

## **Pump House Project - Report to Faringdon Town Council for Annual Town Meeting**

30<sup>th</sup> April 2025

On 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024 we were extremely grateful to receive £2,730 from FTC to support our newest project, Youth Boxing. This group had been established for some months at this time and had a steady number of circa 6 young people attending weekly. However the cost of the coach from The Loft in Abingdon was prohibitively expensive hence TPHP seeking support funding to continue the group.

The boxing project has now been running for over a year and, sadly, will be ending in June 2025. The number of young people attending has dropped to 3-4 weekly and the spaces we offer to 75% of these youngsters are completely free to them therefore it is not financially sustainable and cannot continue without further external funding which we have been trying to get but with no success.

This is devastating as the youngsters that use the facility do not partake in the lessons offered at school (FCC) due to a variety of reasons including neurodivergences, poverty or lack of confidence. As with many of our projects here at TPHP the main stalling point for many families is finances and to have the option to subsidise or offer free places has been wonderful. We have worked continuously throughout the last year with both the local police and the school to raise awareness of the sessions and advertise them as either fully funded or subsidized spaces for young people aged 8-18 years but numbers are not increasing. Despite the rising number of complaints in Faringdon about Youth and the increase in the police presence dealing with unruly groups of youngsters our local PCOS's maintain that they do not have any young people that they are currently working with to signpost to us which is disappointing.

We have been very lucky to have received donations of a variety of boxing equipment including a number of proper boxing bags which we will continue to store in the hopes that we can revisit this project in time and resurrect it as we strongly believe that the discipline, feeling of unity and belonging and focus that the sport of Boxing brings to a young persons life is of real value.

We are extremely grateful to the Town Council for their grant which has allowed us to continue the boxing project over the last 9 months where it would have not been possible without same. This has enabled the young people that do attend 9 months of availing of the skills – both physical and mental – that Andrew, our coach assigned to us by The Loft, has to impart as part of his skills, qualifications and life experiences. So from myself and my team at TPHP – Thank you.

Sarah – Project Manager

The Pump House Project