


## CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

### COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>Town Hall, Assets &amp; Services Committee Meeting</b>		
<b>MEETING DATE AND TIME</b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup> October 2024</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Congleton Town Hall</b>
<b>REPORT FROM</b>	<b>Town Hall Manager – Mark Worthington</b>		
<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>9</b>		
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>Splash Pad Feasibility Study</b>		
<b>Background</b>	<p>Congleton paddling pool is an extremely popular asset within the community offering users a cost-free leisure activity. Despite the amenity's popularity it does suffer from several inherent inconveniences. The chief amongst these are ease and convenience of access, user control and operating costs. The current location of the facility does result in traffic congestion and inconvenience to residents in the adjacent street during periods of good weather and school holidays. This is due to the shortage, location and nature of parking facilities near to the pool. Due to the popularity of the facility, user management measures have needed to be put in place to control access in the interests of safety and enjoyment of the users. These measures have led to significant operating costs and some user inconvenience.</p> <p>The operating costs, location and lease arrangement of the paddling pool facility have been an area of discussion for a number years. For this reason CTC Officers have previously contacted local authorities who have replaced their existing paddling pools with modern Splash Pads, these included Amber Valley Borough Council and Great Yarmouth Borough Council. Both authorities reported the installation of a Splash Pad made a financial saving on operating costs but also created a safer, more environmentally friendly water facility.</p> <p>To determine if previous discussions relating to replacement/relocation of the paddling pool are viable/possible, would a feasibility study into the options be a positive move forward.</p>		
<b>Update</b>	<p>A local company with over 50 years of experience in process engineering design has been approached to provide details into the feasibility of improving/relocating the paddling pool. This company specialises in the installation of aquatic leisure applications including swimming pools, water features, aquatic leisure facilities and plant. Initial discussion indicate that, despite the dated design of the paddling pool facilities, it is possible that by incorporating more recent design concepts, practices and processes, a Splash Pad could be a viable option.</p>		

	<p>The proposed study for the improvement of the paddling pool facility would centre on and around the following possible major considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A change in the location for the paddling pool (ideally to Congleton Park)</li> <li>• Adaptation of the existing facility</li> <li>• A change in the design of the facility from a paddling pool to a modern “splash pad”</li> <li>• A combination of the above options to optimise user enjoyment and convenience, capital expenditure and operating costs.</li> </ul> <p>The product of the proposed study would generally be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To examine, identify and quantify the operating environment of the existing facility</li> <li>• To identify, quantify and examine the benefits and disadvantages of the existing facility, both from the viewpoint of the user and the operator</li> <li>• To establish and examine the possible effects on user enjoyment and operator capital and running costs of possible changes to the location, design and operation of the existing facility</li> <li>• Preparation of a written report and verbal presentation of the completed study to interested parties in the Council.</li> <li>• Suggestions and recommendations.</li> </ul> <p>A lump sum fee for carrying out the feasibility study as described in this proposal would be £5,000.00 +VAT.</p> 
<b>Financial</b>	To be in accordance with allocated budgets and financial regulations
<b>Environmental</b>	To assess via the procurement process environmental impact and benefits
<b>Equality</b>	Where applicable in the procurement of services this is taken into consideration
<b>Decision Request</b>	To receive the report relating to Splash Pad Feasibility Study and as a Committee agree to progress this proposal to Council for approval.