

Staunton Country Park Landscape Advisory Group Meeting

Wednesday, April 13th 2011 at 1.30pm

MINUTES / ACTIONS

Present: Gordon Gardner; Chris Bailey; Dave Paterson; Peter Atkinson; Julie Boschi; Stephen d'este Hoare; William Parker; Tony Hurrell

Apologies: All attended

The meeting began with introductions, then Staunton's Park Manager, Gordon Gardner started with the proposal of having the meetings at least twice a year, which he would organise. Everyone agreed.

Gordon: The main reason for this meeting is to get the approval from everyone on improving this site. It is firstly a Visitor's Attraction but is a grade II listed site and we would like to develop the site, which will be in keeping in with the historical factor. We have a few projects in the pipe line.

- Estate Railing – Large project to re-do all the railings around the park, looking into funding Peter Atkinson suggested HLS Funding for this project
- Walled Garden – Internally what to do with it? We have had a plan from Susan Campbell incorporated a more Chinese theme through out.
- Fortune Border – outside of the wavy wall
- Oval Garden – re-plant and site a pergola
- Path Network
- Fences – Front Lawn/ American Grounds
- Staunton House – outline original Regency Mansion
- Car Parking – Open Storey Gardens as a car park
- Signage Interpretation – History interpretation boards in and around the Gardens. Information boards in Leigh Park Gardens explaining all the features
- The Terrace in Leigh Park Gardens will have estate railing put around the top to stop the public from being able to jump but will have information boards at both ends.

Key development is to have new features and projects through out Staunton, which will draw in customers from further a field but will also keep the attention of the current customers/ members coming back.

Between now and March 2012 we would like to plan what we are going to propose for the funding which we will be applying for, it's more likely that we will get funding for Leigh Park Gardens then the payzone.

There are a few funding pots which we would like to aim for to try and help develop our Visitors Centre, create more toilets and also turn Storey Gardens into a proper car park.

It was suggested that Staunton puts the Shell House and the Beacon onto the Heritage at Risk register which might help speed up the process in having them restored.

After a brief meeting in the conference room Gordon then took everyone on a walk around to show the future projects and discuss what could be done.

Walk Around

All the current fences around the paddocks need to be re-done. Welding has already started in some of the paddocks but still need to do some painting.

Looking into a new design for the enclosures/ paddocks but will need backing to go ahead. Also advice on which fences will be best. Due to events which have happened over the last few years i.e. foot and mouth we have had to re-think the breeds of animals we have kept on site. We have looked at changing and having some species which would not be affected if a disease was to break out again. This year we will have the new species of Wallabies added to Staunton.

Paths – Main path from Petersfield road is a problem due to in the past it being a pond and having French drains underneath and with the amount of vehicles and weight on it, is causing pot holes and leaks.

Short Term – Path Gravel

Long Term – Tarmac (Beige) Maintenance Problem?

Oval Lawn - There will be a pergola placed between the children's play area and the lawn, which will be planted.

Jess's Paddock – New style fence and netting around the paddock. Future project will be to create a walk around the back of the paddock including the American Grounds, which will extend the amount of time visitors will spend here.

Walled Garden – Gordon's idea is to change the walled garden to something a bit more adventurous. Susan Campbell's idea's was to reinvent it with a more Chinese theme and make it more of a explorer garden so when you arrive at either of the walled garden gates you can't just see everything and know what your going to get but to have to venture in to find what's inside and this would then extend and draw the visitors in.

Gordon leaves the meeting at 3:40pm

Leigh Park Gardens – Estate railing which is going around the Terrace which hopefully won't affect if we decide to create the boarder or outline of the old house.

The old toilet block, which is currently not being used and is an eye saw and targeted by the anti social youths would like to be taken down.

Action: Stephen d'este Hoare will investigate to see if the building is listed.

Action: Dave to book a meeting to discuss the tree's in Leigh Park Gardens

Meeting Commenced at 4:20pm