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# Debate must go forward

**D**EMOLITION teams moved in at Seaton Pool today to bring to an end a chapter of a story that has dominated Plymouth's headlines for most of this year. Following its controversial closure by Plymouth City Council earlier this year, the pool is due to be completely torn down by tonight. Opposition to the closure of the pool has been furious since the council announced its plans last November. The council said it was costing £160,000 a year to run, and that it needed an extra £1 million spending on it to bring it up to scratch. With the pool now gone, it is vital to draw a line under the argument and concentrate on the

future. Some swimmers say they are being 'crushed' into other facilities at Central Park and Plympton.

The blow delivered to the council's Life Centre plan, which would see a new 50-metre pool built in Central Park, when Lottery chiefs turned down an application for £25 million was critical. But the council has vowed to press on with the Life Centre project, which attracted massive support in an Evening Herald petition. Now the city's leisure chiefs report they have drawn up the long-awaited masterplan for the future of swimming provision in the city. It is due to be finalised next week, and presented to council on September 18. The

detail in the document will be subject to intense scrutiny, for the council has already announced the possibility of new pools in the north of the city and Plymstock.

News that Plymouth's Life Centre project is attracting the support of the Amateur Swimming Association is heartening, as are Councillor Peter Smith's words that the Life Centre project is moving on since the Lottery blow.

Bulldozers were today consigning Seaton Pool to history. Today's arguments must now concentrate on the future, and providing Plymouth's people with the high quality swimming provision they deserve.