

Protesters say fight is now political **BATTLE PLEDGE TO SAVE POOL**

by **MATT FLEMING**

Herald Reporter

THE battle to save Seaton Pool is raging on despite its imminent closure.

Campaigners for Seaton's survival have not given up their fight and they say there is still a glimmer of hope if the issue turns political.

They plastered posters across the city this week and are planning to get more flyers out in 'busy areas' to keep the issue in people's minds.

Then they hope residents will vote against their Labour councillors at the council elections in May – because they say the Labour council is responsible for the pool being shut down.

The pool at Derriford is scheduled to close next month. Labour cabinet members agreed to shut it at a meeting in November after hearing it was costing the council £160,000 annually.

But since then, campaigners – led by the Devonport Royal Swimming Association – have been out in force looking for ways to keep the pool open, hoping to prevent it being shut and the site handed over to the South West Regional Development Agency early next month.

Roger Bossom, spokesman for the campaigners, said: "The only hope we have got now is to reduce the number of



Picture John Allen EAA23762_JSA_001

Labour councillors on the council, and the only way to do that is to keep the awareness going through this time: hence the posters.

"We wanted to be non-political but I don't think there's any other option now; we must get the balance of power shifted at the council elections.

"Both the Tories and Lib Dems would be better in control of this city."

But Cllr Peter Smith, cabinet member for Creative Plymouth, insisted the pool was going and wouldn't be coming back.

He told the Evening Herald: "It's not going to happen, whichever political party's in control in May.

"They're fighting a losing battle. It goes back to the RDA on April 9 and the arguments have been made.

"They had best come on board with us; we have pledged to improve swimming pools across the city."

Cllr Smith said the council was in talks with the Plymstock and District Swimming Pool Association over finding a site for a new pool.

FIGHT ON: Posters urging people to battle to save Seaton Pool have gone up across the city