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Saturday 31st October 2020

Dear Sink or Swim Trustees,

Thank you for your very thorough report which Joanna and Derek presented to the Copmanthorpe Primary School Governing Body meeting on 20th October 2020.

As you will already know, following significant detailed discussion, the Governing Body took the very difficult decision to withdraw our support from the Sink or Swim project. This decision was not made easily but the Governing Body agreed that we could not fulfil our obligations in any other way.

The Governing Body recognises that the trustees have invested an enormous amount of time and effort in the project during what is a very challenging time. It is clear that progress has been made in all the aspects that were reported on, however, this was not sufficient to agree that the project is achievable.

I hope the following summary provides some indications of the reason behind the decision.

1. Progress made with grant applications

We recognise that much of the preparation work has been completed and that you were waiting for many of the grant awarding bodies to open to non-Covid related projects.

The governing body was of the opinion that, even then, the project will still be a low priority for grant awarding bodies, given the relative affluence of the village.

The spreadsheet provided a helpful summary of the current state of play and demonstrated the range of potential applications, however, despite the increase in the sources of funding being approached, the Governing Body agreed that the project was still reliant on both the large applications being successful for the project to go ahead. It is unrealistic to expect this to be the case.

2. Time frames

The revised timescales and helpful chart are, obviously, still reliant on the capital being raised. In such uncertain times the Governing Body agreed that, whilst the length of the project was realistic, the start date was unrealistic.

(The difficulty of access was a consideration, however, the Governing Body agreed that with careful planning this could be overcome).



3. Project costs

The escalation in the cost of the project raised a number of questions for the Governing Body, not least ethical concerns. The Body could not envisage the project being able to raise such an amount of capital in a reasonable timescale.

Regretfully the outcome of the discussions was that the Governing Body cannot agree that the project is viable in the current climate.

The Governing Body recognises that this decision needs to be communicated to the community, both so that they are aware of the work that Sink or Swim has put into the project and so that they understand the Governing Body's reasons for no longer being able to support it. If it is possible to make a joint statement, the Governing Body would be very appreciative.

The Governing Body would like to thank the Sink or Swim trustees for all their efforts and recognises the disappointment this decision will cause.

Kind Regards

Menna

Menna Godfrey (deputy chair of governors)

on behalf of Copmanthorpe Primary School Governing Body