

## **Kingfisher Community Pool**

### **Update from Cllr Amanda Broom, 4th September 2018**

This is a written report provided on the date shown, a verbal update will be given at the next Area West meeting as matters are changing daily.

It has been an incredible few weeks since Somerset County Council announced that they were going to close, empty and decommission 'Cresta' Pool.

Since then, a public meeting has been held, and the core group of initial volunteers have been overwhelmed with the community response. The options at the meeting were:

1. Do nothing & the pool closes on 3rd September
2. Find a way forward and the pool is mothballed from 3rd September, until the community can reopen it – this option means the pool will be emptied and pumps turned off
3. Or, find enough volunteers, fund raising avenues & keep the pool open from 4th September  
– although this is challenging, it is possible

The vote was unanimous, and that evening over 100 residents signed up to help. Since then, the group has had more people get in contact and offer assistance; locally, and pool operators from across the South West.

As it stands, the core group have completed the following:

- Submitted a formal Letter of Intent to Somerset County Council
- Been accepted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation
- Submitted a draft Business Plan
- Completed a site survey, with a qualified pool operator
- Established the level of potential staffing and volunteering required
- Contacted all volunteers to update them
- Set up a crowd funding page
- Set up an email account
- Opened a bank account

With these efforts, we are extremely pleased to announce that Somerset County Council will no longer empty the pool on the 4<sup>th</sup> September, we now have until the 14<sup>th</sup> September to submit the full Business Case. Whilst the pool is now closed, every effort is continued to be made to ensure pumps are left on, and the required chemical dosing is undertaken.

Still to be done:

- The formal Business Case is well under way and will be submitted ahead of the revised deadline of September 14<sup>th</sup>

Current fundraising:

- Over £670 on Just Giving
- Over £2485 in cheques
- £20k pledged by Chard Town Council
- £500 cash raised outside Tesco

Cllr. Amanda Broom

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