

Shoalstone Pool

Shoalstone Seawater pool sits on the rocks looking across Torbay From the fishing town of Brixham. The 53 metre long pool has been delighting locals and visitors alike since 1926. Once in Local authority ownership, it suffered huge neglect but was eventually saved from closure by the brixham community. Once described as Brixham Jewel we are applying for £3,325 of essentials beautification works which would greatly improved the perception of not just the pool but the whole site and increase participation of this beloved community asset. The works focus on key points which have been identified through public consultation with users, volunteers and first time visitors. These are; Improving the overflow car park, removal of dilapidated structure on site, securement of brown tourists signs, installation of cycle racks, and the re-wilding the former putting green in to a multi use family picnic area which can double as a flexible outdoor education/ workshop area for use by groups such as holistic wellbeing practitioners yoga and also wildlife education and talks.

What is the Role of your organisation in Brixham.

In 2004 when Torbay Council declared it could no longer afford to support the pool a public meeting was convened and a decision taken to look at creating a working party to look at keeping the pool open. This subsequently became The Friends of Shoalstone Pool who worked with Torbay Council to maintain the pool thus reducing the cost to Torbay Council. However when setting its budget in 2014 Torbay drew up plans to again close Shoalstone Pool. Following prolonged negotiations, Torbay Council finally agreed to lease the pool together with the land and building around the pool to Brixham Town Council with Torbay remaining the freeholder. Shoalstone Pool is now managed on on behalf of BTC by Shoalstone Seawater Pool CIO, a charitable incorporated organisation with a board of trustees made up of local volunteers who manage the pool affairs in their own spare time, supported by one full time Operations manager and a part time care taker (paid) with a pool of seasonal recruited and trained lifeguards for the swimming season May - September

When will this project take place.

These works can take as soon as funding is secured. Planning approval for the demolition of the Victorian shelter has already been sought and approved. Three quotations for this work have already been obtained. The Car park works can take place during the season or could be scheduled on days the pool is closed for cleaning, at present the overflow car park is so undesirable people actually use the car park nearer the site or Breakwater Bistro car park for preference so these works are vital to make it viable. The above mentioned planning application also includes re-wilding the former putting so ecology reports and bat surveys have already been submitted and have concluded the proposed works would not be detrimental to the site in terms of native species of fauna or wildlife but actually would enhance these habitats and are highly desirable in educating the public about the biodiversity of the site. The Cycle rack too has been researched and its siting is included in the same planning application. In short the project as a whole is ready to go in terms of approval we just need to obtain the funds in order to purchase and install to make it happen. If all the funding is secure demolition of the shelter will take place in Autumn 2023 after the swimming season is over as we will need to use the access road across the green to remove the structure. Re-wilding the green will take place after the shelter is removed so as to not damage the sowing and it is best done in the autumn to bed in and burst into life come spring 2024. Whereby we hope to open next season with a huge celebratory family picnic for all those volunteers, families and special interest groups who helped to plant it.

How will your project further the community goal of Brixham Chamber of commerce.

We are so fortunate to have a band of committed volunteers to help us maintain and run the pool. Without them Shoalstone Seawater pool would have to close. It is almost exclusively volunteer lead, with only one full time Operations `manager and a part time care taker being paid. Many of the original Friends are still involved but are keen to perhaps take a step back but only if they can hand the baton to a new set of vibrant and enthusiastic volunteers who are keen to restore Shoalstone to its previous former glory. This is our aim to. Some of the above works will require us to engage specialist contractors but there are many elements such as re- wilding the meadow will be opportunities for wide community engagement, sometimes working in collaboration groups such as Play Torbay, Orchard forest school, Countryside Rangers, Pride in Brixham and VEG (very eager Growers). We hope these events will act as a recruitment vehicle for attracting ever more volunteers to Shoalstone pool.

Where is the project Based

Shoalstone Seawater Pool is located at the far end of Berry Head Road brixham. TQ5 9FT It is a beloved community asset of the Brixham community with several generations having learnt to swim there. However its appeal is far reaching to the whole of Torbay and tourists alike who return year after year.

How much funding the project require in total

Demolition of Shelter	£7000
Installation of Bike Rack & Noticeboard	£1200
Car Park improvements	£2800
Tourist Brown Signage	£1675
Re-wilding the Green & Gazebo	£3000
Total	£15,675

How much funding has been secured so far and from where.

Ward Councillor Grants	2000	Application pending
National grid	3000	Application Submitted awaiting outcome
Torbay Small Grants Scheme.	400	Awarded
Uk SPF	8675	EOI Submitted Full Application pending
Century Awards Brixham	3275	

We recently applied to the Torbay Small Grants scheme for the purchase of the Sheffield Design 4 hoop Cycle Rack to house 8 bicycle comfortably and a notice board /leaflet rack to promote cycle and walking routes in collaboration with Sustains

We applied to National Grid to extensively re-wild the green into a community meadow and purchase a multi use durable hard wearing gazebo structure for pop up workshops and talks. We are currently in negotiations with UK-SPF administered by the Torbay Community Development Trust for Levelling Up Funding we have put an expression of interest in and they have encouraged us to put a full application forward. However this fund is seeking to improve the sports facility of the pool but they are interested in exploring the reuse of the green removing the shelter as it is becoming the target of vandalism and increasing anti social behaviour and the car park enhancements and the tourist signs signposting visitors from outside the area directly to the site. We hope also be able to raise £2k from the new councillor ward fund now the elections have taken place.

Anything else you would like us to know about your organisation/Project.

In addition to these works Shoalstone Seawater Pool is facing a massive issue with the breach to the north west boundary buttress. Dave Barter gave a presentation to the Brixham Chamber regarding this for which we were most grateful to spread the word of our Save From the Waves Crowdfunding Campaign. As a new board are preparing Bids to the Governments Community Asset Scheme, Garfield Weston Foundation, Sports council and Heritage lottery Fund. This is a massive infrastructure campaign to be embarking upon by a team of somewhat but learning fast community volunteers. To this end Shoalstone Seawater Pool would like to become a member of the Chamber and hopefully recruit enthusiastic board members with specialisms such as HR, marketing/PR, legal and financial and fundraising skills to carry the organisation through this period of transition as it is likely not only to repair the pool but also grow the staff team to carry this project forward to fruition. Its going to take a lot but Shoalstone and Brixham seem to thrive on such challenges.