

Ilkley Pool and Lido Community Group

Annual Report 2026

Presented to the AGM 21st September 2026

1. Overview

- 1.1. This is the second annual report of the Ilkley Pool and Lido Community Group covering the year from September 2025 (note the financial report covers the group's financial year ending 31st March 2026).
- 1.2. The year has seen improvements at the pool - solar panels and a replacement pool cover - both of which will reduce running costs. There have been more activities outside including synchronised swimming, tai chi, yoga and circuit training as well as gong baths and a mobile sauna which means greater use of the facilities, and of course the weather has been great for Lido usage whilst at the same time bringing challenges on very busy days.. The Gardening group continued through the 2026 season - with a committed and over-generous effort of time against intensive conditions. Funding was provided to assist with watering equipment, donations were received from Moss & Moor, as well as from individuals who brought their own contributions. Some difficulties were faced in accessing the site/staff shifts but the rewards were noted continuously through the season from staff, volunteers and across Social Media.
- 1.3. We have been consulted on the initial phase of the strategic review being undertaken by Bradford Council.
- 1.4. However, as members will recall from the communications in May, our formal collaboration with Bradford Council has broken down, we were not able to proceed with the Full Moon swims as planned although the Council did organise a Solstice swim and 2 full moon swims. Our Chair and driving force, Becky Malby also resigned during the year.
- 1.5. We have continued to work with and through the Town Council and our Ward members on Bradford Council regarding the pool and lido and are grateful for their ongoing support.
- 1.6. Our membership numbers have remained steady at 172 paying members and 54 supporters. Our financial position remains sound but we remain concerned that we have not been able to spend the money raised in support of the pool and lido.

- 1.7. Our priorities for 2026/27 are to try and re-engage with the Council, spend the money we have raised, and ensure our views are taken into account in the strategic review of Bradford's sport and leisure services/facilities. Although the immediate threat to the pool and lido has disappeared, we should not be complacent.
- 1.8. We wish to thank the many people who have helped during the year, but in particular our former Chair, Becky Malby, without whom this group would not exist, and the staff at the pool and lido who look after us throughout the year.

2. Partnership Working with Bradford Council

- 2.1. Unfortunately our partnership arrangements with Bradford Council have not been productive and are currently in abeyance. We have been unable to make progress on developing a longer term plan for the pool and lido and surrounding area. We do not have an understanding of usage and income and expenditure which would enable us to work with the Council to develop initiatives that would increase usage and income and help contain costs. The strategic review of facilities across Bradford has been delayed, but we have had an initial discussion with the consultants undertaking the initial assessment work. We are keen to contribute further.
- 2.2. We have money in the bank to spend in support of the pool and lido, but have been unable to agree anything with the Council and find a mechanism to do this. As a result we have suspended any fund raising activities.
- 2.3. Members will be aware that control of Bradford Council changed in May and there is a new Lead Member responsible for Sport and Leisure, Cllr Ian Walker (Reform) who represents the Wyke Ward. Now that the new Council has met a few times and the holiday period is over, we will be attempting to re-engage with Bradford Council.

3. Working with Ward Members and the Town Council

- 3.1. The past year has seen a greater emphasis on working with and through the Town Council and our Ward Members who continue to be supportive of the group. There have been presentations by Bradford Council to the Town Council and a further update is expected in the Autumn.
- 3.2. Following the may elections we also have some new Ward Members for the new Ilkley and Addingham Ward, and the new Wharfedale ward now incorporates part

of Ben Rhydding. We have briefed our new Ward Members over the summer and look forward to working with them.

- 3.3. We would like to place on record our thanks to previous ward members who have been supportive of the pool and lido.

4. Bradford Council's Strategic Review

- 4.1. The Council stated it would be undertaking a strategic review of its sport and leisure facilities and services some time ago. This work has now started and we were approached in early summer by the consultants undertaking an initial assessment of facilities and needs.
- 4.2. We have input to this initial assessment, emphasising that the pool and lido should be seen as a single entity, that it is unique in the District and West Yorkshire, that there are real opportunities to upgrade and make better use of the facilities, alongside those across the wider area, and that we would wish to work with the Council to develop a vision for the site and the detailed plans to bring that to fruition.
- 4.3. Our understanding is that the first report should be finished by Christmas. We are unclear what happens next, or indeed what the new Council's approach might be. This is a priority for the group for the next year, whether it is through our re-engagement with Bradford Council or through our Ward Members and the Town Council or both.

5. Our Priorities for 2026-27

- 5.1. Our priorities for the coming year are to:
- Re-engage with Bradford Council and understand the new Council's approach,
 - to spend the money we have raised to support the pool and lido,
 - To continue to work with our Ward Councillors and the Town Council,
 - To be supportive of the staff at the pool and lido in their daily work,
 - To continue to press for improvements at the pool and lido, and in particular the changing facilities,
 - To continue to engage with the strategic review of sport and leisure facilities
 - To press for a long term plan for the pool and lido developed in partnership with the community.
 - To communicate progress with our membership and the wider community

