

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Town Hall, Assets & Services Committee Meeting		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	20th June 2024 7 pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Town Hall Manager – Mark Worthington		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	9 Paddling Pool Updates and SEND Sessions		
Background	<p>Following recent improvements to the pool entrance the paddling pool opened on Saturday 25th May. The pool will be open Wednesday to Sunday during term time and 7 – days per week during school holidays. There are two sessions per day, 10am – 1pm and 2pm – 5pm, capacity per session is 140. Staff qualified in Active IQ Level 3 pool training will be on site throughout opening hours.</p> <p>The booking system used in previous seasons has been replaced by a clicker system whereby a member of staff will count users into the facility until the 140 capacity is reached. Additional users above the 140 capacity are able to wait in the queueing area, not on the pavement, until spaces become available.</p>		
Update	<p>CTC Officers have been working with Ruby’s Fund to trial a paddling pool SEND session (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) to allow families and children with these specific needs to enjoy a quieter environment at the facility. The trial took place on Tuesday 11th June, a date during term time when the pool would normally have been closed. Residents wishing to use the SEND session needed to be registered with Ruby’s Fund where they could book tickets through their website. The SEND session was advanced bookings only through the Ruby’s Fund website with a capacity of 45 attendees at the recommendation of Ruby’s staff. CTC paddling pool staff were on site during the session for operational purposes as well as a member of Ruby’s Fund staff who was responsible for bookings. Although the weather wasn’t perfect, feedback from users on the day and Ruby’s Fund staff was that the trial was a success. Six families registered interest for the session which equated to approximately 30 attendees for a session with a capacity of 45. Using feedback from Ruby’s Fund registered members, none of the attendees at the trial session had used the paddling pool before, 66% of registered members in general said they would not be able to access the paddling pool without a SEND session. Feedback relating to future sessions was 100% for a weekday session with many registered members requesting the sessions to be put into place during school holidays.</p> <p>A further SEND trial session will take place on Tuesday 2nd July and will operate in the same manner whereby residents with a child with SEND requirements need to register with Ruby’s Fund to book places at the session.</p>		

	<p>Following the success of this trial Ruby's Fund have requested the possibility of securing the use of the paddling pool for SEND sessions throughout the summer holiday. Ruby's Fund have requested the use of the pool for SEND sessions on Wednesday mornings of 31st July & 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th August. These sessions, if agreed, would operate in the same way as the original trial whereby users need to be registered with Ruby's Fund to book tickets through their website. CTC would be on site for operation purposes along with a member of Ruby's Fund staff who would be responsible for bookings.</p>
Financial	<p>There was a financial implication for the trial of the SEND session as the trial took place on a Tuesday during term time when the pool would normally be closed. As the proposed SEND sessions are during the summer holiday when the pool is open 7 – days per week, there would be no financial implication.</p>
Environmental	<p>To assess via the procurement process environmental impact and benefits.</p>
Equality	<p>SEND sessions would offer the opportunity for families and children with specific needs to access the pool with controlled/reduced capacity and enjoy a quieter environment at the facility.</p>
Decision Request	<p>To receive the report relating to Paddling Pool Updates and SEND sessions. Agree to reserve the paddling pool for Ruby's Fund SEND sessions on the Wednesday mornings of 31st July & 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th August. These sessions would only be available to registered members of Ruby's Fund.</p>