

Cullompton Swimming Pool Campaign
Committee Meeting 10
Wednesday 21st March 2012, Lynne's House, Cullompton

Present: Dave Haslett (Chair + minutes), James MacPherson, Lynne Read, Pete Woodley, Mary Christie

Apologies: Sean Burrett, Sharon Vaughan

Absent: Anita North, Carla Wetherell, Caroline Pring

1. Previous Minutes, Matters Arising, Action Points

Sarah Cagney (fundraising co-ordinator) has resigned from the committee. We are sorry to lose her and wish her well for the future.

Sharon has sent Dave a good list of quotes for stickers and banners.

Mary has obtained a price list for room hire at the Community Centre, but it is quite expensive.

Mary also suggested that the Community Centre's car park might be a good venue for a car boot sale, as it will hold about 40 cars. She has asked the centre manager about this, and he will raise it at their next committee meeting.

Action Point – Sean to try to find out whether we could use the old Somerfield car park for a car boot sale.

Dave has looked at our Facebook page, but there doesn't seem to be an option to send a group message.

2. Updates

Location and Planning: James confirmed that the doctors do not own College Surgery and the Health Centre, but lease it. He will therefore try to contact the owner of the land adjacent to it (Mr John Hill), and Persimmon's land manager in Exeter.

Action Point – James to contact John Hill and Persimmon

Costing: Opinions are divided as to whether we should try to raise the £4 million that the architect (Steve Eastland) indicated we would need for the design we proposed. We could consider downgrading our design to something that would cost nearer to £1 million (our current target). James thought we could still get close to the design we wanted without spending anything like £4 million, by using off-the-shelf designs such as Swim25. He will continue looking into this, and will also find out if there are any other variants available, such as, for example, Swim20 + Learner Pool.

Action Point – James to look at alternative off-the-shelf pool designs.

Feasibility Study: Culm Valley Gazette has put a survey about the swimming pool on their Facebook page. We are concerned that they did not consult us before doing this. Several of the questions are ambiguous or irrelevant, and it is unlikely that we will gain much benefit from the results. It was only put on their Facebook page, so will only reach about 1,000 people.

We will need to do our own survey and feasibility study. James, Sean and Pete will go through MDDC's 2004 feasibility study over the summer to decide exactly what we need to know, and will break it down into individual points and questions. We should be able to obtain a lot of the information we need by submitting Freedom of Information requests to MDDC to get up-to-date figures.

Action Point – Dave to retrieve the printout of the feasibility study from Steve Eastland and pass it to Pete.

Publicity: Dave has emailed 15 schools about the Easter egg hunt, asking them to mention it in their newsletters, and Lynne has distributed posters around the town. Linda Holloway will feature it in her events column in the Gazette. Lynne will also print some flyers to hand out, using the same wording that Dave used for the schools message.

Action Point – Dave to email Lynne the text for the flyers

We are trying to get permission to put up a sign in a prominent place to advertise the Easter egg hunt. Lynne has asked at the Town Hall, but they said MDDC was cracking down on these signs as they were a distraction to drivers. She was told to contact the Highways Agency for permission, but has not had any response yet, though they did agree to consider our request.

There are several prominent signs around town at the moment, including outside the Manor House Hotel, and on the roundabout by Tesco's.

Fundraising: The table top sale on 10th March raised £30.42. We have decided not to hold any more table top sales for the time being. We will concentrate on running the shop and holding fundraising events instead (see below for details). We will take the best items for the shop, and Sean will try to sell some on eBay. The remainder can be donated to local charity shops or thrown away.

Sharon has suggested putting together a book of poetry, which Dave could publish. She has written several poems, and the book could also include Mary's 'Cullompton Pool' Christmas Carol. We have previously considered publishing a local cookery book and a book of local walks, so this would fit in nicely.

3. Shop

We have decided to rent one of the vacant shops in Fore Street.

Dave emailed committee members after spotting the opportunity, and the majority gave their approval. So he has arranged to rent the shop at 66a Fore Street (formerly Bambers babywear) for a 6-month trial, starting from Monday 2nd April.

The cost will be £150 rent per month, plus insurance and electricity, and a contribution to the water bill of £25 per quarter. As we are a non-profit group we should be exempt from paying business rates.

Anita will ask the regeneration group CRAG if they would be prepared to meet the cost of the rent for the first 6 months, as the shop will benefit the town.

Dave is currently arranging insurance for the shop, and also for our events.

Dave and Lynne are looking for volunteers so they can set up a rota for the shop.

The primary purpose of the shop will be to act as an information centre and focal point for the campaign, as well as raising awareness. We can also sell t-shirts, stickers, bookmarks, bags, mugs, etc, all featuring our logo, as well as some of the better items left over from the table top sale. We will ask for donated items for the shop, especially books and good quality bric-a-brac, but not clothing.

The front window and paintwork need a good clean before it opens. James and Mary volunteered to do this on Saturday 31st April.

Neil Vaughan, chairman of Cullompton Traders Association (CTA), has suggested that the shop could also be an information centre for the town. This would benefit the town and its traders, and would also bring more people into the shop, which would benefit us.

Action Point – Dave to attend the next CTA meeting, where this will be discussed.

James wondered if we might be able to take bookings or sell tickets on behalf of local companies such as Yarak Birds of Prey, Quad World, Diggerland, etc, in return for a commission. We will need to find out how this would fit with our charitable status. We would also need some sort of booking system.

4. Fundraising Events

The fundraising sub-committee has come up with a programme of events to run until September. These are:

Saturday 7th April: Easter Egg Hunt

Monday 4th June: Jubilee Treasure Trail

Sunday 24th June: Town Fayre Scavenger Hunt

Late July (just before the schools break up): Sponsored walk – 3 routes of different length

August: 1940s evening, including meal and live music

August/September: Special event at Yarak Birds of Prey

September (just after the schools go back): Cully's Amazing Adventure

Notes on the events:

Easter Egg Hunt: all arrangements are now in place for this.

Jubilee Treasure Trail: Sean has planned a route, and Dave and Sean will follow it and make a list of things that people will need to spot. The trail might also include some quiz questions about

Cullompton, though Lynne said everyone must have the same chance of answering them, even if they don't have internet access.

Action Point – Dave and Sean to complete the list of questions by 1st May.

Scavenger Hunt: this is very easy to arrange – all we have to do is make a list of 100 things that people have to collect or photograph. The rest of the arrangements will be much the same as for the Easter egg hunt.

Sponsored walk: we hope to base this at the Rugby Club or CCA fields. Dave has planned a long route of about 18 miles which he will lead walkers along. This will include breaks and a pub lunch. There will also be shorter routes of 1 mile, and 2 or 3 miles.

1940s Evening: Mary is arranging this, and hopes to hold it at the Manor House Hotel, where they can accommodate up to 80 people. She knows a suitable music group and will find out when they are available. They only play on Saturdays. The Manor is keen to make more use of the function room at the front of their building.

Yarak Birds of Prey: they have donated 8 VIP tickets as prizes for our events, and have also offered to hold a special day where we will receive 35% of the ticket sales. We will promote this, and so will Yarak.

Amazing Adventure: this will be a team event (up to 4 people) going from point to point around the town solving puzzles and taking part in fun mini challenges. After completing each challenge, teams will receive a clue pointing them to the next point. Puzzles will include crosswords, word searches and anagrams. Mini challenges will include things like scoring a certain number of points with 3 darts, or adults riding a child's tricycle around a car park. (If anyone can think of a better name for this event please let Dave know.)

Date of next meeting

Wednesday 11th April at the Market House Inn (children's room) at 6.30pm.

Please note the change of venue

This will be a combined committee meeting and fundraising sub-committee meeting, as we will need to discuss the results of the Easter egg hunt, and any changes we might need to make to our future events.