DRA trustees meeting notes 25th January 2022

Trustees Present: Will Fitzgerald (Chair), Louise Morpeth, Jinty Balch, Mark Burton, Helen Tune, Mandy Burton, Charlotte Huish, Alan Blake, Joel Riley, Margaret Cushen(note taker).

Ashish Ghediali Martin Edmonson

Apologies: Jan Maddick, Bex House, Sarah Guest, Michela Delamere, Lynn ?

Notes from the last meeting

It is British Cycling rather than cycle England who are funding the bike track.

Alan Blake is not willing to share his programme for run ride swim days with the DRA as stated in the September notes.

Will identified a number of issues from the notes the management group need to act upon:

A formal farewell to Alan and Carole Tudor and Peggy Prout.

Community Day

Expanding on the need for partnership relationships Will informed the trustees of what is becoming a series of meetings with Alan Bolden and other Dartington Trust management. The focus is to build cooperation not competition and DRA needs to be making practical plans for the future of the building with DT positively alongside, hopefully.

Changes of DRA trustees and role of Management group

Will proposed electing Ashish to a community trustee role. He introduced himself as a writer, film maker, activist and partnership builder. Will's proposal was unanimously carried.

The terms of reference are not yet formalised and are a work in progress. Will emphasised the need for the management group to be accountable, efficient and transparent in what they do. He hopes to formalise the structure by the AGM in the spring.

Financial report

Louise's report was circulated prior to the meeting. One error to correct is that Bex' company is called Earthjump not Earth works. The headlines are we have £55,000 in the bank and are spending more than we are in receipt of currently. The repairs to Collins Bridge and the pavilion have been expensive, but no other major work will be required on either we hope, for some time. Most of the bike track finance has been raised through grant applications.

Louise pointed out that she is using the previous treasurer's system which requires manual itemising so some of the details of income and expenditure may not be accurate, but the funds available are correct.

Building group

Joel brought trustees up to date with the work of the group. An on line booking system through the DRA website is in place and remotely controlled access is possible to the building. The heating broke down , but it was possible to repair it. The utilities are now separated for DRA New Lion and Pizzalogica. The NL user agreement has been renegotiated and the Pizzalogica one will be up for renewal in April. New notice boards will be up outside the building to help people know about the DRA's activities and how to book rooms, donate and volunteer. New logos and branding will be put up on the building with DT's agreement. Shared advertising has been discussed with the DT marketing person- which will be mutually beneficial. The bid task is to consider the future of the building- refurbishment or rebuild- the group needs input to develop a plan for this work.

Ed has organised a meeting with the DT events manager to coordinate their events. Ed commented that the reputation of the NL taproom is building and requests are coming from in and outside the area. They have recently begun a collaboration with Jamming Station to enable local young musicians and DJ's to develop their experience through the stage at the taproom.

Will asked Ed to pass on the thanks of DRA to his colleagues and to Pizzalogica for the input they provide to the life of the community centre.

Pool

Helen's report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The inspection they require to decide if the pool can be opened for the season has not yet taken place. The group are in negotiation with Ashburton pool to jointly employ a manager to help both pools to operate. Helen is keeping the management group informed.

Bike track

Mandy updated trustees. The DRA are directly managing the project as there were difficulties recruiting volunteers to committee roles. The chair person did all the work needed to get the planning conditions discharged before Christmas and construction started 17th January and is due to be completed early in February No trees have been removed but a lot of undergrowth has been removed, which will grow back. All brash and logs will remain on site to enhance the ecological environment. The plan is to ask for donations £5 per ride per family with the rest of the year free. Mandy is hoping to have discussions with the schools to discuss arrangements for their use of the tracks. Training events with Cycling UK will be organised who are also keen to offer opportunities for development and fundraising.

The budget is underspent because of DRA insurance so there is £1000 available for maintenance

Louise thanked Mandy for her tenacity in pushing the project to fruition and hoped that a QR code for donation can be added to the signs at the track.

Mandy described timetabling different sessions for different user groups. Helen raised the issue that open access may encourage anti social behaviour, as has been

experienced by the pool with young people breaking in for swims. Mandy said the Totnes Community Police group are willing to come out to talk to groups. Will asked that Mandy contact them to invite them to DRA to see the facilities , Helen is keen for the pool group to be involved in that meeting.

Community use of the field

Will informed trustees that Totnes and Dartington Sports club and Meadowbrook FC wish to develop a partnership between the clubs to improve the use of the facilities.

Alan pointed out the field is underused, for 16-18 matches for adults on Saturdays and on Sundays by under 5,6,7,and 8's. he detailed his vision of fitness and active lifestyles. He believes FA funding could be accessed to improve the facilities and drainage. Mandy pointed out that the ecologist involved in the LEMP had some interesting ideas about using planting and natural drainage systems to improve the field. Will pointed out that the process of bring about change is a delicate one and meetings between the clubs will be arranged.

Written reports from clubs were accepted.

Vision and strategy

Louise suggested that the management group work on the strategy and bring to the AGM. Given that we are all volunteers we cannot manage 4 major projects at the same time- we need to prioritise. Trustees to email Louise any comments on her paper and their view of what should be prioritised.

AOB

Helen has now worked out how to transfer a donation from the pool account for the defibrillator and will do it. Ed queried when the cancelled defib training sessions are planned – Will thought this would be in April and will confirm.

The next meeting will be the **AGM Tuesday 3rd May**