

Subject:

FW: ExternalPossible Half Marathon



13th April 2023

The Clerk and Proper Officer, Borough Highways and North Swindon Police Operations

Hello,

If you have a few seconds, I'd like to briefly tell you about the Kelly Foundation.

I'm sure it's not news to you that presently in our country, there is an epidemic of poor mental health, of depression and of acute anxiety. This has been made worse by the pandemic and made worse yet by the economic downturn that we appear to be in. This translates itself, at the most extreme end, with regular stories of young people ending their lives, often because they have simply not had anywhere to turn in their moments of despair and no long term plan in place to try to restore them to good mental health. We are supporting one family recently bereaved in this way.

Unless you are wealthy today it is almost impossible to get a General Practitioner (if you can actually get an appointment) to do anything beyond prescribing antidepressants. This is not necessarily a criticism of GPs because they have few options where patients can be directed for one-to-one, planned, long-term support.

This is where the Kelly Foundation, a charity fully registered with the Charity Commission, comes in.

As a new community mental health charity in North and West Swindon we don't receive any statutory funding for the work we do. Presently we have 20 clients whom we are supporting but further, a waiting list of 30 or so, each of whom have difficult and complex mental health conditions, which require specialist support, and which in many cases we have to buy in on their behalf.

Fundraising therefore is a problem. We do have a small number of regular donors, the Trustees have invested significant sums of money and we raise money from events. But until we have a two year track record plus accounts, it remains down to us to raise funding for our work, all of which goes on supporting clients.

It's been suggested that we could organise half marathon race in North and West Swindon. The previous Swindon half marathons were abandoned in 2020, because of the very high cost of closing roads in the town centre, believed to be upwards of £80,000.

This is way beyond our resources therefore our intention would be a much smaller community-based event utilising the comprehensive and extensive footpath and parkland network across North and West Swindon.

Whilst we don't have a defined route right now, we are confident that a route could be drawn up which would mean that no vehicle highways would need to be crossed and therefore closed. There are a number of segregated crossings of both Thamesdown Drive and Mead Way and these would be utilised to develop an off road course beginning and ending in Seven Fields.

We would envisage hopefully 500 entrants (whereas previously the Swindon half marathon attracted 3000)

We are still mulling over the detail of this and in particular, whether the statutory authorities would have any overarching demands, which would prove so expensive as to wipe out any contribution to the funds of the charity?

At this stage I'm looking for an in principle response, but with any key provisos that your Council would require to be put in place before such an event to go forward.

Thank you for your help in this matter

Warm Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Stooke". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the right of a thick vertical black line.

John Stooke

Chairman

The Kelly Foundation

www.4kelly.org

NB I have sent the Borough Council request to the CEO as this is the only E mail address I could find after 30 minutes searching the SBC website. Could you pass this to whoever in Highways and/or Licencing is the right person. All of the website now only offers responses or routes to ask to a series of "stock" questions and this question does not appear or its correct routing. Had you still a reception I would have gone in and asked the question Thankyou.

Policing has been sent to Joe Senior

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