

Cullompton Swimming Pool Campaign
Committee Meeting 6
Tuesday 22nd November 2011, The Kings Head, Cullompton

Attendees: Dave Haslett (Chair + Minutes), Anita North, James MacPherson, Pete Woodley, Sean Burrett, Lynne Read, Sharon Vaughan

Guest: Mary Christie

Apologies: Sarah Cagney, Carla Wetherell, Caroline Pring, Carol Pickering

1. Previous Minutes, Matters Arising, Action Points

Previous minutes agreed.

The representative from Penguin Pools did not turn up for his meeting with James and Dave, and has not been in contact since. James thought this might be because we are planning a low-cost build and they wouldn't make much money out of it. It might be better to wait until we have a formal proposal for the pool before contacting them again.

We have had a good response to the logo competition, including a significant number of entries from Plymtree Primary School. The closing date is on Saturday 26th November, and we will arrange for the competition to be judged as soon after that date as we can.

Carol has arranged for the t-shirts to be printed, and they should be ready by Thursday 24th November, in time for the Christmas Lights Parade.

Lynne has visited Marion Dummett regarding her complaint about the extension of the logo competition closing date, and the historical documents she has about the pool campaign. Mrs Dummett will dig out all the documents she can find and arrange for us to have them.

Lynne also tried to visit Anna Curtis, but she is working long hours and isn't able to participate at the moment. Lynne will ask her if she has any more information about the offer of land for the pool that was made in 2001.

The Farmers' Market have been in touch to say they are not happy with us running the 100 Club draw on their site without their permission. Lynne said she had apologised on our behalf as we didn't realise we needed permission. They have now offered us a share of a covered stall, free of charge, which we have gratefully accepted, and we will be able to sell tickets for the 100 Club there on 10th December.

Anita is still waiting for the Treasurer of the previous committee to return the latest banking forms so we can transfer the funds over.

Anita hasn't managed to sign up many new members for the 100 Club, and we've only sold 27 so far. Lynne expressed concern about this, as people are asking when the first draw will take place, and we haven't sold enough yet. We agreed that the first draw should take place at the Farmers' Market in January, and Lynne will inform those who have signed up so far.

Anita suggested passing the 100 Club around between committee members, so we each have an opportunity to sell them. If each committee member sells 6 or 7 numbers then we should be able to sell all 100 fairly quickly. Sharon felt that it ought to be kept in one place so everyone knows where it is, and we should all send people along there. She agreed to hold on to it for the next week, so we should all try to send as many people as possible to Mr Ben's Emporium. We agreed that it needed to be actively sold to people, rather than waiting for them to contact us. There will be further opportunities at the Christmas Lights Parade and the next Farmers' Market.

Mary Christie volunteered to help with the 100 Club and/or table top sale on 10th December.

Lynne has set up a notice board outside her house which gives details about the campaign and our events. She is also making a sandwich board.

We have several nice items to sell on Lynne's stall at the Christmas Lights Parade. Any unsold items can be sold at the next table top sale. This will probably be our last table top sale. James suggested that if we have any good quality items left over then we should investigate Cullompton Selling, who should be able to sell the items on our behalf.

2. Feedback from meeting with Jonathan Guscott, MDDC Head of Planning

Dave, James, Anita, Sean and Nikki Woollatt attended the meeting with Jonathan Guscott at the King's Head on 8th November. This was a very positive meeting, and the 25 proposed sites for the pool have now reduced to a shortlist of three.

The sites in Meadow Lane have been eliminated as they are in Flood Zone 3, and no development will be allowed.

The sites on the other side of the motorway junction have been eliminated because of traffic constraints at the junction and safety concerns regarding pedestrians crossing the slip roads.

The primary site we intend focusing on is adjacent to the new Health Centre and College Surgery in Willand Road. The land is part of the Mid Devon Local Framework Allocation, which is planned for mixed use development. This will include facilities for the community, and could potentially include a pool.

Builders can allocate land to the community to reduce their Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Persimmon Homes are the only builders who have so far shown an interest in the master plan for the area, which will be developed over the next 12 – 18 months.

Anita said that Persimmon had already given the land for the Health Centre, and she was unsure whether they would be prepared to give any more.

Action Point – Sean to contact Persimmon Homes regarding the allocation of land for a pool

Jonathan Guscott also proposed reusing the old swimming pool site at the Community College. Although the pool has been filled in, the site is still available, and could accommodate a larger pool. Parking could be provided in the field next to the skate ramp. Part of that field is within the flood plain, but using it for parking should not present any

major problems. The school site is owned by Devon County Council and the field is owned by Mid Devon District Council.

Action point – Sean to contact Devon County Council.

The third potential site is the Rugby Club. We had initially dismissed this, as the only access is via a single-track lane. However, the Local Framework includes plans to develop the land between the rugby club and Tiverton Road, and a new access road would be built.

Following this meeting, James went to see the doctors at College Surgery, and they were enthusiastic about having the pool there. The surgery already owns some land at the rear of the Health Centre, which they want to develop for community use, and it may be possible to put the pool there – or at least part of it, depending on the size of the site. They will discuss this with their board members, and James will arrange a meeting with their senior partner, Dr. Mike Dixon.

They are already making positive suggestions, such as siting the hydrotherapy pool so it can be accessed directly from the Health Centre. Public access to the main pool would be at the other end of the building, via the car park, which would need to be extended.

We agreed that this would be an excellent site for the pool, and that this was a very positive step forward. Once we have agreed a definite site for the pool, we can start applying for funding and setting up a formal business plan, and all the other pieces should fall into place.

3. Arrangements for the Christmas Lights Parade

James has obtained 2 paddling pools which we can carry along the street for people to throw money into. We also have the collecting tins.

Dave apologised that he would not be able to take part in the parade due to another commitment. James said it was doubtful that he would be able to attend. Lynne will be running the stall in the High Street.

Anita, Sean, Pete and Sarah will take part in the parade. Carol might also take part with her children, and Mary Christie might take part with her grandchildren.

Everyone is meeting in Brook Road, next to the old Somerfield site, at 5.30 pm

4. Stickers

We agreed a design for the stickers, which will feature the words ‘A Pool for Cully’, the new logo, the website address, and Lynne’s phone number.

Carol was researching printing costs, but was not at the meeting.

5. Photos of committee members for the website

We are still missing a few photos.

Action Point – Carla, Caroline, Sarah and Sharon to send Dave a photo or arrange for him to take one.

6. Any other business

Dave pointed out that the table top sales are a good opportunity to inform the public about the campaign and recruit more helpers, and suggested we hand out flyers.

We agreed that Lynne would be responsible for all printing, and we would reimburse her for the cost of ink.

Action Point – Dave to decide on the wording for the flyer and Lynne to design and print them.

Sean said he had seen an item on the news about a new pool opening in Dorchester. Local children began raising the money 80 years ago by donating old pennies. The money was invested is now worth over £70,000. The pool has been built but is not open yet. Sean will find out more about it.

Anita said that people living in Ottery St. Mary have expressed an interest in using our pool when it opens.

Dave and Anita recommended that we should have three pools: a 25m main pool, a learner pool and a separate hydrotherapy pool. This would allow physiotherapists and schools to use the facility simultaneously, and would not impact on the main pool. James agreed that this would be the best arrangement, based on his findings at other pools.

Date of next meeting

Tuesday 13th December 2011, 7.00pm at The King's Head, Cullompton.