



# ***SETTLE AREA SWIMMING POOL***

**Kendal Road, Giggleswick,  
Settle, BD24 OBU  
Charity Registration no: 1171790**

Letter to all Parish and Town Councils in North Craven

Settle Town Council  
Giggleswick Parish Council  
Long Preston Parish Council  
Hellifield Parish Council  
Langcliffe Parish Council  
Rathmell and Wigglesworth Parish Council  
Austwick Parish Council  
Clapham Parish Council  
Stainforth Parish Council  
Horton Parish Council  
Lawkland Parish Council  
Bentham Town Council  
Burton-in-Lonsdale Parish Council

Dear Chairman

I am writing to you in my role as Chairperson of Settle Area Swimming Pool(SASP) to ask you consider using your powers under under section 26.28 of the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1972,to increase your precept in the next financial year (and potentially in years to come) to provide a more regular source of funding to SASP to help us maintain the provision of our services to local people in North Craven where we provide swimming facilities to all age groups seven days a week.

Most of you will be aware that SASP has been in existence since 1975 and has always been a charity run by volunteer trustees. Until 2015 we were supported through a regular grant from Craven District Council of approx £30,000. This was halved in 2016 and discontinued completely this year. This has required us to look closely at our activities and fundraising efforts over the past two years. We have undertaken a full business planning process and review of our charitable status. We became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation(CIO) in July this year and are currently working through the recommendations of the business plan. We are working hard to expand the range of swimming activities on offer for all age groups in our

community(our youngest swimmer last week was 12 weeks old and our oldest 100 years old). This includes taking account of the transport difficulties people in the outlying communities face in getting to the pool. Our sister charity Friends of Settle Swimming Pool (FOSSP) support the transport costs for all the local primary schools to access the pool and we continue to work with Age UK to provide transport for older people.

However we face the problems inherent in trying to make a swimming pool self-financing. We needed to raise £20K in donations last year to break even. Local people are very generous in their support and raise money for us in many different ways . However we are aware that we need to find ways to expand and diversify our activities in order to increase our actual earned income. This will involve finding ways to create space for more activities as well as finding money to repair and renew a building that is already over 40 years old.

We are well aware that many of you have supported us with donations over the past few years. Eight councils donated £3,140 of the £20k donations we received in 2016/17, this has been vital for our survival. We are now writing to the 14 Town and Parish councils in our immediate area, where most of our customers come from, to ask that you consider a small increase to your precept of 2%, where the monies from this increase would be directed to SASP in order to give us a more regular and predictable income. This would help us plan our activities in a more systematic way and allow us to concentrate our fundraising on the future development of the pools facilities.

The appendix to this letter shows the increase to the precept for each of the Town and Parish councils if it had been applied for the year 2017/18. As you will see the increase in the precept for each property is very small but collectively would be a significant contribution to the running of the swimming pool.

We fully realise that all local councils have very full demands on their resources at this time of austerity and we realise that your residents will be concerned with any increase in the precept. However we feel that SASP has provided a very valuable resource for local people of all ages over the past 40 years and could provide even more opportunities in the future if we can achieve a better income.

The attached fact sheet and our website ([www.settleswimmingpool.co.uk](http://www.settleswimmingpool.co.uk)) will I hope give you some more up to date information about SASP to help your deliberations.

Yours sincerely

Pat Taylor Chairperson SASP ([chair@settleswimmingpool.co.uk](mailto:chair@settleswimmingpool.co.uk))

## **Appendix 1**

### **Settle Area Swimming Pool**

#### **Fact Sheet 2017**

SASP has been providing one of the few indoor leisure facilities in the North Craven Area since 1975.

It provides a range of opportunities for swimming for all ages with dedicated classes for older people, mums and tots, aqua aerobics, gentle exercise, and hydrotherapy, early morning lane swimming and inflatable fun sessions. It provides swimming lessons for children and adults six days a week and many schools use it for swimming sessions in term time. It is hired by clubs for competitive swimming, rookie lifeguard training, disabled swimming and for private hire. It provides regular training sessions in health and safety and life guarding for local swimming instructors and lifeguards.

It is managed by a group of elected voluntary trustees with paid staff managing the seven day running of the pool. In 2016 with the help of a grant from NYCC the pool underwent business planning process and undertook a review of its constitution and governance procedures. In July 2017 it adopted a new constitution as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) based on individual and corporate membership. The new membership scheme will be launched early next year.

The business plan was adopted in September 2016 and has given SASP a good overview where it can improve its management and pricing procedures and the importance of diversifying its activities to increase its income (it is well known nationally that swimming pools alone do not break even).

SASP has now begun a process of planning and fundraising to extend its building to increase its range of activities. This has coincided with the realities of maintaining an ageing building which is now requiring considerable renewal. Seeking funding in the current climate of uncertainty and austerity is not proving easy.

#### **Funding facts**

In 2015 CDC announced it would cease direct funding of all voluntary organisations. SASP had been receiving an annual grant of approx £30,000. In 2016 this grant was cut to £16,000 and this year ceased completely. This has resulted in a budget deficit.

SASP has always enjoyed very positive support from local individuals, groups and businesses. This year up to the end of September we have received £15,104 in donations £2,424 of this amount came from some of our local parish and town councils

The Friends of Settle Swimming Pool (FOSSP) are a separate organisation set up to support swimming in the local area. They support the pool in capital and refurbishment projects, they pay for transport for school swimming and support specific swimming sessions for particular groups. They raise funds in a variety of ways, but primarily through a 6 day a week paper and cardboard recycling operation run by volunteers . This has brought in around £20,000 per annum. In October 2017 NYCC subsidy for this activity will cease reducing this income by half.

In May this year SASP took over a short term shop lease on Settle High Street to run a second hand clothes and goods shop. It is open 5 days a week and is run by some of the Trustees and approx 15 volunteers. So far this venture has been very successful in its first experimental 5 months and has a projected annual income of £15 – £20,000

*for more information go to our website: [www.settleswimmingpool.co.uk](http://www.settleswimmingpool.co.uk)*

## Appendix - 2 Percent Addition to Precepts.

The following table shows the impact on Band D properties by increasing the precept by 2% for the financial year 2017/18.

The column headers are:-

The precept for the 2017/18 year.

The precept per Band D properties.

The number of Band D properties.

The pool funding precept percentage increase.

The increased precept for Band D properties.

The increase in precept.

	<b>2017/18 Precept</b>	<b>Band D Precept Tax</b>	<b>Band D Properties</b>	<b>Pool Funding % precept</b>	<b>Increased Band D precept</b>	<b>Increase</b>
Austwick	10,000	41.54	240.75	200.00	42.37	0.83
Bentham	105,392	85.55	1231.94	2107.84	87.26	1.71
Burton in Lonsdale	15,509	61.81	250.93	310.19	63.04	1.24
Clapham-cum- Newby	7,740	26.54	291.67	154.80	27.07	0.53
Coniston Cold	295	3.29	89.68	5.90	3.36	0.07
Gargrave	44,000	56.87	773.64	880.00	58.01	1.14
Giggleswick	25,000	46.43	538.45	500.00	47.36	0.93
Hellifield	24,600	44.75	549.77	492.00	45.64	0.89
Horton in Ribblesdale	8,372	45.39	184.45	167.44	46.30	0.91
Ingleton	89,662	106.31	843.42	1793.25	108.43	2.13
Langcliffe	6,304	38.62	163.23	126.08	39.39	0.77
Long Preston	22,000	69.35	317.23	440.00	70.74	1.39
Settle	93,910	85.45	1098.98	1878.20	87.16	1.71
Stainforth	6,986	62.99	110.9	139.71	64.25	1.26
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