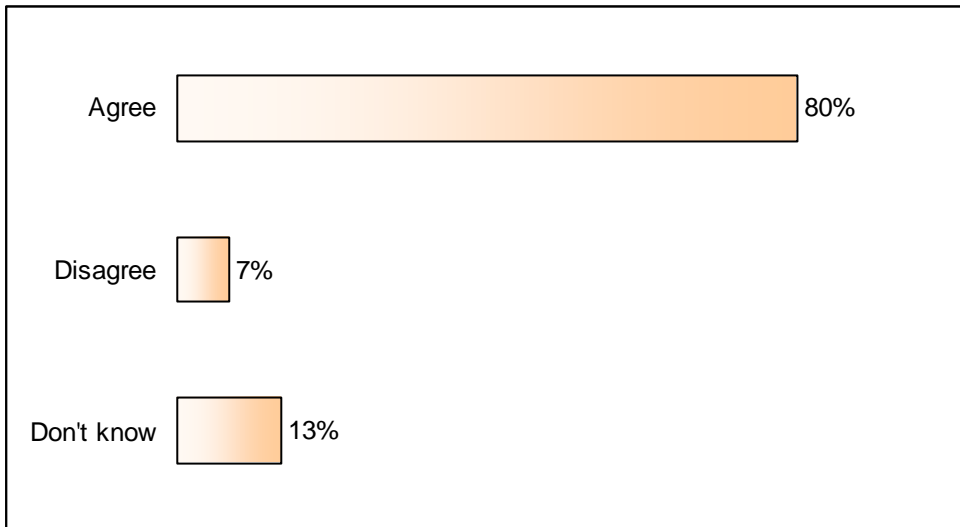
Source: Rossendale Leisure Review 2013, Q2 Base: 15

7.2 Option 1 – transferring ownership

Q3 – One option being considered is to look at transferring ownership/ responsibility of Haslingden pool. Do you agree or disagree with this option if it meant that the pool remained open?

80% of schools agree with the proposal to transfer ownership.

Figure 7.3: Level of agreement with transferring ownership



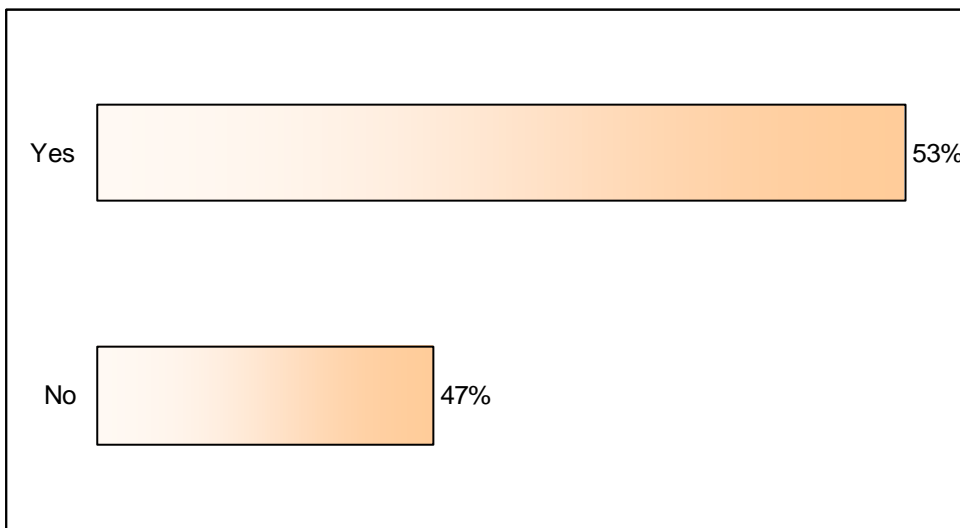
Source: Rossendale Leisure Review 2013, Q3 Base: 15

Q4 – Do you feel that option 1 (transfer of ownership) would directly impact on your school?

Just over half of schools believe that option 1 will have a direct impact upon them. Here are the reasons why:

- Increased costs
- Reduced availability of time slots
- Staffing changes
- Increased time out of school travelling to an alternative facility

Figure 7.4: Whether option 1 would have a direct impact

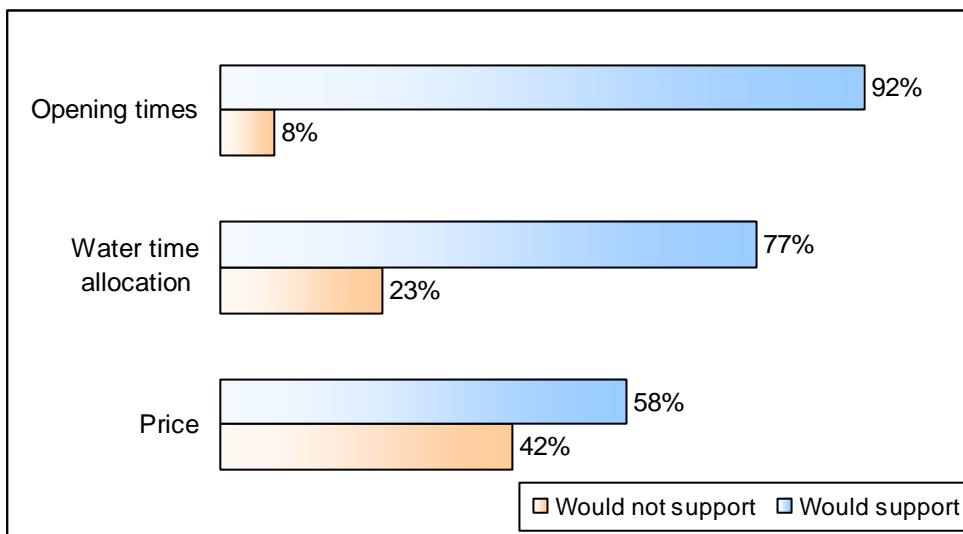


Source: Rossendale Leisure Review 2013, Q4 Base: 15

Q6 – If a transfer to a third party was pursued and some changes were necessary to ensure that it was sustainable/ financially viable, please tell us which of the following you would support?

Schools have little preference with regard to opening times but any changes to price and water time allocation are much more sensitive to their needs.

Figure 7.5: Level of support for potential changes



Source: Rossendale Leisure Review 2013, Q6 Base: 13

Q8 – What might we be able to practically do to reduce the impact of option 1 on your school?

Here are the suggestions that were made:

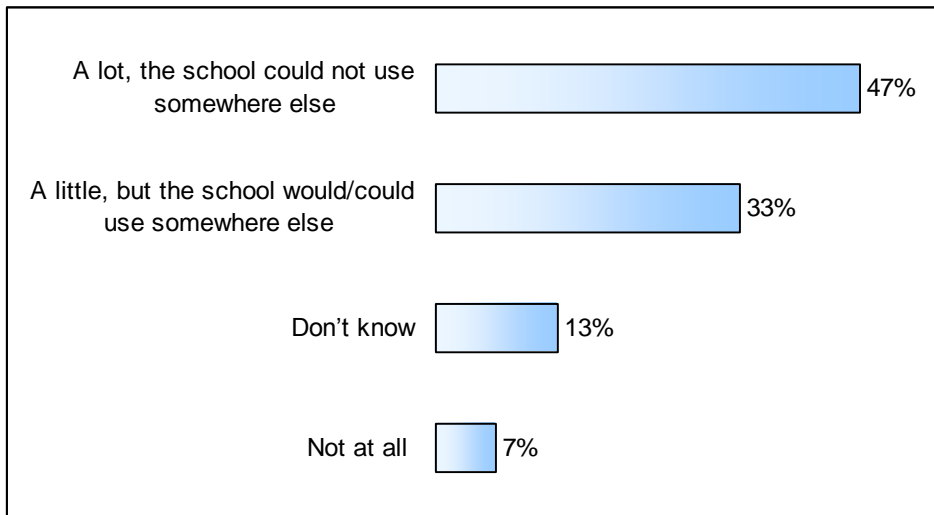
- Guarantee no price increases for a set time period
- Keep the pool open
- Ensure no changes to swimming lessons (cost, staff, timetable)
- Offer subsidised transport
- Ensure private swim times with a quiet pool

7.3 Option 2 – closing Haslingden pool

Q9 – To what degree would the potential closure of Haslingden pool impact on your school?

Of the 15 schools that responded, nearly half felt that closure of Haslingden pool would impact on them ‘a lot’, while a third felt that they would be affected ‘a little’ but they would/could use an alternative facility elsewhere.

Figure 7.6: Impact of potential closure



Source: Rossendale Leisure Review 2013, Q9 Base: 15

Q10 – Would you be able to use another pool facility nearby?

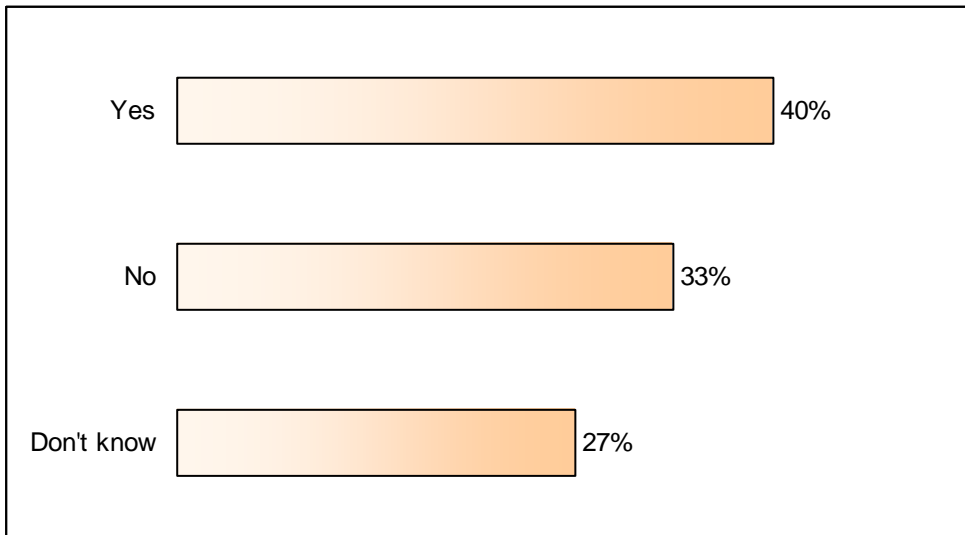
When schools were asked to think about whether they would be able to use another pool facility nearby if they could no longer use Haslingden Pool; of the schools that responded, 40% said ‘yes’ they would be able to use another pool facility nearby. However, a third of respondents felt that they would be unable to use another pool and a further 27% are not sure at this stage.

Here are the reasons why schools would not be able to access a nearby pool:

- Increased costs
- Nearby pools unable to cope with the demands
- Over crowded pools
- Increased journey times

Figure 7.7: Ability to access another pool nearby

Appendix 3



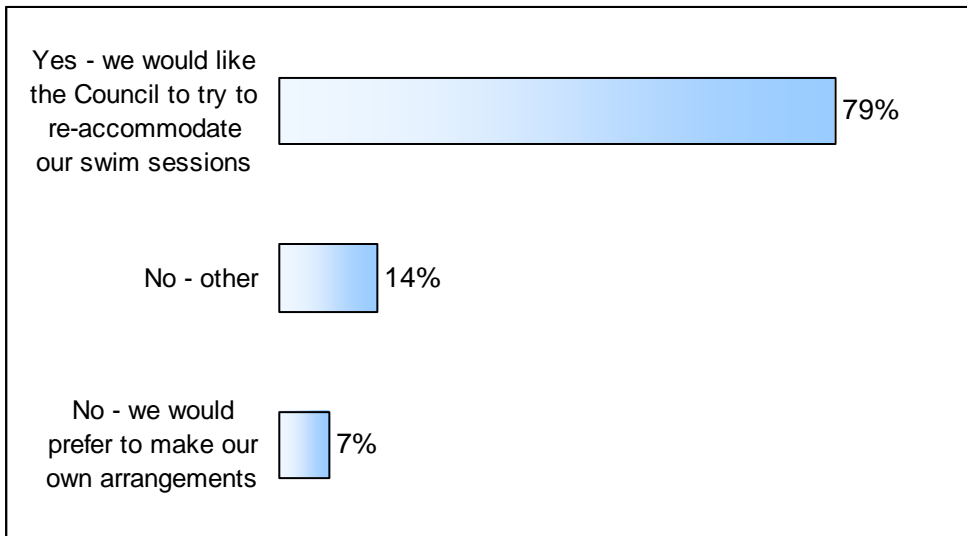
Source: Rossendale Leisure Review 2013, Q10 Base: 15

Q12 – If Haslingden pool did have to close, we would look at reprogramming swimming time availability for schools at Marl Pits, or in discussion with other leisure facilities. Would you want us to take your requirements into account when trying to re-accommodate swim time availability for schools, or would you be happy to make your own alternative arrangements yourself?

Despite a third of schools that responded saying they could not use another facility nearby, 11 of the 14 schools that responded would like the Council to deal with re-arranging their swim time. Only 3 schools said they did not want to be considered in reprogramming. One did not answer.

Work with Leisure Trust and schools is on-going to determine actual school demand for swimming in the year ahead to complete re-programming, which is currently awaiting confirmation from schools. The Leisure Trust is confident that it will be able to accommodate all schools can be re-provided for.

Figure 7.8: Preference for rescheduling swim time availability



Source: Rossendale Leisure Review 2013, Q12 Base: 14

Q14 – What might we be able to practically do to reduce the impact of option 2 on your school?

Here are the suggestions that were made:

- Keep the pool open
- Build a new pool
- Ensure Marl Pits can cope with the additional demand
- Set up ‘double lessons’ to justify the additional time and cost of getting there
- Utilise the best staff from Haslingden pool
- Provide free transport
- Keep the costs the same

8 Marl Pits users

Several of the responses to the consultation came in from users of Marl Pits swimming pool. Although it is not possible to filter the data by those who use Marl Pits, some of the open ended comments made it clear that the main feeling amongst Marl Pits users is the fear of overcrowding if Haslingden pool was to close.

As a result of this, users of Marl Pits were invited to have their say via a short ‘comments’ form that was located in the reception area. 18 responses were received and here is what they told us:

- Keep Haslingden pool open to avoid over crowding at Marl Pits
- Preference is for option 1 (transfer of ownership)
- Bring the sauna/ steam room facilities across to Marl Pits
- Many people may struggle to access Marl Pits from Haslingden
- Impact on schools and demand for schools if it closes
- Sell the pool to a developer and build a new pool in Haslingden with the money raised

