

Teignmouth Lido Community Meeting

24 April 2019 – Bitton House, Teignmouth

Notes of Meeting

The meeting was held at 6.30pm in Bitton House on 24 April 2019.

Councillor Bullivant, the Teignbridge DC Portfolio Holder for Recreation and Leisure, was invited to the meeting.

It was a well-attended meeting with approximately 100 local Lido users turning up to show their support and to offer some suggestions on how to promote the pool.

There were also a number of questions raised at the meeting which Councillor Bullivant said that he was happy to take back to the council and raise with them. Points raised at the meeting and the further questions raised are set out below:

Matters raised	Responses given/Further questions raised
What is the future of the Lido given the constant rumours of its closure?	Councillor Bullivant said that there were no plans to close the Lido and that there were long term plans to develop the East Cliff end of the seafront with the Lido as part of that development. There was no timescale given on this plan.
What plans are there to make the Lido more presentable. Currently it looks like a run-down building that is not used. The gate doesn't allow passers by to look in.	Some limited maintenance work will be carried out on the pool, eg gates and the changing rooms, to ensure that that the pool can be safely opened up again to the public on 24 May 2019. Long term there are plans to replace the plant room with a more eco friendly system (similar to the one recently installed at Dawlish Leisure Centre). Question to be answered: - Can anything be done to make viewing of the pool more accessible from the seafront?
There is no signage/advertising in the town to indicate that there is a heated outdoor Lido pool at East Cliff.	Many people in the community don't realise it is a HEATED pool – how can it's profile be raised? It was suggested that posters are put up around the town, in particular at the Train Station, at bus stops and at the Pavilions to alert locals and visitors to its presence in the town. Local schools could promote the Lido in association with the Lifeguard visits/assemblies to schools every summer. Also suggested distributing Lido timetables for this season to all local Hotels and B&Bs so they could offer it as an attraction to visitors. Questions to be answered: - Can we have any banners made to advertise the Lido, eg put up along the railings over the bridge from the East Cliff Car Park and at the front of the building? - What are the conservation restrictions in the area referring to?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can we distribute timetables to all schools in the area and get notices put in the school Primary Times magazines? - Could there be a competition within the local schools to design a poster? - Could local schools could promote the Lido in association with the annual summer Surf Life-saving Club visits/assemblies to schools
<p>There was a discussion about whether the Lido should become a 'community run' asset. We were informed at the meeting that an application had been made by some local individuals to the Council to list the Lido as a 'community asset'.</p>	<p>The general consensus at the meeting was that the local Lido users wanted this to stay as a well-run Council run asset but were willing to provide support from the community to help achieve this. We have contacted other local 'community run' pools, eg Topsham and Kingsteignton and their general experience is that it requires a lot of willing volunteers and constant fundraising to keep these pools operational. This idea wasn't supported by most people at the meeting.</p>
<p>There was a discussion about whether more could be done to accommodate competing usage of the pool by the public and the clubs. Offers of providing lifeguards have been made from the clubs (eg Teignmouth Swimming Club and Octopush) but these have been rejected by the Council.</p> <p>It was noted that it is important that the council's aim to make the population more fit and active does not deter those who are already fit from maintaining their fitness levels. Need to have equal access to all users.</p>	<p>Questions to be answered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can more use be made of offers of lifeguards from the clubs currently using the Lido? - Is there any scope for early morning swims to accommodate workers who can't get to the pool in the evenings before the clubs take over? - Can the clubs hire the pool (private hire) up until 10pm and extend their usage, particularly if they provide their own lifeguards? - Why aren't the schools using the pool this year? If there are no schools, couldn't this time be used for public swimming?
<p>There was some discussion on the turnover of numbers in the pool and the use of 2-hour session times in the summer holidays.</p>	<p>Questions to be answered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the 'bather load' for the Lido? Does this recognise that there are likely to be a lot of people on the grounds that are not using the pool but are just sunbathing? - Is a 2-hour turnover time for pool-users value for money, particularly for the less well off? Could the fun sessions be made into 2 instead of 3— eg Morning and Afternoon Sessions? - Could sessions be abandoned at the weekends?
<p>The cost of using the pool was discussed. Teignmouth has areas of high deprivation. Is there any funding that can be obtained that would make the cost of the swims more affordable to local families? Could discounts be offered to local employers, eg NHS, Council staff</p>	<p>Questions to be answered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is there any way it could be made more affordable, particularly for local families and children? For example, could cheaper books of tickets be made available to school kids or have a fixed price for an evening visit? - Could free taster sessions be provided on the first weekend the Lido

	<p>opens?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are there any grants/funds available which we could apply for? - Advertise the low membership costs of joining Teignmouth Swimming Club £10/month. This club is run entirely by volunteers. - Could discounts be offered to local employers, eg NHS staff/Devon County Council staff?
The possibility of getting solar panels put on the Lido building to help reduce the running costs was raised.	<p>Question to be answered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is this a possibility?
<p>The issue of providing a roof for the pool as a way of extending its seasonal use was discussed.</p> <p>It has been confirmed that monies raised in the past to provide a roof only amount to £2000.</p> <p>The other issue raised was the state of the changing rooms. They are not heated or well lit so would this prevent longer opening hours?</p>	<p>Questions to be answered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would it be possible to install a retractable roof if funding was made available? - Would the Council be able to open up the Lido for a longer season? - Are there any plans to upgrade the changing rooms?
<p>The Council runs its leisure facilities at a loss each year. The annual deficit from the Lido is approximately £90k.</p> <p>It was mentioned by the councillor that the Teignbridge area is short of ½ pool in relation to the population and that there has been some consideration of building onto the existing pool at Dawlish.</p>	<p>Questions to be answered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would people in the town be willing to make an annual subscription of say £5 towards making a contribution towards maintaining/improving the Lido? (Tick box on Council Tax Renewal form) - Is there any way of measuring the usage and revenue earned this year, specifically by the Lido? This could then be used as a benchmark for future years. Would be useful to see who uses the pool, ie those who already have memberships versus casual visitors? - If the Lido was opened for longer during the year, would this lessen the need for an extra smaller pool to be built at Dawlish?
There was discussion about bringing back catering facilities at the Lido? Currently the Council has a contract with a company to provide vending machines.	<p>Question to be answered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is there any possibility of having catering facilities at the pool? <i>(not enhanced as there are no catering facilities at the moment)</i>
There was a discussion about the mental health benefits associated with doing sociable, outdoor activities. In the past, the Council has liaised with the local GP surgeries and offered discounted sessions for patients referred to them but there has been a very low take-up by the public.	<p>Questions to be answered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Could further attempts be made with NHS bodies to advertise the benefits of using the Lido? - Could better use be made of the 'community connectors' to promote the Lido as a good source of physical activity and a healthy social environment?