



# Berwick upon Tweed Town Council

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Council

27 September 2021

Appendix D

**Report of Projects Officer**

## **Boxing Day Dip**

**Access Public**

### **Background**

1. This event has not run since 2019 due to COVID-19 restrictions.
2. Historically, the Boxing Day Dip raised funds for the Mayoress's Charity.
3. More recently, participants have increasingly been using the event to raise funds for other charities.
4. Nevertheless, Berwick Town Council takes a role in organising the event and, in conjunction with the RNLI and Coastguard, conducts a risk assessment.
5. In 2018, in order to generate funds for the Mayoress's Charity, the Town Council collected a small entry fee on the day but did not otherwise engage with participants.

### **Issues**

6. In its present format, the Boxing Day Dip does not raise significant funds for the Mayoress's Charity.
7. However, the Town Council's involvement is not without consequence and may result in possible liability for any accidents.

### **Options**

8. To ensure future safety and reduce risk to the Town Council, the Town Council adopt a more proactive approach to organising the Boxing Day Dip and accept any associated costs.
  - a. Such a proactive approach would include a formal pre-registration procedure and levying an entrance fee in order to raise funds for the Mayoress's Charity and the RNLI. Both of these are common practice in other Boxing Day/New Year's Day dips. By way of example South Shields Boxing Day Dip in 2019 charged a £5 registration fee, as did Hartlepool Round Table.
  - b. It is suggested that pre-registration would involve a short form confirming the applicants fitness to take part, and their acceptance of risks arising from their participation and the payment of the fee. The issuing of a wristband would take place at the venue on the day, enabling accurate numbers of those taking part to be collected.
  - c. Estimates of the costs of wristbands are, for under 250 participants, under £100. Insurance quotes for the event cannot be obtained until 28 days before the event, but we see no reason to fear that the costs will be greater than would be covered by the £5 fee.
  - d. The registration process could also be used to encourage donations to the Mayoress's charity, or to help record the amounts raised for other charities.
9. Alternatively, the Town Council withdraws from active involvement in the Boxing Day Dip.

**Recommendation**

1. Council considers the report and decides which of the options set out in paragraphs 8 and 9 is their preferred course of action.

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| Author     | JS | Town Clerk sign off (if required)      |  |
| Checked by | SC | Finance Officer sign off (if required) |  |