

Cullompton Swimming Pool Campaign  
Committee Meeting 13  
Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2012, The Market House Inn, Cullompton

Attendees: Dave Haslett (Chair + minutes), James MacPherson, Sharon Vaughan, Sean Burrett, Mary Christie, Carla Wetherell

Guest: Mark Jelley (Exeter Swimming Club)

Apologies: Lynne Read

Absent: Anita North

### **1. Updates and Action Points**

Steve Eastland (architect) was unable to attend the meeting, but said he would come to the next one. He hopes to bring along Steve Keable, who has raised millions of pounds of funding for playgrounds.

Sharon has checked St Andrews car park on a Sunday morning, and there were about 5 cars parked there. There might be room for a small car boot sale if we asked them to park at one end. Sean suggested using the CCA fields, and Anita has previously offered use of the field opposite the sports centre. These will both be fine for the summer months, but we still need somewhere for the winter.

Emma has designed our Jubilee shop window. Dave showed a photo of it, and everyone agreed that it was fantastic.

**Action Point** – Dave to email a photo of the Jubilee shop window to James.

James has spoken to Gordon Guest (Chairman of CRAG) regarding their support for the swimming pool and possible funding for an information centre. Gordon referred him to Anita, saying she was the best person to speak to. Anita is on our own committee but we need to check if she is still a member of CRAG and ask her to approach Gordon.

**Action Point** – James/Dave to check if Anita is still on CRAG and ask her to speak to Gordon Guest regarding support for the pool and funding towards expanding the shop into an information centre (which the Traders Association also supports).

**Action Point** (brought forward) – James to speak to 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.

**Action Point** (brought forward) – Lynne to send Sharon the list of shops that had Easter Egg Hunt cards so that Caroline can go around and collect them.

**Action Point** – Mary is still waiting to hear about the Hugging Cullompton event in September.

**Action Point** – Lynne to scan/copy the plans from PineLog and email them to all committee members. (Update: Lynne was unable to do this, so Dave will do it instead.)

**Action Point** (brought forward): James to circulate additional material from the Funding for Sports Project workshop help at Upottery in April.

Aldi are planning to build a supermarket at Alexandria Industrial Estate, not Longbridge Meadow as we were informed. It will therefore not be on land we had considered for the pool.

## **2. Sponsored walk**

Dave has contacted the police regarding the sponsored walk route, and they are happy with the route we proposed. PCSO Adrian Legg said he would come on the walk too. (This is the first leg of the 18-mile route, from Cullompton to Tiverton via Butterleigh.) They recommended that everyone wears high visibility vests (Dave can get these for about £1.50 each). Dave also thought it would be a good idea if the people at the front and back of the group had whistles, which they could blow if they heard a car approaching.

The remainder of the long walk is on safe paths, so high visibility vests can be removed on arrival at the canal basin. After a rest break the walk continues along the tow path to Sampford Peverell, with a stop for lunch at the Globe Inn. It then follows the cycle path to Tiverton Parkway Station and on to Willand, and then along the public footpath back into Cullompton, returning to the starting point (the CCA fields). Total distance: approximately 18 miles.

Dave will lead the 18-mile walk. Other people suggested for the long walk include Matt from the Manor House Hotel, Emma, Pat Read, Sharon (if it's held on a different day), and James's neighbour.

Sharon suggested we should also carry the Official Unofficial Mid Devon Olympic torch.

We will put up some warning notices along the route between Cullompton and Tiverton.

**Action Point** – Dave to notify Devon County Council Highways about the walk.

Sean confirmed that the CCA fields are available on 15<sup>th</sup> July – no cost but they would appreciate a small donation.

There will be smaller (1-mile and 3-mile) walks going on at the same time, around the CCA fields and along the leat. Carla and Lynne (and perhaps also Mark Jelley) agreed to help with this.

**Action Point** – Dave to sort out the routes for the shorter walks.

**Action Point** – Dave to design sponsor forms with Sharon and make them available as soon as possible.

We decided to have an entry fee for the sponsored walk: £3 for adults and £1 for children. We will also encourage people to get sponsors.

Janet Johns of Cullompton Foot Care has kindly offered a free foot care session to everyone who raises £50 or more.

### **3. Treasure Hunt**

Everything is now in place for this. Posters will go up this week. Dave has produced an advert for the screens at the Market House Inn. He has also emailed 15 local schools and asked for it to be included in their newsletters.

#### **Prizes**

We agreed that the winning team would each receive a gold medal, a Cully Pool t-shirt, and an Experience Day at Yarak Birds of Prey. The runners-up would receive silver medals and 25% discount vouchers for Mr Ben's Emporium. The third place team would receive bronze medals. Everyone taking part would receive a Cully Pool sticker.

Diggerland have donated an entry ticket for one person, plus 10% off for anyone who accompanies them on the day. We will keep this back for an event that has an individual winner rather than a team.

James said he might be able to get corporate tickets for the Olympics or the London Eye. These would make good prizes for our next event, the Scavenger Hunt on 24<sup>th</sup> June.

**Action Point** – James to enquire about corporate tickets.

### **4. 1940s Evening**

Mary has arranged to borrow 1940s artefacts from the second-hand furniture shop to decorate the Manor House Hotel for the evening.

She still needs to borrow soup bowls.

### **5. Murder Mystery Evening**

Annie Ford (not Angela as reported previously) is in charge of fundraising at the Community Centre. Mark said they have just heard that one of the bills for building the centre is a lot higher than expected and they need to find a further £120,000. So she is unlikely to be able to help us for a while.

The Murder Mystery event for the Community Centre was organised by Graham Sessions (Sharon said she knows him).

The Twinning Association held a murder mystery event about a month ago, and another one is planned in Cullompton for July. So it would be best to delay ours for a while – perhaps until Halloween.

Mary said the Community Centre's murder mystery was held during a 3-course meal, with the murder taking place during the starter and evidence being reviewed during dessert. A prize was awarded to the person/group who correctly identified the murderer.

## **6. Fundraising**

Suggestions include a 1960s evening, and a 60s/70s disco. The rugby club would be a good venue for this, and can be hired for about £25.

Carla said Voiceworks, which she and Sharon are both members of, stage concerts for charity, and she will ask if they could stage one to raise funds for the swimming pool, perhaps next year.

**Action Point** – Carla to ask Voiceworks about a charity concert for the pool.

We are planning to produce a calendar for 2014 featuring photos of the Culm Valley. We will launch a monthly photography competition for this in August/September this year which will run until July/August next year. The winning photo from each month will be used in the calendar. The photos should represent the Culm Valley in the appropriate month or season.

There seems to be several opportunities for funding around at the moment, but we don't have a proper business plan in place, so it will be difficult to get these, and the window for applications is very tight. James said we will need money to pay for an initial set of architect's plans. However we need a definite site for the pool before we can go ahead with these.

### **Big fundraising projects**

**Action Point** – Dave and Carla will attempt to write a fundraising song.

### **Wills**

Dave suggested asking a local solicitor to back the campaign. They could ask their clients to bequeath part of their estate to the pool when they draw up/update their will.

Sharon said Julia Green from Dunn and Baker Solicitors had joined the Cullompton Traders Association.

**Action Point** – Dave to contact Julia Green.

## **7. Fundraising events for older people**

The knitting challenge (enough blue squares to cover an area the size of the pool) has been cancelled as no one wants knitted squares or blankets any more, and not even the overseas aid charities will take them.

We could ask people to make craft items to sell in the shop instead, such as Cully Pool mascots (bean bags or pin cushions) based on the splash logo. The main image could be done in cross stitch. It could perhaps have a face with eyes. Alternatively, the shape could be cut from two pieces of blue felt, which people can stitch together, stuff, and stitch on eyes. The Cully Stitches club will probably make some of these for us.

**Action Point** – Sharon to discuss the idea with Lynne.

**Action Point** – Dave to email Sharon an image of the splash logo.

Carla and Sharon also suggested a 24-hour stitch-a-thon. Sharon organised one of these when she was a member of the Cully Stitchers.

Other suggestions included a barn dance, tea dance, beetle drive, and bingo. Although there are several bingo events around, people in Cullompton love it and there could be an opportunity to hold more of them and make it a regular monthly event.

**Action Point** – Sharon and Mary to investigate bands/dancers for a tea dance.

We should ask the older people what ideas they have, especially the groups that meet up regularly and could work on something together. Eileen Andrews runs a group for older people, and there are other groups such as Age Concern which might like to get involved.

James said there is a knitting club in the Health Centre café every Wednesday, which his neighbour goes to. He will ask her if they have any ideas.

**Action Point** – James to speak to his neighbour about the knitting club and what ideas they might have for fundraising items or projects.

## **8. Location**

James has received a response from Persimmon's managing director for the south west. However, he has simply asked for more details about the project.

**Action Point** – Dave to send a response to the letter, giving more details.

Dave, James and Sean will be attending the Governors' resources meeting at the Community College on 20<sup>th</sup> June, regarding the redesign of their grounds and the possibility of reusing and perhaps expanding the original pool site.

We will let them know about CRAG's proposal to build tennis courts on the land next to the sports centre, as this will have a considerable impact on their plans. We will also suggest they could use Little Field at the CCA fields for their nature reserve in exchange for us having the pool site.

## **9. Feedback from Annual Parish Meeting**

Dave, Lynne and Mary attended this, and Anita was there in her role as a Town Councillor. There was nothing of much relevance to the swimming pool campaign.

## **10. CCA AGM**

The CCA AGM is on 31<sup>st</sup> May, and we agreed that Lynne would attend, and join their committee. The CCA isn't just about the fields; it is an umbrella organisation for a number of groups, and we ought to be a part of it.

## **11. Committee – expanding**

A number of people have come into the shop to say they would like to join the committee. Dave has sent them all information about the campaign, copies of the agenda and an invitation to attend the meetings. But none of them have turned up so far.

A young man called Lewis Squire started a petition in October 2010 to get a swimming pool built in Cullompton. We should invite him to a meeting and see if he wants to join the committee. Carla knows him.

**Action Point** – Carla to invite Lewis Squire to our next meeting.

## **12. Swimming in the news**

There has been a great deal of coverage in the news recently about lack of swimming tuition in schools. Duncan Goodhew and Steve Backley are backing a scheme to promote more swimming in schools. We agreed that we should try to be a part of this campaign.

**Action Point** – Dave to write to the Amateur Swimming Association to tell them about our campaign.

## **13. Shop + merchandise**

Dave said we should consider moving to a larger shop when our current lease expires in October. The shop is making more than enough money to cover its costs. A larger shop in a more prominent location would allow us to expand the range of items we sell, which would bring in more money and get us more attention. It would also help with us becoming an information centre, as we would have the space to do it properly, and it would be more central to the town.

Sharon gave Dave details of a vacant shop next to Mr Ben's Emporium and said the owners, Woodgavil Properties, might consider letting us have this for little or no rent. However the entire building is currently up for sale.

**Action Point** – Dave to contact the owners of the vacant shop.

**Action Point** – Sharon to contact Steven Phillips to let him know we are seeking other premises.

Lynne has said we should delay getting t-shirts for the time being and concentrate on raising funds rather than spending money. The rest of the committee disagreed and said the t-shirts were a good way of generating awareness. We will therefore go ahead and order an initial batch of 25.

We agreed that they should feature the splash logo with the website address underneath, but we still need a slogan to go across the top. The stickers can use the same wording.

**Action Point** – everyone to think of slogans for the t-shirts and stickers and email Dave

James suggested asking a sports celebrity to endorse the campaign and let us use their signature on our merchandise. Suggestions included Duncan Goodhew, Liam Tancock, Tom Daley and Sharron Davies. Mark said he would be able to contact Liam Tancock.

Another suggestion was Joss Stone. Although she is not a sports person, she might back the campaign and support it in other ways.

Some of the t-shirts could be signed by the celebrity in person (i.e. with a pen rather than printed on the shirts), and either auctioned locally or sold on eBay.

Dave asked if anyone could think of items we could sell in the shop that are not available elsewhere in town. Suggestions included sports gear, surfing gear, dry cleaning agency, and school uniforms and bags – perhaps as an agent for Thomas Moore. We wouldn't need to stock the items in the shop, just have a catalogue, take orders and receive weekly deliveries.

**Action Point** – everyone to think of any other items to sell in the shop for the next meeting.

#### **14. Town Fayre – 24<sup>th</sup> June**

We agreed that we would have a stall at the Town Fayre. We could sell t-shirts and stickers, promote the sponsored walk and give out leaflets about the campaign.

**Action Point** – Dave to apply for a stall at the Town Fayre and give them details of our event insurance.

Dave is organising a get-together for all the shop volunteers, committee members and their families, as most of them haven't yet met each other. He hopes to hold it at the Market House Inn after the Town Fayre on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June.

**Action Point** – Dave to check with Anita that the Market House is available.

#### **15. Bank account**

Anita was not at the meeting, so we do not know what is happening with this.

**Action Point** – Dave to contact Anita regarding the current status of the bank account.

#### **Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June, 6.30pm at the Market House Inn.