

MPAPP Meeting Minutes – 16th April 2024

In attendance: Ray Tew (RT), Cllr Andy Hadley (AH), Andy Westcott (AW), Maureen Smith (MS), Fiona Toms (FT), Zara Aitken (ZA), Paul Matcham (PM), Nicki Maclean (NM), Cllr Marcus Kravis (MK)

Apologies: Cllr Craig Palmer (CP)

Guests: Colin Johnson (CJ) John Reed (JR) Ben Jewell (BJ) Graham Sizer (GS)

1. Presentation by Colin Johnson (CJ) – Swimming Pool

Request to set up a working group for development of swimming pool. Minehead is one of the only towns of its size that doesn't have a pool.

- Possible sites: Recreation ground. Community centre on the site is already well used by 450+ people a week. Sewage, Wi-Fi etc, all already in place. Site is owned by Minehead Town Council. CJ led on the Community Centre building project and raised £1m. Car park owned by Somerset Council. Opportunity for solar heat source pumps. MTC would need to provide lease to take forward swimming pool on this site.
- Outdoor pool would be more financially viable. Could incorporate a cover for winter but there are two other groups who have been campaigning for an indoor pool.
- Additional usage: Any pool must be multi-use to make financially viable. Only 5% population swim regularly. 35-40% pools' income come from schools and children learning to swim. Large population of older people in Minehead with multiple health problems means there could be an opportunity to incorporate a gym and wellbeing centre – referrals from doctors to help with health problems (hips, joints etc).
- AW feels big opportunity to incorporate young people events, activities, i.e. young person's fun swim, team games such as polo etc. Youth clubs would book up for terms. CJ advised there are 2,200 people in West Somerset with diabetes which costs the NHS £5.5m per year in West Somerset alone. Could make a case for improving wellbeing, making a centre which is more dynamic than just a swimming pool.
- CJ feels a definitive statement from MTC re progress of swimming pool and use of the land at the Recreation Ground is needed. MK advised MTC put the project on hold, but as he understands no desire not to use the Recreation Ground site but would need a vote by councillors.
- AH queried feasibility study progress. CJ needs a decision from MTC on usage of site before feasibility study is progressed. FT feels first action would be to determine if Recreation Ground is a possibility. RT feels MTC need to release the land on a long-term lease and then open opportunity up to groups to express interest in taking on the lease.

Action: MPAPP to request response from MTC re land usage.

Presentation by John Reed (JR) – Tidal Pool

Proposed location for a Tidal Pool shared. JR feels would be a great resource to draw people to town as well as providing a facility for community. Already proved

successful in Bude and Weston-Super-Mare. Group of local sea swimmers would be happy to put together a feasibility study. FT queried if this would be an either/or project or if both swimming and tidal pool could go ahead. All agreed both could progress separately.

AH queried depth of pool. JR advised that the tidal pool at Margate is 2m deep. Concrete foundations would go into existing bedrock.

FT queried if funding is required or already sourced. JR advised funding would be required, looking to MPAPP to source funding. FT feels a new group, fully constituted, would need to be established if a current group doesn't have capacity to take it forward to source funding. JR knows of several people with skills such as structural engineers etc that would be happy to be involved in a newly formed group but an existing constituted group such as MCDT would be preferable to lead the project.

MK requested information on sizing and layout. JR advised this would be determined in feasibility study.

Action: JR requested MCDT act as 'umbrella' organisation rather than setting up newly constituted group. RT to take decision to MCDT trustees. JR happy to give a more detailed presentation separate to CJ Swimming Pool project to MCDT trustees.

2. Update – Minehead Business Association by Ben Jewell (BJ)

Title of the group is decided as "Minehead Together" by "The Minehead Business Association". At the most recent meeting in April, an Events and Fundraising Coordinator, Social Media and Marketing Coordinator, and Business Support Coordinator have been recruited. In process of setting up bank account. Looking to determine membership fees which BJ advised would be £50-100 per annum.

FT queried legal structure. BJ advised it is currently an unregistered constituted group but in early stages. Looking to get community involved to bring costs down for events. Identified at least 50 businesses that would support but lots of people don't have time to support meetings and be very involved in the running. Looking to work closely with West Somerset Radio to raise awareness. Hoping to work together with The Original Sailors Hobby Horse and West Somerset Railway.

RT queried affiliation with other organisations such as Chambers of Commerce. BJ advised that the group are happy to collaborate with other groups.

Copy of signed constitution is on the www.themineheadproject.co.uk website.

NM queried if MBA are attending LCNs which would make such council are aware of group.

Update – Minehead Chamber of Commerce by Graham Sizer (GS)

Chamber remains in hibernation to give new business group time to get established. First draft of constitution received from Minehead Business Association a couple of weeks ago. Chamber members have agreed to a further 3 months wait.

MK queried who is going to speak on behalf of business sector in Minehead. For example, previously media would automatically contact Chamber of Commerce for quotes. FT advised the Minehead Together group are the only active and representative group of businesses in Minehead currently so naturally would be the point of contact. RT queried number of businesses in Minehead. FT thinks this was identified in last census.

Action: FT to arrange meeting with GS and BJ to facilitate information sharing between Chamber and Minehead Together.

Action: FT proposes invitation issued to Minehead Together to have a representative attend MPAPP meetings. No objections from members. FT to issue formal invitation to Minehead Together to join MPAPP.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting/Matters Arising/Action Log Review

Actions Log Update:

i. Blue Flag

FT tried to contact JW. FT will try to contact Connor, Operations Manager. Post meeting addendum: ZA to speak to JW re Blue Flag actions.

ii. Cultural Festival

FT passed the outline calendar and proposals to MCDT.

iii. Connect Somerset

MS reached out to PM to enquire about Connect Somerset but no response. PM advised he is the Connect Somerset champion for West Somerset. Focuses on education, neighbourhood board (driven by Living Better and Primary Care Networks), and the voluntary sector. PM needs to understand from groups like MPAPP what priorities are and what needs to be relayed back to Somerset Council.

iv. Hinkley Point

FT has reached out to Amelia Thompson re Hinkley Point.

v. Bridgwater College

FT querying if PM has contact at Bridgwater College re Minehead students enrolled at Bridgwater College. PM to ask his contact.

vi. Old Hospital

FT waiting for Bill Howard to get back to her with date for meeting. FT has met with RT to brief on conversation.

vii. Careers Event

AW attended careers event at Minehead Middle School and West Somerset College. Hinkley Point didn't attend either event. NHS attended both events with a representative talking about NHS Apprenticeships. Singer Instruments and a few smaller local businesses attended, as well as Plymouth University. The Army also had a rep at West Somerset College. Butlins didn't attend either event. NM queried if employment hubs were part of the events, but AW confirmed he didn't see them. NM advised that Coleen Blake runs the Minehead Employment Hub and would be a good to link up the activity.

viii. Intervention methods for young people's wellbeing

AH sent information out to group in April.

Action: ZA to reforward email to AW

4. Climate Adaptation Workshop

ZA gave update on Climate Adaptation Workshop project. ZA to speak to AW re engaging young people.

Action: ZA to share Climate Adaptation Plan with MPAPP group.

5. AOB

i. Ray Tew

'Do not climb' signs going on shelters.

ii. Cllr Marcus Kravis

Queried effect of changes on bus timetables. AW advised the change in times is affecting students getting to schools on time.

iii. Maureen Smith

Spark acquired large grant via Shared Prosperity Fund including a consultant in funding.

Retrofit skills shortage – Somerset Council employed a new Retrofit Officer, Caroline Derk, to pull together projects. MS to share document.