



DRAFT Arthur Hill – Working Group Meeting Minutes

7.30 pm, Thursday 18 May 2017
13 Eastern Avenue, Reading

Present: Chris (chair & minutes), Phil V, Liz, Graham, Marlon, Sarah
Apologies: Gerard, Nikki, Marjan

DISCUSSION OF OUR FUTURE OPTIONS

Fusion Leisure decided they cannot take on the pool, which is disappointing news. After the council's rejection of our proposal, this was our last good prospect of working with someone to re-open Arthur Hill.

We reviewed the options presented at the AGM:

Business Plan

Various options:

- A) ~~Stop council from closing the pool~~
- B) Press Council to re-open pool – we support financially
- C) Work with a leisure company to re-open pool
- D) Re-open pool ourselves - main option we are currently working on

If this does not succeed:

- E) Buy site – re-open pool
- F) Buy site – develop new community sports centre (no pool)
- G) Work locally to organise sports events and seek pool time
- H) Give up and close down



- A-D have been tried, and sadly failed.
- We discussed E and F, which both involve trying to buy the pool. For the following reasons, we decided we can't take these options forward:
 - Fusion turned us down, which is telling

- The prospect of future competition from Palmer Park is a big issue in making a viable prospect
- The costs and the risks seem too great
- Swimming seems to have declined in popularity
- Failure to get RBC support will make it really difficult to make a success of the venture
- **Action Chris** – We need to open this up to the wider Working Group to confirm that the majority agree with this. Chris to e-mail group for confirmation by Friday 26 May.

- The decision will be added to these minutes and posted onto the website.

UPDATE 4 June: E-mail discussions amongst the working group have not been conclusive. Peter is keen to explore option F in a strategy day. Any viable proposal can then be presented to the Working Group & CIC board as an alternative to that discussed below.

- We decided that further communication to the community (& CIC members) can wait until we have decided what we are going to do next.

For the record: I noted as chair that I think we should all be very proud of what we have achieved. Whilst it is disappointing that we couldn't find a way of reopening Arthur Hill, we did try everything we could. We got a lot done in a very short amount of time, but there were too many things stacked against us.

- We discussed options G & H, particularly with reference to the approx £10k raised through crowd funding.
 - We noted that some members of the working group may wish to reduce their commitment now that there isn't the pool to fight for.
 - However, we have established a useful group, and we hope there is enough energy to pursue our wider aims of promoting fitness and exercise (i.e. option G).
 - We agreed that it would be good to try and keep going until the new 'Palmer Park' pool is supposed to open.
 - We agreed with my proposal that the £10k would be better set up in some form of trust fund, which local schools (etc) can bid for. This would be a good to make sure monies do not get swallowed up into generic school budgets.
 - We did agree that the £10k (from the crowd funding) must be ring-fenced for schools rather than community activities.

- However, if we do have a trust fund, it would be possible to bid for money / sponsorship / donations to bolster this fund. This additional money could be used to fund wider community activity bids.
- If we do not have enough willing volunteers to make option G possible – or if we fail to attract bids from schools – we can always fallback to option H. In this case we will divide any remaining funds, between local schools, and start the process of folding the community interest company.
- In addition, Phil noted that the ‘Friends of Arthur Hill’ do not want to close either. If we keep going, maybe we can join forces. Phil has also started doing some East Reading community trails, which could become a part of our offer.
- **Action all:** to consider these ideas over the next month (until the next meeting) and discuss via e-mail.
- **Agenda items for next meeting:**
 - To discuss what direction we are going to take forward.
 - Based on this, to decide whether a ‘strategy day’ is appropriate, what are its aims, and to make arrangements to set it up.
 - To consider plan / time-frame for informing members (+ directors) and the community of our change of direction.

WATER FEST, JUNE 10, AND EAST READING FESTIVAL, JUNE 25

- Going ahead
- Promoting health & fitness
- Keep upbeat but not focus on pool news
- Going to be focused on kids + costs will be minimal so ok to pay
- Will canvas for proposed way forward
- Action Marlon: Feedback on Water Festival at next meeting, specifically on level of community interest.

REVIEW OF OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

What	Who	Status at last meeting	Comment	Status now
Talk to Fusion Leisure	Peter	ongoing	Carry forward. Peter to contact Rob Wilson	close
Banner on AH building	Tom	Take up again after 10	Carry forward	close

		April		
Contact further operators	Tom	Take up again after 10 April	Carry forward	close
Read ASA document on community pools	All	ongoing	Carry forward	close
Take H&S courses etc at RVA	Director s	ongoing	Carry forward. NB now being monitored on Trello	open
Monitor historic pools website	Phil	ongoing	Carry forward	close
Bank account signatories – establish identity at Metro Bank with evidence	Nikki, Chris, Marjan	new	Peter to chase Metro Bank to open account	Done
Common file archive	Liz	ongoing	Carry forward - Liz and Chris to discuss	Done but needs testing – check next time
Add operations to Trello	Marjan	ongoing	Carry forward	Done
Buy Arthur-hill.co.uk domain and emails	Chris	new	Done	Done
Organise comms meeting re. Strategy	Gerard	new	Agreed that need to include Sarah – can progress on her return from holiday	Done
Write to councillors before 10 April	Chris, Peter	new	Done. Note – Chris has addresses for all councillors	Done
Tidy Trello at bit	Chris	new	Done	Done

New actions from 5 April

Position on legal case –our position with regard to the legal case is that it is being brought by a private individual, not associated with CIC.	all		close
Discuss whether / how to talk to Labour councillors.	Peter and Tom		close
Peter and Gerard to meet to agree best approach for meeting on 10 April.	Peter and Gerard		Done
Present to RBC meeting on 10 April and answer questions	Peter to lead with support from others		Done
Put together a slip to ask supporters not to act in an unruly manner at 10 April meeting.	Peter		Done

'Last chance' leafleting and presence at AH pool and possibly Broad St	All, led by Tom		Done
National press release on 10 April meeting	Phil	We refrained from sending such a release until we could say what the CIC would do after the Council's decision [in order to be positive rather than negative].	close
Meeting with Tony Jones	Tom		Done
Submit TVH community chest application before deadline	Liz		Done

AOB

- **Action Liz:** to review Trello board
- **Action Chris:** note to directors to skip the meeting on Wed 14th with a view to meet when the working group have finished deciding the future direction.
- Chris also noted that a meal (or other kind of event) would be nice after all our hard work (obviously not on the company!)

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 15th June at Phil's house.

Chair TBC

