

## **DEBENHAM SWIMMING POOL PROJECT**

Debenham Community Swimming Pool is a community based charitable company, which was established in 2012 to provide a new outdoor, heated swimming pool with a surrounding polycarbonate enclosure to enable the pool to be used all year round, for the local community, schools and the surrounding villages.

Our vision is to provide a swimming pool to give young children the opportunity to learn the invaluable life skill of swimming and for everyone to enjoy swimming as both a leisure and healthy life choice activity. By opening it up to the community and surrounding villages we aim to assist in overcoming the rural isolation experienced within the area, and provide health benefits to all users within the community, and to make the project financially viable.

Once built, the daily operation of the pool would be managed by a swim school company; however the trustees of the charity will be accountable overall.

In 2012 we were granted planning permission to build on the primary school field; we undertook an archaeological dig and were granted £22,500 from SCC CRF chaired then by Eddy Alcock. Through 2013 we strived to find a total of approx. £218k in order to complete our vision. Funding applications, fundraising and generous donations have provided £109k which Sport England agreed to match fund – which hopefully in July 2014 will be finalized.

Construction work would start immediately in order to open by April 2015.

This project has only become a reality because of everyone working together – and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved, because none of this would have happened without teamwork and I am so very proud to be part of that team.