

**Sir George Staunton Country Park
Stakeholder Forum**

**Minutes of Meeting
Held on, at 12:00am,
in the Garrett Room, Staunton Country Park**

Present

Sir George Staunton Country Park

Gordon Gardner
Kerry Bailey
Alexandra Hansler

Hampshire County Council

Cllr. Mrs Fairhurst
Mr. Phil Halliwell
Mr Mike Walls

East Hampshire District Council

Mr Stephen d'Este Hoare
Cllr Mrs Dorothy Denston

Local Member

Jim Edwards
Gideon Fig

Havant Day Services

Terry Hart

Portsmouth Water Company

Ian Limb

Havant Borough Council

Jeff Crate

MINUTES OF STAKEHOLDER FORUM

Chairman accepts previous meetings minutes.

Chairman Liz Fairhurst

Would like to suggest we have Stakeholders twice a year. But also doesn't believe that a member of the JMC should Chair the Stakeholders so would like to propose Ian Limb as the new Chairman for the next meetings.

Phil Halliwell seconds the proposal. Ian Limb accepts. Chairman would like a list of all members to select for the Stakeholders Meetings.

PARK MANAGER'S UPDATE

The Forum considered the report of the Park Manger outlining recent work and future development projects at Staunton.

This year Staunton has been awarded The Green Flag Award along with VACQUS Figures currently down on last year but hoping the new EPOS system and the new Staunton Memberships will boost the figures up within a short period of time. New logo is up and running, which can be seen on all new posters and leaflets. Recently launched Twitter and Facebook which updates daily on activities which go on through the park. This year we have upped the School Members prices too £200. Within the

Gardens Team looking to introduce butterflies into the Glass House around the Lily Pool, which again will cause a new experience for the paying customers.

New staff member Steve Jenner is now in charge of Health and Safety as well as the daily Operations of the park. The Ranger Team has saved about £2,000 by chipping their own wood.

INCOME GENERATING PROJECTS

Staunton currently has £160,000 left over from past Lottery Funding. We are looking to use this to develop Staunton with future project which will draw more customers in and create more income overall.

Soft Play Area

We have looked into putting a 'Indoor Play Area' within $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Barn. This will create a space for children and families during the winter and during wet days throughout the summer. This should increase the secondary spend by at least 15%, this should pay itself off within a year maybe less. There will be a press release and advertisement to bring the customers in and to make families aware that we will now have this facility.

Wallaby Walk

This is again to create a new experience for the customer which will keep there time within the park longer and have the interaction with a new animals at Staunton. This will go within the current Deer Paddock and will build a winding pathway through the paddock to then join with the existing pathway which runs along side the overflow car park. This idea is an adaption of an existing plan which can be found in the EDA Plan for Staunton. The payback for this project is at least 25% over 6 months. Again with the advertisement this will bring a great deal of customers to Staunton which will up the visitors figures.

American Grounds

This project is to replace all the fencing around the paddocks in the American Grounds which will then allow us to split the paddocks, which then gives us the opportunity to have more animals and a more variety of species. Again this is an adaption of an existing plan from the EDA Plan which will the incorporate from the American Grounds round to the Dutch Gardens which is being used for a natural wildlife garden. Creating a wooden walk way in the Dutch Gardens allows the customers a another area of the park which hasn't been seen before. This also makes there experience and day out longer.

Walled Garden

The Garden Team are now working on planting Perennials around the boarder within the Walled Garden which will save the Garden Team planting all year round this will save time and money.

The members of the Forum asked the Park Manager questions relating to his report.

Q: How do you keep track on the amount of children if it is unmanned?

A: We have looked into Turn Styles which counts each person which goes through and also stops once the maximum has gone through. These cost £2,500 each so max of £5,000 which is a lot more then paying for a member of staff to man the door.

Q: The planting should relate to the era of the park, which is the regional period? The historical side had been weakened due to the changes?

A: The Walled Garden in the future will be brought back to the correct historical period but at this time creating a Perennial Boarder will suffice until we have the time to re-create the Historical Period within the Walled Garden.

FINANCE REPORT from Mike Walls

Park is in deficit hoping for return suffice this year. Budgets this year don't include the current proposed projects.

Q: Is there still a reserve in case of an outbreak of foot and mouth?

A: We did have £190,000 in reserve but £150,000 was transferred to the Garrett Room refurbishment.

Q: Manor Farm got a hit last year? But County absorbed the loss?

A: Manor Farm had to cut back on everything. Which caused them to reduce their out spend as much as possible, then County paid the rest.

Q: When the events take place, have you thought about having staff go round with buckets collecting money?

A: We started doing that this year, this is also a good opportunity to sell the memberships. There is also an opportunity to create allotments within Storey Gardens and then sell them to individuals who wish to be apart of Staunton.

RESOLVED:

The Stakeholder Forum note the content of the Report.

DATE OF NEXT STAKEHOLDER MEETING

The next Stakeholder Forum Meeting will be held on Friday June 17th , 2pm till 4pm, at Sir George Staunton Country Park.