

Annual Report

Debenham Community Swimming Pool became a charitable company in March, 2012.

Our constitution states that an AGM must be held within the first 18 months, there after annually.

Background

The current pool project started in July 2010; its aims then were to investigate the possibility of modernizing the original school pool. Structural surveys reported that the cost of modernizing would be comparable with building a new pool better situated for community use. (NB: previous school groups had also investigated modernizing the school pool but progress was limited).

January 2012 – June 2013

In January 2012, the decision to set up as a charitable company was agreed with the goal of securing funds which would provide a heated and enclosed community swimming pool with all year usage.

The charitable company was established in March 2012 with a main committee to steer the project and with accountability for taking key decisions, and a supporting fundraising sub-committee. A company bank account was set up with Barclays in May 2012. A logo was designed by Simon Abbott and a website was designed and is managed by Atec Solutions.

Since 2010, research has been undertaken, visiting other pools and discussing the project with people who have completed similar pool builds. Quotes and advice has been received from pool construction companies. We have also approached a number of management companies and swim schools who could manage the day to day operation the pool (swimming lessons; cleaning; manage pool hire/ bookings; maintenance etc). Three companies/ swim schools have expressed an interest to be considered when contracting this service.

A business plan has been put together and will continue to be updated when necessary. A copy can be seen on our display.

We have contacted possible users of the pool, other schools, groups etc, all of whom have written support and intent to use letters, from which we will be able to comprise a possible timetable.

Vernon Burrows, an architect from Seckford Building Design was appointed, on the recommendation of Brian Clarke from Colneis School in Felixstowe (who led an almost identical project to this).

Plans were drawn up for a polycarbonate and aluminium structure housing a 18m by 6m pool, situated on the right hand side of the school field just beyond the Roundabout Preschool. These plans were submitted in a joint application with the school for their outdoor classroom. Permission was granted in September 2012.

We have complied with the planning condition set, that being an archaeological dig on the proposed site. On Monday 20th May 2013, our archaeologist – John Newman of John Newman

Archaeological Services, with the kind help of Tiggy Knowland, dug a 25m long trench. The school children were able to watch the work in progress and to ask questions. Two WW" air raid shelter entrances were revealed. It was agreed with SCC that as long as photographic evidence was taken when future excavating goes ahead, the condition could be lifted.

We are working closely with the Amateur Swimming Association, who have agreed to assist us from now on in all aspects of our project. Our main point of contact at the ASA is Mr Phil Lown, who we will be hearing from shortly !

A re-submission to Sport England is planned for October 2013. In advance of this other funding applications continue to be made, to increase the chances of a successful application. £20k has since been offered by Mid Suffolk District Council, and we are awaiting decisions of further funding applications.

Appendix 1:

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

TRUSTEES

Sacha Feeney-Howells

Jo Woodhouse

Gavin Middleton

Karen Ling

Jenny Townsend

John Marsh

MAIN COMMITTEE

Sacha Feeney-Howells

Jo Woodhouse

Gavin Middleton

Karen Ling

Jenny Townsend

John Marsh

Jane Taylor

Eddy Alcock

Steve Palframan

Richard Blackwell

Susie Morley

Jack Abbott

SUB COMMITTEE

Sacha Feeney-Howells

Jo Woodhouse

Gavin Middleton

Karen Ling

Jenny Townsend

Rob Morris

Heli Morris

Angie Matthews

Sarah Daly

Jo Walsh

Michelle Hearn

Bridget Kamke

Jane Grover

Julie Dibbs

Julie Cook

Treacle

Cheryl McBlane

Simon Pyett

Donna Jackson

