

Newsletter January 2024

Welcome

First, welcome to the eighty odd people who have signed up for updates on the Hebden Royd Pool over the last few days. We promise not to spam you but the beginning of the year seems like a good time to update you on plans and invite you to help us deliver the vision.

How you can help

We're going to publish an online consultation on the Hebden Royd Pool soon and we're hoping some of you can beta test our first draft - tell us what works and what doesn't. Here's a [link](#) for you to try it out.

Volunteers are doing all development work at the moment. If you have skills or expertise you can offer, please do get in touch. We need help on more or less everything from accountancy/legal through water engineering, ecology to IT, business planning and social impact assessment. If you have some time and/or a skill you can offer, please do get in touch.

Many thanks to several people who have already come forward to contribute their skills, knowledge and time - we'll be in touch soon.

A thousand followers and counting

I hope you will have noticed that hebden royd pool has gone public. We have published a very simple [website](#). It is helpful if supporters can visit this from time to time and tell us when things aren't working.

Louise has been working day and night dealing with an overwhelming response to our [facebook page](#) - she says we have around a thousand followers already. A poll set up on Hebden Bridge Facebook showed overwhelming support for the idea of a natural swimming pool. That said we still have some vocal naysayers so do please keep commenting and sharing our posts.

A big thank you to Emma for her help with our [instagram feed](#). It would be great if you could tag us in your wild swimming pictures.

Community Consultation

We started our community consultation venture this January with a presentation to Heptonstall Parish Council (many thanks to them for their helpful suggestions and support). We have dates to speak with Hebden Royd Town Council and Erringden Parish Council as well as a workshop with Calder High teachers and students. We're also talking to a range of community groups and

local councillors and identifying events and public spaces where we can set up a stall with information and consultation forms.

If you know of a group which might like to host a workshop or focus group discussion or an event where we could have a stall to seek feedback on our ideas, please do let us know.

Finding a site

The working group has visited a few potential sites and scored them against our selection criteria. The launch of our online presence has brought forward some new potential sites which we will be investigating over the coming months. We have reached out to the owners of two sites.

Governance

Our five trustees are settling into their roles to form a lean, mean swimming pool building machine. We are undertaking a skills audit to identify where the board lacks essential skills and work out how to fill them. The board is working with its financial advisors on an investment policy. The next priorities are policies for management of finance and volunteers.

Wild Water and January Daily Dip

The Film "Wild Water" is coming to Hebden Bridge Picture House 10 February with a live Q&A with the Director, local man, Ben Davis. Described as a dive into the cold water swimming community on the highest beach in England, it features Gaddings Dam as its main protagonist. Tickets are going fast - check it out [here](#).

The January Daily Dippers are swimming outdoors every day in January no matter the weather with no wetsuits raising money for Crisis. You can follow their progress [here](#) and support them on the just giving page [here](#).

Best Wishes
Maggie
Secretary HRDSPA

*Hebden Bridge and District Swimming Pool Association Ltd, Company number 8462254,
Charity number 1153744, Registered Office 12 Market Street, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire,
HX7 6AD*