

WCT Trustee's Report to Ryde Town Council
November 2019

The Board of Trustees

WCT or Waterside Community Trust is Registered Charity No. 1174631. The Trustees are as follows:

Georgina Bottriell
Conrad Gauntlett
Keith Gentleman
Mark Haslam
Ian Jenkins
Andre Kurowski
Peter Taylor

The current Chair is Keith Gentleman. The Trustee board meets regularly, usually monthly and is joined by a representative from RTC. Currently Lou Ternel represents RTC. The board thanks RTC for their continued support of this much loved community asset

Key Dates

The Trust was set up in 2011 and took over the operation of Waterside Pool as a 'Not for Profit' company on 1st December 2011. In 2013 RTC determined to fund the Isaac Hayward free to use Splash Park and invited WCT to operate it under licence from IWCC. In 2016 WCT secured a 25 year lease on this asset. WCT's role is to offer strategic vision and financial control. Operational control is vested in the staff team. In September 2017 the "not for profit" company transferred the pool to a new Charity of the same name

Income Streams and Funding

RTC provide an annual grant of £20,000 - a sum which enables essential repairs together with limited improvements to be made to Waterside Pool. Beyond that the pool is self funding. Operational costs are, in round figures, £1,000 per day but successful trading, donations from the 'Friends of Waterside', income from the Swan Pedalo boats and income from successful bids enables the pool to post a small surplus each year. The Splash Park, by contrast, is funded entirely by RTC. Additionally WCT is contracted to provide summer season beach life guard cover

for Town Beach - our beach staff saved a number of lives this year including four on one day!

Benefits accrued from Waterside Pool

Operated as a community pool, Waterside is a public good providing lessons, exercise classes and casual swimming. It also provides employment and training for its employees. Nationally research published in Swim England's 'Value of Swimming', featured also in The Times newspaper, report claims swimming is helping to save the health and social care system more than £357 million a year so WCT are proud to contribute to this success.

<https://www.swimming.org/swimengland/value-swimming-report-launched>

Sadly, Swim England also highlights the fact that the number of swimming pools in England will fall in coming years since those built in the 1960's and 70's are nearing the end of their life. Waterside was constructed in 1972.

Key Pool Successes

- Schools programme full. (17 schools)
- Sensory Swim for children with disabilities - separately funded.
- Bringing Ryde Swimming Club 'in house' leading to its profitability.
- Rookie Lifeguard Scheme - see Royal Life Saving Society latest article highlighting Waterside Pool and the efforts of our staff team.
- Successful and in budget beach lifeguarding operation.
- Operation of Swimsafe on Sandown Beach in conjunction with RNLI.
- Parking Concession 06:00 - 10:00hrs. Aiming at parity with IWCC pools.
- National recognition that our pool team are doing great work.
- Swan across the Solent!!

Key Investments

Photographs illustrate ease of access to the pool and pool changing facilities. Mrs Tracy Jones, Member of Isle Access demonstrating wheelchair manoeuvrability



inside the refurbished room, also commented on the excellent pool steps

- Staff Training and Progression.
- Completion of the All Access Changing Room refurbishment.
- Completion of pool floor re-grouting and tile polishing.
- Installation of back office air-conditioning.
- Development of new software package with DD facility (roll out January)
- Tipping Bucket installed at Splash Park.

Key Failures

- Splash Park infrastructure and pump failure - see footnote.
- Foul water flight pump failure - now repaired.
- Failure of one of the three main boilers - now repaired.
- Lack of access to major funding sources for major improvements.
- Lack of inclusion in Ryde re-development bid,
- Disintegration of thermal pool cover. The subject of current fund raising.

Outstanding Issues

- Parking costs - negotiating with IWCC to enable free 3hr parking.

- Lack of access to Public Health England money - due to an IWCC decision taken some eight years ago this money is set aside for IWCC assets only. Ryde Town Mayor is aware of this unfair scenario.
- Increased energy costs from January 2020 amounting to £12k per year.

Future Goals

- Fund raising (£20 per square) to raise £6,000 for pool cover.
- Gala fund raising Dinner to be held April 2020.
- Requirement for automatic doors from Reception to Poolside.
- To continue to seek funding for new build Fitness/Wellness Studio.

Conclusion

Trustees are proud of the achievements of its staff team at Waterside and with the customer feedback members of staff receive. Todd Miller (see his attached report and the national article of Rookie Lifeguards), our General Manager, and Jeannie Hunnibun, Deputy Manager, are operationally excellent. Trustees are equally proud of the progression of staff who have moved on to other roles outside WCT - often having gained qualifications with us.

NB

Some hard decisions need to be made with regard to the Splash Park. RTC made a substantial investment last year, replacing old and broken play kit water features with a locally made tipping bucket. Unfortunately it proved impossible to operate this because the underground infrastructure of pipework, holding tanks and pumps are broken or leaking. No accurate plans exist.

Options:

- Operate the paddling pool as a splash area only, purchasing a second feature (an imitation animal?) so that it and the bucket simply spray water direct from the mains and which then runs direct to the lake thus negating the requirement for all of the failed infrastructure and electrics and of course chemical dosing.
- Operate the paddling pool only. Not unfortunately, the new tipping bucket.

- Commission a survey to determine the costs of total reinstatement of existing infrastructure.
- Close the Splash Park and surrender the lease

Naturally our choice would be the former of the three but this is a cost that RTC would have to decide upon

Keith Gentleman

11th November 2019