Overview of Project/Background 25-07-16

Consideration has been given to Pool improvements over the last 3 years which has included

1. 2013/14 National Grid volunteers, PC, Bruce with SMBC Rangers assistance to newly plant the area around the culvert/trash screen, tidy up the "beach" area and bark, re-paint furniture, and liaise with SMBC to better maintain all areas with a programme of regular maintenance for an inclusive and accessible attraction. Neighbourhood Team provided an inclusive picnic bench (sometimes inaccessible due to nettles/weeds)

   Photos.

   SMBC maintains the areas around seating i.e. mowing. Glendale have attended to remove dead trees/branches, but upon request only via Darren Parkin.

2. PC have attempted to pretty up with introduction of a planter, mangers to fencing and seasonal planting, funded by the PC.

3. Parish Plan, Visual Design Statement, Resident questionnaires, Neighbourhood Planning consultation – all indicate the pool to be much loved and valued as a community amenity by residents and visitors; historical value and in situ before the Meriden conurbation grew …… negative is access only to seating.

4. 2015 – Mr Williams brokered A & A donation for sustainability of Meriden Pool and undertook pro bono work for his architect to design how the Pool could look, linking this to historical pictures showing a footpath all around the pool and seating.

5. 2015 – NRS willingness to support project with supply of recycled aggregates and making pathways.

6. 2015 – PC, Mr Williams and SMBC officers met to discuss better flow, aeration, pool improvements, root ingression, without successful conclusion; Harvey attended and can update re. drainage/new pipework behind bungalows.

7. 2015 – new owners of 150 Main Road decimated the historical tree/hedgeline due to SMBC non maintenance and promise to keep a 1 metre boundary between pool vegetation and their fence line. PC pursued prosecution via Dave Tipping without success. Darren Parkin continues to monitor re-growth.

8. 2015 – Environmental Health called to attend site due to rat infestation. This continues without regular intervention from SMBC environmental services, and results in regular complaints from visitors to the pool, and residents living alongside.

9. 2015 – attempted to re-educate visitors on wildfowl feeding including Meriden School, without success.

10. 2015 – engaged with Manor Hotel who are keen to get involved and perhaps hold wildfowl food at reception for visitors to purchase.

11. 2015 – lack of oxygen/aeration/dropped level cause fish to die that became a feeding frenzy for seagulls.

12. 2016 – dropping levels reported where no flow was coming into pool and fish visible.

13. 2016 – PC requesting replanting of hedgerow between Pool and 150 Main Road via Ward Action Plan funding.

14. 2016 – lack of maintenance continues.

15. 2016 – Met with Adam and discussed what could be done from an ecological/conservation perspective. Adam can update.

16. 2016 – Rats reported via Ed Bradford (flood risk meeting) without feedback or environmental services attending site.

17. 2016 – PC match funding A & A contribution to pool sustainability/improvements.

18. 2016 complaints continue from the local community regarding rats, general maintenance and how we can improve Meriden's asset.

19. 2016 – Police incident and PC permission given to search pool for weapon; resulted in feedback from officers who were expecting to wade but ended up body surfing in 18" of sludge, the remaining depth a solidified mass of muck!

20. 2016 spoken to Berryfields Farm who have ownership and title to drinking rights from the pool for cattle. Also bungalows on Main Road extended gardens up to farmland boundary which is considered SMBC land. Gardens extended up to new drainage ditch that Chris is keeping his eye on. The Pool is referred to the Swans Neck or Banjo given its original shape that has been diminished over many years due to lack of maintenance, garden extensions and lack of flow/pressure from the culvert/ditch behind Main Road.

21. 2016 – here we are today!