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Mr David Williams
Chief Executive
Portsmouth City Council
Civic Offices
Portsmouth
PO1 2BG

7th April 2014

Dear *David,*

Re: Hilsea Lido Pool for the People Trust

I was delighted to hear of the excellent progress being made to date in respect of the Hilsea Lido Pool for the People Trust. This work will greatly benefit the local community and I am naturally keen to ensure that things continue to move along swiftly.

It is clear that many community organisations across the city wish to support the Lido's refurbishment, and collaborate to increase the opportunities for their own organisations. At a recently convened meeting to help the Beneficial Foundation develop its business plan several stakeholders raised the potential for the Lido to be a community hub for services to older people and those with disabilities being just one example.

I understand that it is the Councils' wish to produce an annual report on the community benefits of Hilsea Lido Pool for the People. I think this is a great device in ensuring that we create the maximum benefit from the local resources and would strongly suggest that, rather than it just be Council Officers producing the report, you get input from external experts and high calibre people from the voluntary sector. I would however caution against any such report being used as a device to influence Hilsea Lido Pool for the People's business plan by stealth. I am sure that this is not the intention, but just want to flag how important it is to respect the governance structures of the Trust in respect of this asset transfer. I note your offices have made that point themselves in their report.

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The Council should, in my view, do more to support the Hilsea Lido Pool for the People Trust to achieve their objectives. And I hope that an annual review might produce a list of actions and resources which could contribute to the project.

The achievements of Hilsea Lido Pool for the People Trust are considerable, and the City owes their volunteers a huge debt of gratitude. We owe it to them and the future of the project to properly support them. I would recommend that the Council include in its report feedback from the Trust and suggestions from them on support Portsmouth City Council could potentially make available.

Any community group should feel supported by the city's leaders, and I would suggest that should be an explicit objective of Portsmouth City Council's future plans and actions.

I believe that fostering a spirit of mutual cooperation between local councilors and the Trust is essential in creating a mutually beneficial working partnership. To this end, it is of course invaluable that the roles and responsibilities of both parties are clear.

I would be grateful if you would therefore kindly keep me up to date regarding support within Portsmouth City Council in respect of the Trust. If I can be of any assistance in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your kind assistance in this matter and I look forward to hearing further from you in due course.

Yours sincerely

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