

**4 June 2009**

**No help – no pool!**

Dunfermline High School has a pool which is well used by pupils from a number of local schools and is widely used by the community at other times. The plans for the new school building do not include a swimming pool!

Jim Tolson MSP for Dunfermline West commented “Whilst Fife Council has secured funding for building a new school; they say that they don’t have enough money to include a pool. I wrote to Keith Brown, Minister for School and Skills requesting talks should be instigated with the Council with a view to increasing the money allocated for school building. I am very disappointed with his response! He states that the Government has allocated the money through the local government settlement and it is up to Fife Council to decide if it can afford a pool in the new school.

It is essential that a way is found to include a pool in the school building. This is vital to the health of our children, our community and the reputation of Fife Council to build a like-for-like school. I will continue to work with concerned parents and children to press Fife Council to rethink this issue. I am calling on the members of the public to make their feelings known to the Council, their elected members and myself. I am pleased to see that the community is gathering signatures for a petition supporting the retention of a swimming pool in the new high school.

I am very supportive of local residents on this issue and will do all I can to challenge Fife Council and the Scottish Government to ensure a like-for-like replacement for Dunfermline High School.

The revamped Carnegie Centre, whilst very welcome, will not have the capacity to include the present usage of the pool in Dunfermline High School. “

**Ends**