

REPORT OF THE
Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside
PART II

264. COUNTRY PARKS TRANSFORMATION - PROJECTS APPROVAL

1. On 4 October 2016 the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside considered the proposals for the next stage of the Country Parks Transformation programme specifically concerning projects at Staunton Country Park and Queen Elizabeth Country Park. The Country Parks Transformation programme aims to develop a suite of modern 21st Century Country Parks and includes all of the parks owned and managed by Hampshire County Council – Lepe, Royal Victoria, Queen Elizabeth, Staunton, Manor Farm and Titchfield Haven National Nature Reserve. Through capital investment and external funding the parks will attract more people from Hampshire, and beyond, to visit more often, stay longer, spend more and return.

2. The benefits that the project at Staunton Country Park will bring include a new visitor centre with enhanced facilities, information and interpretation, greater access to free play opportunities, relocating and enlarging the car park, installing Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) to manage car parking payments and expanding catering outlets within the park and farm. The project will also work in partnership with Highbury College to provide a more suitable venue for on-site vocational training.

3. The project at Queen Elizabeth Country Park will provide a transformed visitor centre, improving the welcome entrance, installing ANPR within the car park, relocating and increasing the size of the café, a new fitness/assault course, a dog agility trail and community space. This particular project will be completed working alongside partners for the armed forces and is part funded by an Army Covenant fund grant.

4. The Country Parks Transformation programme is a once in a generation opportunity to transform the County Council's country parks in order for them to remain relevant to current and future visitors; deliver significant improvements; maximise investment and partnership funding; and collectively become operationally cost neutral.

Further details on these items can be found at
www.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings.htm by typing in the relevant reference number:

- Country Parks Transformation – Project Approval (7726)

COUNCILLOR ANDREW GIBSON
Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside

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