

Cullompton Swimming Pool Campaign
Committee Meeting 12
Wednesday 2nd May 2012, The Market House Inn, Cullompton

Attendees: Dave Haslett (Chair + Minutes), James MacPherson, Anita North, Sharon Vaughan, Sean Burrett, Mary Christie

Guest: Emma Askew (shop volunteer)

Apologies: Lynne Read, Carla Wetherell

1. Updates and Action Points

Letters in Gazette

All 4 of our letters were published in the Culm Valley Gazette, on 17th and 24th April. They are also on display in the shop.

Car boot sale

We will not be able to use the Community Centre car park or the old Somerfield car park for a car boot sale.

Anita said we could use the field opposite the sports centre, which she used to own and is still able to use. It is currently too wet to use, but would make an ideal venue during the summer.

We want to make the car boot sale a regular monthly event, and we agreed that a Sunday afternoon would be the best time to hold it, as many people go to other car boot sales in the morning and could come to ours afterwards. One way to publicise it would be to visit other car boot sales and give out flyers about ours. We should also display a 'Car Boot Sale Here' notice or banner at the site before each event.

We still need to find a site to use when Anita's field is too wet.

Action Point – Sharon to check how many cars use St Andrews car park on a Sunday morning.

Community Fair

A 'Hugging Cullompton' community fair has been proposed (by Virginia Worth from the Baptist Church), to be held at the Community Centre on a Saturday in September. Local campaign groups will be able to showcase their causes free of charge.

We agreed that we should have a stand there if it goes ahead, though we will need to find out if we can sell things as well as giving out information. We thought 'Cuddling Cullompton' might be a better name for the event.

Community Centre

The Community Centre has reduced its prices for room hire. Dave and Sharon have copies of the revised price list.

Shop

The figures for the first month of trading (April 2012):

Income: £733

(includes a donation of £100 which was used for the deposit, and a further £100 donation which was included in the shop's takings.)

Expenditure: £277

(includes deposit £100, rent £150, insurance £23, electricity £4).

Profit: £456

Lynne and her husband Pat have kindly donated the shelving and counter, and installed them free of charge. They've also let us borrow various boards and stands.

Sarah wants her clothes rack back, so we will need to find another one for the t-shirts in the shop. Another option would be to display one t-shirt on the wall or in the window and have the rest folded on a shelf.

Dave and Lynne are still trying to find a leaflet rack to cover the front of the counter to display tourist information leaflets.

The paddling pool in the window is drawing people's attention, but Mary and Emma were concerned that they were unable to catch people's eyes as they passed by. Dave said it would be removed, or put in a less prominent position, once it had served its purpose. The window display needs to be changed for the Jubilee, so this will be the best time to move it. We will be entering the Best Dressed Window competition.

Action Point – Emma to design our Jubilee window display.

James said the Blackdown Hills Charity could supply Tourist Information boards and leaflets free of charge, and there were no restrictions on us becoming a Tourist Information office. For funding we should approach the Town Council or CRAG, or affiliate with an organisation such as Visit Britain.

Action Point – James to contact Gordon Guest, Chairman of CRAG, regarding possible funding for a tourist information centre and to push the case for having a swimming pool on the land next to the sports centre (see below).

Action Point – James/Sean to contact Penny Bayer to ask why CRAG apparently ignored the considerable desire for a swimming pool that was expressed at their action planning workshop in October 2011.

Site

CRAG are promoting the use of the land next to the sports centre as potential tennis courts when the sewerage works have been completed. James has contacted South West Water, who said this land could now be built upon following the installation of drainage tanks, and would be suitable for a pool, although it was still within the flood plain. We wondered why CRAG had not contacted us about this.

There are doubts about CRAG's future, but if it continues then we felt that a representative from the swimming pool committee should join them.

James has not yet received a response to his email to Daniel Heathcote, Land Director at Persimmon. So he will now write to their Managing Director for the South West.

Action Point – James to contact the Persimmon's Managing Director for the South West regarding them donating land next to the Health Centre.

Events

We still haven't collected the Easter Egg cards from the shops. Sharon said Caroline would be able to do this.

Action Point – Lynne to send Sharon the list of shops which had cards.

Accounts

Anita has decided to start the bank account application process again, with herself, Dave and Sharon as signatories. She will send this to the bank this week.

Constitution/Status

Anita has prepared a constitution document for a Steering Group – which is what we are at the moment. This will establish us as a formal group whose objective is to promote the formation of a Community Benefit Society or a similar charitable organisation. We will discuss/ratify this at the next meeting.

There is a lot of work involved in becoming one of these organisations, and at the moment we are a long way from achieving it.

Action Point – Anita to contact Wessex Community Assets to see if they can help us, as they did for the Exeter Real Food shop.

3. Fundraising events

Jubilee Treasure Hunt – Monday 4th June

We decided to run the event throughout Jubilee week, in case people were away on the day. We will need to promote the event on the day, with boards in Fore Street.

It will be a team event for up to 6 people. The entry fee will be £5 per team. The event is intended for all ages.

Entry forms will be available from the shop from 4th June onwards and must be returned there by Saturday 9th June.

Action Point – Dave and Sean to finish setting the questions.

Prizes

Dave suggested a trophy (cost £5 – £10), plus medals (about £1 each) or rosettes, which can be obtained locally. Sharon said a trophy wouldn't be suitable for a team event as it would only go to one person, so medals would be better.

We still have 6 tickets for an Experience Day at Yarak Birds of Prey, which could be given to the winning team.

Dave has written to Crealy, Diggerland and Quad World to ask if they would donate tickets, but has not heard back from them yet.

Emma suggested asking World of Country Life in Exmouth. Other suggestions included a hot air balloon ride, a meal at a Chinese restaurant, and paintballing. We need to contact these organisations to see if they will donate prizes or give discounts.

Sharon offered to donate some 25% discount vouchers for her shop.

Action Point – Everyone to email Dave with any other suggestions for prizes.

Action Point – Dave to contact World of Country Life.

Sponsored walk

This is due to take place on the Sunday before the schools break up [15th July].

Sean has contacted the rugby club about them hosting the sponsored walk, but they requested a meeting to discuss it as they have a number of questions about how it will be run and what facilities we will need. After some discussion we decided that it would be better to hold it at the CCA fields, as the shorter walks can take place around the fields and along the leat.

Sharon said a Clic Sargent walk she had been involved in had been cancelled, as the police would no longer let them walk along roads without footpaths.

Action Point – Dave to contact the police regarding the proposed route for the first leg (Cullompton to Tiverton) of the 18-mile walk, and to find an alternative route if it is disallowed.

1940s Evening

All arrangements are now in place and the event will take place at the Manor House Hotel on Saturday 11th August. A timetable for the evening has been drawn up, starting from 7pm. The Manor has increased the number of places to 100. Mary gave everyone at the meeting 10 tickets to sell at £15 each, and more will be available in the shop and at Mr Ben's Emporium.

If there are any tickets left in July, Mary will try to get the event featured on local radio stations.

The Manor is charging £5 per head for the meals and the band (Blitz & Peaces) will cost £200. We agreed that the 5 musicians could also be provided with meals. The band has a good website at www.blitzandpeaces.co.uk

Children can attend, but there is no reduction in cost – it is £15 for everyone.

The main course will be a choice of beef and vegetable stew or chicken pie, which should be indicated on the form accompanying the tickets. We also need everyone's name and contact details (preferably an email address so we can easily contact them about future events). There is currently no vegetarian option, but if anyone requests it we should be able to accommodate them.

Everyone attending will be given a 'ration book' with their name and menu choice inside, so it is important that we get these details when they buy their tickets.

Sharon will get some 1940s accessories for her shop, for those who want to dress up.

Action Point – Everyone to let Mary know if you have any 1940s artefacts we can borrow for the evening.

Action Point – Everyone to let Mary know if you have any soup bowls the Manor could use for the evening. (Or we could ask people to bring their own.)

Action Point – Dave to produce an A2-size 'Your Swimming Pool Needs You' poster, based on the 1940s Kitchener design.

Murder mystery

The Community Centre's murder mystery evening was organised by Angela Ford. It raised at least £700. The characters were played by the Tiverton Players. Mary is waiting for Mrs Ford to get back to her with further details.

We would also like to invite Mrs Ford to come and talk to us, as she was the main fundraiser for the Community Centre and might have some useful advice for us.

Action Point – Mary to contact Angela Ford for further details about the murder mystery event, and to invite her to a meeting as a guest speaker.

4. Feedback from visit to the old pool site at Cullompton Community College

Dave, James and Sean visited the site on 30th April and met the Business Development Manager Tracy Ward. The meeting was very positive and they thought the site had definite potential.

The old pool was in a bad state and was frequently vandalised, and the changing room block was burnt down several times. We thought the vandalism was probably aimed at the school rather than the pool. But we need to be aware that security and the prevention of vandalism must be planned for – not just here but at any site.

The pool has been filled in and fenced off, and a large mound of earth dumped on top. They were planning to turn it into a nature reserve as they didn't know what else to do with it.

There appears to be enough room for a 20m pool. The water pipes and electricity supply for the old pool are still there, but buried.

They do not want the public to access the pool through the school grounds. But it could be accessed from the sports centre car park if a second footbridge was installed across the leat.

The school is about to begin a major redevelopment/upgrade programme, and they are considering allowing the public to use their tennis courts once they have been resurfaced. This could fit in well with our own plans, as they will presumably want the public to access the tennis courts from the sports centre side. There is a meeting about this on 7th June, which we have been invited to attend. The site is outside the flood plain.

It was interesting to note that the school and sports centre use each others' facilities, even though they are owned by different councils – DCC and MDDC. Sharon suggested speaking to Tim Duxbury at the Hayridge before the meeting, as he will know who to contact at DCC.

Action Point – Dave to speak to Tim Duxbury.

5. Inspection of plans and designs from PineLog

James showed the designs and plans he has received, which look very attractive. He will circulate them to everyone so we can have a more detailed look. He has also emailed the price list to everyone – a 25m pool will cost about £1.25 million, not including things like levelling the land, access, etc.

Action Point – James to circulate the pool plans and designs.

6. Feedback from 'Grants for Sports Projects' workshop

Dave and James attended this workshop in Upottery on 24th April. It was run by East Devon District Council under the 'Making It Local' scheme.

Action Point – James to email everyone the most useful material from the workshop.

In order to apply for any grant money you must have a business plan in place – we already knew this. You must also be able to prove you know what you're doing, that there is a need for the project, and that it is sustainable. You also need to begin building up a sink fund – which we are already doing.

There is plenty of grant money available; it's just a question of knowing who to approach, how to approach them, and having the right documentation in place. They each have different criteria, and it's better to work on the easier ones first.

Once we reach a certain tipping point (for example £500,000) money will become available from more sources, and will be easier to get, as it will become obvious that we will succeed and everyone will want a part in it. You can also get match funding, where one organisation matches the funding given by another organisation.

East Devon District Council have a dedicated Section 106 officer, and Dave and James wondered whether MDDC also have one. James later discovered that they do (a Mr Williams) and he spoke to him about the swimming pool. Mr Williams said they have not yet started work on the conversion to CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy), which comes into effect in 2014, and they did not yet have any system in place for the allocation of infrastructure money under that scheme.

Sponsorship could also be a big opportunity for us – for example South West Water.

Pete has returned the list of funding sources we received from Charlotte Weedon. Dave currently has this.

7. Any other business

Sharon suggested applying to MDDC, who have been given £100,000 under the Mary Portas scheme, which is intended to bring more people into town centres. A swimming pool would definitely bring more people in, so we might be eligible for a small share of this funding. Amy Tregellas (Head of Communities & Governance at MDDC) would be a good person to speak to.

Cullompton Town Council should be sending us a payment of about £154 from the St Andrew's Residents Association, which is now obsolete.

Donations

We have received another £100 donation, this time from the St Andrew's Church coffee morning. Dave went along to collect it, and was surprised at how big an event it is – a large hall in the Community Centre was packed with tables, most of which were fully occupied. They must make a considerable amount of money. It takes place every Thursday between 10 am and 11.30 am.

Dave confirmed that everyone who gave a large donation would be sent a thank you letter.

Fundraising

Someone came into the shop to say that the older people in the town would like to raise money for the pool, but there aren't any events for them to take part in.

Dave and Lynne suggested a knitting challenge where they can try to cover an area the size of the pool with knitted squares – this should attract press attention. The squares can be various shades of blue, which will look like water from a distance. The squares could be stitched together to make blankets afterwards, and these could perhaps be sold in the shop. Lynne can make a knitting pattern for our logo, which could appear on one square on each blanket. She can also get wool at wholesale prices. Several people in the town can teach knitting.

Other suggestions included a cake-making competition, quilting, and making embroidered/stitched items to sell in the shop. Sharon recommended contacting the Cully Stitches Club as she used to be a member and some of them make things but don't know what to do with them afterwards.

Action Point – everyone to think of other suggestions for fundraising events that older people can get involved in.

Action Point – Emma to contact Padbrook gym to see if they would support a cycling event, such as a 24-hour cycle relay using their exercise bikes.

Action Point – Dave to prepare an advert for the fundraising events to be displayed on the screens at the Market House Inn. (A4 landscape, jpeg)

It would be fantastic if we could make a huge amount of money from a single project, such as publishing a bestselling book, having a hit record, or selling a painting worth hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Action Point – everyone to think of big projects that could make a fortune.

Sponsored walk

Dave wondered whether we could ask schools to run their own individual sponsored walks to raise money for the pool. However there wouldn't be time to do it this year as they require at least 2 terms' notice. We could also include pre-schools and playgroups.

They could also hold other fundraising events, such as non-uniform days or other sporting events.

Date of next meeting

Tuesday 22nd May, 6.30pm at the Market House Inn.