

EARLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting for the Members of the Amenities & Leisure Committee 26th May 2021

Agenda Item 8 YOUTH ANGLING PROJECT

Communication was received from a local charity requesting access to the lake at Maiden Erlegh Nature Reserve for an young people's angling project which they are keen to start.

The Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk and an ETC water bailiff met with Mark, a Social Inclusion Targeted Coach for the charity, the Reading Football Club Community Trust, to discuss the request further.

The Reading FC Community Trust (RFCCT) is a charity supported by, but separate from, Reading FC. The Trust delivers an alternative provision for young people between the ages of 9 and 24 with learning difficulties, behaviour issues and special education needs. They work with various local schools and other agencies, including the police.

Mark is familiar with MELNR, being a regular permit holder at Maiden Erlegh Lake and has fished there for years. He understands the benefits of fishing with regards to mental wellbeing, discipline and patience and believes it would be a great option for some of the young people to take part in especially post lockdown.

RFCCT will cover any costs associated with rod licenses and fishing permits as well as providing the fishing equipment for the sessions. The Town Council would provide access to 2 of the disabled fishing bays (most suitable in terms of size), one day a week for 6 weeks over the summer holidays. In addition, one of the ETC water bailiffs would be on hand for part of the day to answer questions and assist if required.

I have indicated to Mark that I am confident we would be able to accommodate his request and that I would make councillors aware of the charity's request for partnership working.

For further information, Mark has supplied a project proposal document and a draft poster, both of which have been provided to councillors under separate cover.

Jo Friend
Town Clerk