

Doctors' petition bid to save pool for the city

MORE than 150 doctors at Derriford Hospital have signed a petition in protest at the city council's decision to close Seaton Pool.

A campaign poster including the medics' signatures was displayed outside the Council House before a council meeting yesterday afternoon.

The protest was held after the authority decided to close the pool, which is located on the Plymouth International Business Park at Derriford.

Despite being heavily used by clubs, schools and members of the public, it is set to shut in April. The council says it would cost more than £1million to bring the building, inherited from the military, up to modern standards.

Dr Tony Davies, a chronic pain consultant and consultant anaesthetist at Derriford, said many of his patients used the pool to aid their recovery and closure could also lead to a rise in obesity among children.

Dr Davies said: "Many of my

patients go through hydrotherapy. They follow that by continuing their rehabilitation in the pool.

"Only 12 per cent of girls meet the Government's target for activity levels, and swimming is apparently the most popular sport for girls in this country.

"Having seen this cauldron of physical activity at Seaton Pool, it's disappointing that children could potentially be sidelined."

The pool site is owned by the South West of England Regional Development Agency, which has told the council it wants the site back.

The council wants schools and clubs which currently swim at Seaton to move elsewhere, including the pools at Central Park and Marjons.

KEEP IT: (from left) Cllr David Salter is lobbied by Dr Tony Davies, Norman James, Mary Davies and Lyn James

