

**Arthur Hill Pool working group**  
**Notes of discussion of next steps for the organisation**  
**19 July 2017**

**Present:** Liz, Tom, Phil Vaughan, Nikki, Phil Johnson, Gerard, Peter (notes)  
**Apologies:** Graham, Marjan.

Liz, Tom and Nikki declared potential conflicts of interest with regard to agenda item 1 (association with local schools).

**1. Issue 1: What to do with the money raised through the crowdfunding appeal**

Views expressed:

- The money should be given to local schools.
- The Council has said that it has provided schools with money to travel to alternative swimming pools, but people who donated to the appeal would probably not mind if it was used to support sport and fitness activities in schools.
- Schools should be asked to bid for the money.
- The money should simply be divided up between named schools.
- Important to ensure that the administrative burden for both schools and the CIC is minimised.
- Money could be used to support transport to Rivermead to allow free holiday swimming for local children through a deal with Reading Buses – although this would effectively mean giving it to the Council, and would we want to do this?
- There should be no need to monitor how the money is used by schools.
- Schools could be asked to agree to conditions on how the money was used or sign an agreement with the CIC.
- The money would be useful for future campaign work if the Council does not proceed with construction of a new pool.
- It is impossible to second guess how every one of the individuals who donated to the appeal would like the money to be used: the important thing is to make a principled and transparent decision.

Agreed:

- The possibility of using the money to support travel to Rivermead to allow free school swimming to be explored with Sarah Hacker, in the expectation that the offer would probably be declined.
- Assuming the money could not be used for holiday swimming transport, it was agreed that it should be divided equally between four local primary schools: Alfred Sutton school, Newtown school, Redlands school, and St Johns and St Stephen's school.
- Money would not be offered to schools which are further away than the immediate area.
- The four schools would be informed of the situation and told that we would like the money to used towards sporting and fitness activities, and simply asked to say briefly what they would wish to use the money for, with no further conditions or monitoring.
- The sum of money to be divided between the schools should be as outlined on the financial note circulated before the meeting, with the addition of a further £370 received from the

Chislett family, giving £11,637.13 to be distributed [Post meeting note: money used to set up the CIC has not been deducted from this figure – see addendum at the end of these minutes].

## **2. Issue 2: Next steps for the Arthur Hill campaign**

Views expressed:

- We should cease campaigning on Arthur Hill Pool but continue work on swimming in East Reading until a new pool is built.
- There are no further obvious routes for campaigning on Arthur Hill.
- We should be ready to take opportunities which may arise for re-opening the pool.
- Something may change to allow us to take the campaign forward again – but if we continue to campaign are we building up false hopes?
- It is important that there is an organisation able to press for community input into the development of the new pool which the Council proposes to build.
- The CIC was unable to keep Arthur Hill Pool open because Reading Borough Council believes it can commence a low-cost development of a new pool in Palmer Park. We were unable to broaden the campaign to draw in enough allies to shift the balance of power against the Council.
- The CIC no longer has any necessary function and should be closed down.
- There are already a lot of charities in existence doing useful work, and would working as another charitable organisation add anything to this?
- The CIC is valuable as an organisation and is necessary as an organisation to allow future campaigning.
- We should continue work which brings people together as a community.
- The campaign and CIC could transform themselves and undertake work to help the community maintain its fitness despite the closure of Arthur Hill Pool.
- The issue of a pool in Palmer Park will be a difficult one for the CIC, because some of our members will support this but others (particularly those who live in the area of Palmer Park) will not.
- Future campaign work is needed to prevent the Arthur Hill site from being sold for housing and to push the Council to look for an alternative site to Palmer Park for a new pool.
- Work on health in the community could be valuable – but would it be worth the effort needed?
- Transforming the CIC may require finding new directors and new sources of income, which would be hard work.
- It will be up to Directors in the future to decide on when the point has been reached at which to stop campaigning.
- In future money should be raised through local activities (eg cake sales) and grant applications.

Agreed:

- The company should remain in existence on a time-limited basis, with review every six months and the Directors making a decision on the basis of the current circumstances.
- Campaigning should continue, on pressing the Council for a new pool and on re-opening Arthur Hill if opportunities arise. Our aim should be for swimming to continue in East Reading, ideally at Arthur Hill Pool
- The CIC should continue to organise social events locally.

- A proposal for work on a community health programme should be prepared by those who are keen to do so for consideration by the CIC Directors in due course.

### **3. Issue 3: Future involvement in the campaign**

Views expressed:

- Some individuals no longer wish to be involved.
- Some are willing to stay involved on a low level but not remain as company Directors.
- Some are willing to remain as Directors.
- Some are willing to remain as Directors but do not wish to be involved in project work such as community health initiatives – although if others wish to do so that is OK.
- Some are willing to remain involved in campaign work.

Agreed:

- The primary objective of the CIC and campaign will continue to be to restore swimming at Arthur Hill Pool.
- Those who wish to be involved in project work can undertake such work but it is understood that not everyone will contribute time to this.
- Peter to have conversations as necessary with Directors about bank account signatories etc.

### **4. Future actions:**

- Meeting to be arranged with Sarah Hacker.
- CIC Directors meeting to be arranged at next available day in September that the most people are able to attend (according to the previous Doodle poll). [Post meeting note: this is Wednesday 6 September].
- Public meeting to be arranged in September / early autumn to put proposals to broader membership.
- Suggested that school head teachers should be invited to a future community event to pick up the crowdfunding cheques.

### **Post-meeting Addendum**

In addition to spending money on printing to help with the crowdfunding appeal, we also spent £285.87 on setting up the CIC (insurance, ICO registration, and accident book). One of the stated purposes of the crowdfunding appeal was to raise funds to set the company up. The Arthur Hill Save Our Swimming CIC Directors agreed on 6 September 2017 to deduct this sum from the money to be donated to local schools, leaving a total of £11,351.26 to be passed on to the schools.