

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

meeting date: 10 JANUARY 2023
title: RIBBLESDALE POOL UPDATE
submitted by: MARK BEVERIDGE, HEAD OF CULTURAL SERVICES

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To provide Committee with an update on the work carried out to the pool during the recent closure for essential maintenance.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities

- Community Objectives - To help make people's lives healthier and safer.
- Corporate Priorities - To sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley.
- Other Considerations – The grant scheme is a popular programme that helps groups in many cases gain external funding that benefits residents.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Ribblesdale pool was 50 years old in 2022 and despite investment over the years, the building requires constant maintenance. Part of that was scheduled during December for tiling and filter media replacement.

2.2 The Council arranged for a specialist diving team to inspect the pool in the Autumn, which resulted in several recommendations which were carried out during the closure in December. Some tiles were replaced along with grouting and expansion joints in both pools. This has given the Council some time to consider future options for the facility overall.

2.3 The pool filters had the media replaced, that consists primarily of sand, which is used to help filter the water in the pool.

2.4 Repairs were carried out to the floors in both changing rooms where the seams had failed and moisture had got under the flooring, causing lifting of the vinyl itself.

3 ISSUES

3.1 The pool tank in both main and teaching pools along with the pool surround, need to be fully retiled. Although repairs have been carried out to these areas over the years, most recently during the December closure, the bulk of the tiling is the same age as the building.

3.2 The tiling is not the only issue which needs to be addressed, an inspection of the pipework in the plant room and main gate valve from the pools have shown that these need to be replaced. The cost of all this work is in the region of £200k and would take around 2 months to complete.

3.3 There are risks when removing the water from the pools, especially the main pool, due to the force the water exerts on the structure when the pool is full. Removing that can

produce an equal and opposite reaction, i.e., the walls and floor could move significantly causing the concrete tank to fail and crack.

3.4 Although, the cost of the remedial work is significant, this will not mean that other future work will not be required at the pool. Unfortunately, the pipe work which carries the water to and from the pool was cast into the concrete when the pool was built. It is unlikely that very much of the original cast iron pipes remains, likely leading to the water now travelling through a concrete tube. One solution to that could be to use a technique where a plastic pipe is inserted into the concrete to replace the metal piping and avoid the situation where the concrete is eaten away by the action of the pool water. However, give the age of the building, such an expense would be difficult to justify.

4 In order to progress the scheme at the pool in December, the quote for underwater repairs which were carried out by a specialist company was accepted at around £9k, ordinarily the council would seek a competing quote, however, to ensure the work could be completed in time and given the specialist nature of the work, it was agreed to accept the single quotation in this instance.

5 **CONCLUSION**

5.1 The work carried out will help the pool to continue operating for the next year or so, unless of course another part of the pool plant or building fabric fails. This will give the Council an opportunity to strategically review how the demand for a community swimming pool in the Borough may be met.

Mark Beveridge
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

For further information please ask for Mark Beveridge 01200 425111