

Annual Report on the Crewkerne Aqua Centre from Cllr Angie Singleton

2017 was the 20th year of operation for the Aqua Centre swimming pool and 15 years for the Active Lifestyle extension, a water feature was commissioned to celebrate the Anniversary and makes an interesting and exciting feature in the foyer of the building which continues to 'surprise and delight' our customers on a daily basis.

Given the age of the building and equipment it will come as no surprise that there is some serious maintenance expense pending before the end of this financial year, however CLM are in the enviable position of having the reserves to carry out these repairs and replacements and will not be having to apply to the Town Council or any other Authority for financial assistance.

Investment in Staff development is important to the Directors and this year several of the Staff obtained Phase 4 Cardiac Rehab, GP Referral and Studio Cycling qualifications.

The closure of the Chard pool came as a big shock to everybody involved with the Crewkerne Aqua Centre and several Directors and the Manager tried to help where we could. The closure has put pressure on the Centre's swimschool as people look for alternatives to continue their swimming instruction. The Staff have done their best to accommodate those schools that used Cresta before its closure.

The Centre's team of volunteers continues to attract new recruits which is pleasing after over 20 years. Their contribution to the Centre is much appreciated as they not only provide valuable support to our Staff they help to maintain the ethos of the Crewkerne Aqua Centre being a Community Pool.

Finally, with elections due in May and in view of the Transformation programme being undertaken by SSDC, Directors feel there is no longer a need for a place for a Nominated SSDC Director on the Board of Crewkerne Leisure Management. The main reason for this appointment was to ensure that the initial capital grant and subsequent loan made by SSDC were protected. The loan & interest has been paid off and the capital grant was made over 20 years ago so has proved money well spent, the Centre's finances are sound and the Board of Directors well skilled. Therefore I hope that Area West Committee will agree that this annual nomination is no longer required.

Cllr Angie Singleton