

## **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>26<sup>th</sup> June 2025 7 pm</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Congleton Town Hall</b>
<b>REPORT FROM</b>	<b>Town Hall Manager – Mark Worthington</b>		
<b>AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>11 Paddling Pool 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 results 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 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 of years. For this reason, CTC Officers have previously contacted local authorities who have replaced their existing paddling pools with modern Splash Pads, such as Amber Valley Borough Council and Great Yarmouth Borough Council. Both authorities reported that 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, it was agreed at the meeting of the THAS Committee on 31/10/24 and Finance &amp; Policy Committee on 14/11/24, <b>FAP/49/2425 RESOLVED</b> To receive the report relating to the Splash Pad Feasibility Study and to agree to the proposed expenditure of £ 5,000 on a Splash Pad Feasibility Study.</p>		
<b>Update</b>	CTC Officers have had initial meetings and site visits with a local company (IB Development) who specialises in the installation of		

	<p>aquatic leisure applications, including swimming pools, water features, aquatic leisure facilities and plant. Discussions have centred around the feasibility of improving/relocating the paddling pool. Initial discussions 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. IB Development have visited the existing paddling pool along with Congleton Park and Congleton Skate Park to better understand the location of these sites and how they may benefit, or not, from a Splash Pad or relocation of the existing paddling pool. CTC Officers are providing IB Developments with information on pool plant room and pool operating and maintenance procedures, drawings of the site and surrounding areas and annual operating costs. IB Developments will be visiting the paddling pool throughout the pool season, and especially on good weather days, to gather information to form part of the feasibility study.</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> </ul>
--	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggestions and recommendations.</li> </ul> <p>CTC Officers have met with Cheshire East Officers to inform them of the feasibility study and the reasons behind it as detailed above. Any recommendation from the feasibility study to relocate the paddling pool or install a Splash Pad to Congleton Park would require approval by Cheshire East. Cheshire East Officers would look to review the information provided in the feasibility study.</p>
<b>Financial</b>	To be in accordance with allocated budgets and financial regulations.
<b>Environmental</b>	Environmental considerations and chemical usage will form part of the feasibility study.
<b>Equality</b>	Equality and access will form part of the feasibility study.
<b>Decision Request</b>	To receive the report relating to the Paddling Pool Feasibility Study.