

AT A MEETING of the
SIR GEORGE STAUNTON COUNTRY PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
held at Sir George Staunton Country Park, Havant on 25 April 2014

PRESENT

Hampshire County Council

p Councillor Mrs. L. Fairhurst
p Councillor Mrs A Briggs
a Councillor R Finch
p Councillor D Keast
a Councillor R.C. McIntosh

p Kerry Bailey, Country Parks Business Manager (SGSCP/QECP)
p Jane Lovett, Honorary Treasurer
p Adam Owen, Countryside Team Leader (Business Development)
p Andrew Smith, Head of Countryside
a Tim Speller, Visitor Services Manager (SGSCP/QECP)

East Hampshire District Council

p Councillor Mrs. D.K. Denston
a Mr Martin Healey, Principal Countryside and Biodiversity Officer for EHDC

Havant Borough Council

p Councillor Mrs. Y. Weeks
p Mr Jeff Crate, Senior Economic Development Officer for HBC

50. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Councillor Ray Finch, Councillor Robin McIntosh, Martin Healey and Tim Speller.

51. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3 Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Non-Pecuniary interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 2 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

		Action
52.	DEPUTATIONS	
	There were no deputations.	
53.	MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING	
	The minutes of the meetings held on 6 February 2014 and the 12 March 2014 were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.	
54.	PARK MANAGER'S REPORT	
	<p>The Committee received the report of the Park Manager on the performance and activities at the Park since the meeting on the 6 February 2014 (see Item 5 in the Minute Book). Members' questions about the report were answered and the Committee was appreciative of the informative nature of the report.</p> <p>The Park Manager indicated that there had been some recent storm damage to trees in the Park and the Park's vicinity, and some hazardous trees on the nearby Petersfield Road had been urgently removed by contractors. The Park Manager reported that the impact on other trees of removing nearby damaged trees was seen to be minimal. Members heard that the Countryside Team Leader was leading on work surrounding hazardous trees for the countryside service.</p> <p>Members were updated on the situation regarding fallen trees as a result of recent poor weather. Members noted that fallen trees had been used in a variety of different ways which included wood chips, the building of animal shelters, and some being left in situ for conservation reasons.</p> <p>Members were delighted to hear that visitors to the Park on the Easter weekend had exceeded expectations with the Park experiencing 20,895 visitors. To cope with parking demands, the use of High Lawn, Storey Gardens and the American Grounds ensured that visitors didn't need to be directed to park in nearby residential areas, and overflow parking was well signed. It was further noted that the membership gate was open everyday, except two, over the school holiday. The Park Manager indicated to the Committee that during holiday periods, weekday visitor numbers were greater than at weekends, and</p>	

	<p>that recording information on visitor trends would help anticipate demand.</p> <p>Members were informed that casual staff would be recruited to help at the Park on an 'as and when' basis. It was noted that students were more likely to put themselves forward for this type of work as it could be easily fitted around studies.</p> <p>There was a discussion about the availability of animal food for public purchase, as during busy periods many visitors hoping to purchase feed are unable to, due to bags selling out quickly. The Park Manager agreed that further work needed to be done to manage public expectations surrounding animal feeding.</p> <p>It was noted that the Park would be taking part in a forthcoming English Heritage event in September; this would be a themed event focussing on Tea. The Park Manager indicated that planning work for this event was currently taking place.</p> <p>Members queried whether there were many visits to the Park from Special Schools in Hampshire. It was noted that the Park Manager would liaise with the Education Officer at the Park, to provide the Committee with an update in the next Park Manager's Report.</p> <p>A discussion was held about the viability of the Park being a venue for birthday parties, as figures indicated that currently there was insignificant profit to be accrued from these (see Item 5, Appendix 1). The Park Manager indicated that although these events were resource intensive in terms of administrative support, this area was seen as having growth potential, and the Park Manager was keen to develop this further.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Committee approve the content of the report. 	Kerry Bailey
55.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andy Smith informed Members that a report on the future of the Joint Management Committee would be presented to the next meeting on the 24 June. A copy of the constitution of the JMC would be circulated to the Members of the Committee before the next meeting. • Jeff Crate discussed the possibilities of using the front paddock at the Park to showcase different animals to visitors, and the Park Manager indicated that this would be explored further. 	Kerry Bailey

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Fairhurst highlighted to Members that Chris Bailey had organised a plant sale at the Park for Thursday 1 May, where plants could be purchased at a reduced price. To promote publicity, Councillor Denston would circulate some flyers to organisations such as Parish Councils. • Kerry Bailey indicated that the Park would be looking to hold another plant auction later in the year. 	
56.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
	The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 24 June 2014 at 2.00 pm at the Park.	

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