



Oversight and Governance

Chief Executive's Department
Plymouth City Council
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Published 10 November 2022

Mount EDGCUMBE JOINT COMMITTEE

Date: Friday 18 November 2022
Time: 10.00 am
Place: Belvedere Room, Mount Edgcumbe

Committee Members:

Plymouth City Councillors-

Councillors Shayer (Co-Chair), Carlyle, McDonald, Salmon, Briars-Delve, Rennie & one Conservative vacancy.

Cornwall Councillors-

Councillors Ewert (Co-Chair), Alvey, Ewert, Lennox-Boyd, Pascoe, Tivnan, Worth and Daw.

Co-opted Members-

Mr G Edgcumbe, Sir Richard Carew Pole, and Mr D L Richards.

Members of the Committee are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business overleaf.

For further information on attending Council meetings and how to engage in the democratic process please follow this link - <http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/accesstomeetings>

Tracey Lee and Kate Kennally
Joint Clerks

MOUNT EDGCUMBE JOINT COMMITTEE

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

To receive apologies for non-attendance submitted by Joint Committee Members.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members will be asked to make any declarations of interest in respect of items on this agenda.

3. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 6)

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 19 August 2022 as a correct record.

4. CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS

To receive reports on business, which in the opinion of the Chair, should be brought forward for urgent consideration.

5. ACTION LOG (To Follow)

For the Committee to review the progress of the action log, and consider responses to completed actions.

6. REMEMBERING TONY HUTCHINGS

For the Committee to pay tribute to Tony Hutchings.

7. CO-OPTED MEMBER UPDATE

For the Joint Committee to receive an update on the resignation of Sir Richard Carew Pole 13th Baronet, OBE, DL .

For the Joint Committee to consider the appointment of Mr Pete Smith, as a co-opted member.

8. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

To receive questions from the public in accordance with the Constitution.

Questions, of no longer than 50 words, can be submitted to the Democratic Support Unit, Plymouth City Council, Ballard House, Plymouth, PL1 3BJ, or email to democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk. Any questions must be received at least five clear working days before the date of the meeting.

9. **Mount Edgcumbe Financial Monitoring report:** (Pages 7-9)
10. **Park Managers Report:** (Pages 10-17)
11. **Friends of Mount Edgcumbe Country Park Update:** (Pages 19-21)
12. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

To consider passing a resolution under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the press and public from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

- (a.) Private Meeting

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO NOTE:

that under the law, the Committee is entitled to consider certain items in private. Members of the public will be asked to leave the meeting when such items are discussed.

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Mount Edgcumbe Joint Committee

Friday 19 August 2022

PRESENT:

Councillor Shayer, in the Chair.

Councillor Ewert, Vice Chair.

Councillors Carlyle, Salmon, Alvey, Pascoe, Tivnan, Worth and Briars-Delve.

Co-opted Representatives: Derek Richards, Ged Edgcumbe (FOMECP).

Also in attendance: Victoria Pomeroy (Chief Executive Officer for the Box), Chris Burton (Park Manager), Matt Jackson (Land and Heritage), Jake Metcalfe (Democratic Advisor) & Elliot Wearne-Gould (Democratic Advisor).

Apologies for absence: Councillors McDonald, Lennox-Boyd, Daw, Kelly and Rennie.

The meeting started at 10:00 and finished at 11:40.

Note: At a future meeting, the committee will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

12. **To Note the Appointment of the Joint Chair (Plymouth City Council) and to Appoint a Joint Chair from Cornwall Council**

The Joint Committee agreed to note the appointment of Councillor Shayer from Plymouth City Council as Joint Chair for the municipal year 2022-23.

The Joint Committee agreed to appoint Councillor Ewert as Joint Chair from Cornwall County Council for the municipal year 2022-23.

13. **Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Councillors Kelly, Rennie, Lennox Boyd McDonald and Daw.

14. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

15. **Minutes**

The Joint Committee agreed the minutes from the meeting held on 19 November 2021.

16. **Chair's Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business from the Chair.

17. **Appointment of Co-opted Representative**

The Joint Committee agreed to co-opt Ged Edgcumbe, Chair of Friends of Mount Edgcumbe Country Park.

18. **Presentation on the Mount Edgcumbe Woodland Plan** (Verbal Report)

Matt Jackson Chief Executive of Land and Heritage delivered a presentation to the Joint Committee and highlighted the following key points:

- a) Land and Heritage was an environmental consultation company that dealt with heritage landscape conservation and woodland creation in Devon, Cornwall and Leeds;
- b) The target had been to have 500 hectares of woodland planted in two years around Plymouth and South Devon, Mount Edgcumbe had been contacted to assess whether the Country park and estate would fit into the project. The Project would see woodland planting, fencing and maintenance undertaken and funded by itself receiving no contribution from the Mount Edgcumbe Country Park and Estate.
- c) The entire estate had been a grade I listed landscape in Cornwall and the project had been looking to complete an environmental impact assessment.

In response to questions raised it was reported that:

- a) Tree Planting for the project would be logged under the forest for Cornwall banner;
- b) Introductions of tree species would be given careful consideration and would take into account climate change and the Rame Peninsular's unique native species with its micro climate;
- c) The Project would look into planting a tree to commemorate Her Majesty Elizabeth II's 70th Anniversary of her reign;
- d) There had been a clear management process in relation to ash dieback with some of the worst affected trees being cleared. This problem would be unavoidable and presented a capital issue for the Park.

19. **Mount Edgcumbe Revenue Outturn 2021/22**

Councillor Mark Shayer presented the item to the Joint Committee. The Joint Committee agreed to:

- 1) Note the financial position contained in the report along with the risks, issues and any mitigating actions;

- 2) Note the capital programme and proposals to be presented to Plymouth City Council's Investment Board.

20. **Park Managers Report**

Chris Burton (Park Manager) presented a report to the Joint Committee and highlighted the following key points:

- a) The Park had settled into a new normal approach and had been working without restriction for six months. The Park and Country estate continued to act as the green lung for Plymouth and had recently welcomed thousands of children to a week-long activity session;
- b) The Country Park and Estate had, through various commercial activities, become financially independent from Plymouth City Council and Cornwall County Council;
- c) COVID had a negative impact on the Park in relation to its core volunteers which had significantly reduced. Chris Burton advised the Joint Committee that they had been attempting to rejuvenate the volunteer programme;
- d) The Park Manager had been working on drafting a development plan which included a buildings development plan in consultation with Historic England, it was hoped that the Development plan would be with the Joint Committee for approval in approximately two years;
- e) Parking machines had now progressed to provide payments over the phone and it had been planned to increase the offer to include machines that could accept contactless payments. This would support a move away from solely cash machines;
- f) Numerous events at the park continued to take place consistently, the park would cover its costs through ground rent or through a percentage of turnover;
- g) Lady Emma's cottage had been a success story and was a derelict property until a private individual bought the lease and set the cottage up as a holiday let. Through the Park Managers connections another individual visited the cottage and bought the cottage before returning it to the Park for its own use.
- h) The English Garden House got to the last six for a previous heritage lottery fund bid. The Country Park and Estate had been in discussions with Catherine Marlow with a view to receiving possible future grants. Should this be unsuccessful the Park and Estates would pay £20,000 a year on the building;
- i) The Holiday let portfolio saw the introduction of Rame Head lookout in May 2022, this had also been converted from a disused building and

provided the park with increased revenue. The Holiday let portfolio had recorded high levels of occupancy throughout the year and the Park had established a good partnership with Classic Cottages;

- j) The Park manager continued to ensure that the park was free to everyone and balanced its different user groups effectively;

In response to questions raised it was reported that:

- a) The Garden Battery would tell the story of the house, Battery, Park and its role in Plymouth Sound as a critically important defensive structure for Plymouth;
- b) All reports completed for the Park would be made available on the Mount Edgumbe website. All papers relating to the Joint Committee would also be published on the website;
- c) The Park continued to look into bringing electric bikes and scooters to the park which would link in to other areas in the region;
- d) Sea grass had been present in Cawsand Bay and it represented the best carbon sink. The Park had been looking into expanding the sea grass meadows;
- e) The park continued to progress as a deer park and had fenced half of the area with the other half coming to a halt due to difficult ground conditions, There had been issues with dog attacks this year and plans had been progressing to re-educate people;
- f) Over the ensuing two years the park would look to make plans for electric vehicle charging stations and the Park Manager had been looking to make changes to the highways and fleet vehicles towards electric;

The Joint Committee agreed to note the Park Activity report.

21. **Friends of Mount Edgumbe Country Park Update**

Ged Edgumbe, Chair of the Friends of Mount Edgumbe presented an update to members of the Joint Committee and highlighted the following key points:

- a) The membership of the Friends of Mount Edgumbe Country Park agreed on 3 April 2022 to proposed changes which had been required by the Charity Commission;
- b) Membership of the Group had increased from its lowest of 550 during COVID lockdowns to 675 members in August 2022;
- c) The cancellation of events during the pandemic significantly impacted fund raising efforts, yet despite this the FOMECP provided £26,795 of funding for 2021 for projects in the park. In 2022 the FOMECP supported four

significant projects in bedding plants (£3,500), Education shelter (£7,500), resurfacing of road adjacent to the Barrow Centre (£20,000) and the repair of statues Athena and Diana the Huntress (£10,000) with a total contribution of £41,000;

- d) Membership costs for a family of four had cost £20 a year and included 25% discounts on anything bought in the Orangery; 20% discount on purchases at business in the park and reduced annual parking fees;
- e) The FOMECP had continued to target an increase in members that were younger in age with the aim of increasing the cohort of younger volunteers;
- f) The FOMECP successfully continued to manage events which contributed positively significant finances to the Park;

In response to questions raised it was reported that:

- a) The Monitoring Officer for Plymouth City Council would provide advice as to whether Members were able to be part of the FOMECP and also be part of the Mount Edgumbe Joint Committee.

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Mount Edgumbe Joint Committee



Date of meeting:	18 November 2022
Title of Report:	Mount Edgumbe Budget Monitoring 2022/23
Lead Member:	Councillor Pat Patel (Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Culture, Leisure & Sport)
Lead Strategic Director:	Anthony Payne (Strategic Director for Place)
Author:	Christopher Burton, Mount Edgumbe Park Manager
Contact Email:	Chris.Burton@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	2022/23 Q2
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

This presents the Q2 position of Mount Edgumbe for the financial year 2022/23

Recommendations and Reasons

It is recommended that Joint Committee:

- Notes the financial position contained in the report along with the risks, issues and any mitigating actions
- Notes the capital programme

Alternative options considered and rejected

None

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

This monitoring report links to delivering the priorities within the Council's Corporate Plan.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

None

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

** When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.*

Monitoring of commercial project delivery times and ensuring they perform in accordance with budgets set, with continued focus to sensibly capitalise on existing assets, to generate new and / or more income as soon as possible.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Appendices

*Add rows as required to box below

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Briefing report title							
B	Equalities Impact Assessment (if applicable)							

Background papers:

*Add rows as required to box below

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

Fin	pl.22 .23.2 59	Leg	LS/39 412/A C/3/1 1/22	Mon Off	Click here to enter text.	HR	Click here to enter text.	Asset s	Click here to enter text.	Strat Proc	Click here to enter text.
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: David Draffan											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 04/11/2022											
Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Pat Patel (Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Culture, Leisure & Sport) <i>Approved by Email</i>											
Date approved: 09/11/2022											

22-23 Budget monitoring**I.1 Q2 Revenue Position - Financial summary**

Business Type	2022/23 Budget			2022/23 Forecast			Variation to net Budget	Comments
	Income	Expenditure	Net	Income	Expenditure	Net		
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		
Staffing & Operations	(9)	574	565	(9)	574	565	0	
House	(34)	43	9	(50)	59	9	0	Utility pressure funded by repurposed provision
Gardens	0	14	14	0	14	14	0	
Grounds	(27)	151	124	(31)	155	124	0	Utility pressure funded by repurposed provision
Trading Activities:								
Alpacas	(8)	8	0	(8)	8	0	0	
Conferences	(2)	1	(1)	(2)	1	(1)	0	
Rents	(157)	33	(124)	(169)	45	(124)	0	Utility pressure funded by repurposed provision
Chalets	(364)	0	(364)	(364)	0	(364)	0	
Parking	(91)	7	(84)	(91)	7	(84)	0	
Special Events	(38)	28	(10)	(38)	28	(10)	0	
Holiday Lets	(216)	120	(96)	(232)	136	(96)	0	Utility pressure funded by repurposed provision
Glamping	(16)	13	(3)	(16)	13	(3)	0	
Weddings	(50)	17	(33)	(50)	17	(33)	0	
Misc. Activities	(1)	4	3	(1)	4	3	0	
Total Operations	(1,013)	1,013	0	(1,061)	1,061	0	0	
Subsidy								
Cornwall CC			0			0	0	
Plymouth CC			0			0	0	
Total Deficit / (surplus)			0			0	0	

1.2 The table above set out a nil variation to budget. A £50k in year utility cost pressure has been funded by the use of a £50k repurposed provision. This provision was previously earmarked in 21-22 to mitigate the potential risk of future bad debt.

Revenue budget planning 2023/24

2.1 Initial budget planning work is underway for 2023/24. The joint authority subsidy was removed for 22-23, and this will be the target ongoing. Opportunities to maximise existing and future income streams for Mount Edgumbe continues.

Capital Programme

3.1 The approved capital programme is shown below. The business case for commercialisation is being worked on for 2023/24 at the earliest.

Project	Funding	Prior Year £'000s	2022/23 £'000s	2023/24 £'000s	Total £'000s
Mount Edgumbe Cremyll Car Park	Service Borrowing	67	3	0	70
Mount Edgumbe Commercialisation	Service Borrowing	656	0	180	836

2022/23 Risk Register

4.1 Risks are recorded below to reflect those activities that may happen, and could affect the monitoring position.

Mt Edgumbe financial risks		£'000s
Loss of rental income	That rental income is not accordance with the approved budget, including as a result of a potential landslide scenario.	tbc
Bad Debt Write Off	Worst case scenario that once chased, and all recovery options exhausted, any unpaid historical invoices are written off.	50
Utilities. Cost inflation.	That any further price rises cannot be contained within forecasts	-

Recommendations

5.1 It is recommended that Joint Committee:

- Notes the financial position contained in the report along with the risks, issues and any mitigating actions
- Notes the capital programme and proposals to be presented to Plymouth City Council's Investment Board, subject to a detailed business case

Mount Edgcumbe Joint Committee



Date of meeting:	18 November 2022
Title of Report:	Park Activity to Nov 2022
Lead Member:	Councillor Pat Patel
Lead Strategic Director:	Anthony Payne (Strategic Director for Place)
Author:	Chris Burton (Park Manager)
Contact Email:	chris.burton@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	n/a
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

The report provides an update on activities in the park from August 2022 to Nov 2022

Recommendations and Reasons

The Joint Committee will be asked to note the update.

Alternative options considered and rejected

n/a

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

In line with the Council's priorities, the Park provides a vibrant cultural offer.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

The financial implications are set out in the revenue monitoring report which is included as a separate agenda item.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

n/a

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

** When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.*

n/a

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A	Briefing report title							
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Background papers:

*Add rows as required to box below

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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

Fin	DJN. 22.2 3.27 2	Leg	LS/3 9422 /AC/ 9/11/ 22.	Mon Off	Click here to enter text.	HR	Click here to enter text.	Asset s	Click here to enter text.	Strat Proc	Click here to enter text.
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: David Draffan											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes Anthony Payne Date agreed: 10/11/2022											
Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Pat Patel (Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Culture, Leisure & Sport) <i>Approved by Email</i> Date approved: 09/11/2022											

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This report informs members of the works and activities carried out since August 2022.

2.0 Park Matters

2.1 The Park has had a very busy summer season with events on most weekends along with a bumper year of weddings and receptions.

2.2 The Park today is very different to how it was a few years ago, we now have a thriving holiday let portfolio and we are home to some 23 different businesses, employing well over 60 people making us a medium employer on the Rame Peninsula. We have perhaps just as importantly reduced the tax payer burden through our various commercial activities to zero this year, a major undertaking that I and my staff are very proud of. I believe the Park looks better, feels more welcoming and is well on the way to developing its full potential.

2.3 Initial design work has started on the Garden Battery along with a wealth of survey work. Designs are being drawn up to RIBA stage 1 for planning consent purposes. As you will know from previous meetings, this project is part of the National Marine Park Heritage Lottery funding for which there is around 1 million pounds allocated to the Garden Battery

2.4 Sadly the Park has experienced a lot of storm damage this year. Losing some of its veteran landscape trees, including one of the main cedar trees in the Earls Garden and a number of large impressive trees in the lower Park. The number of times we have had to close for public safety has risen as the number of storms has too. Resilience against these more frequent storm events is part of the development plan of the Park.

2.5 The Park Maintenance Team has doubled with the addition of another post (albeit part time), and we have already started work on the backlog of maintenance issues both in the wider park (they completed the wonderful renovation of Thompson Seat in the formal gardens this summer) and also our holiday-let portfolio. A good very visual example of this will be the new decking area just south of the Barrow Centre, this will also incorporate a natural play area based around a boulder climbing apparatus in time for the summer.

2.6 As well as the Alpacas, which have proved very popular this summer, we have introduced some Jacobs sheep; a hardy and colourful sheep that also help to explain the process of conservation grazing. The Park Manager is still developing the Wild Breeds Centre concept based in Barrow Field. Initial planning enquiries have been favourable about this and it could provide both something to do for our younger family visitors and a potential income generator for the Park. The Park Manager is drawing up a business case for this, for future exploration with the Committee and other stakeholders.

2.7 Deer fencing of two thirds of the Deer Park is now complete and the whole should be completed by the end of next summer, a major undertaking by the Ranger Team. This has included the building of several new gates and deer leaps. A deer census will take place this

winter, in order to assess population and inform management. There has been a deer herd at the Park since 1515 and it is an integral part of the landscape. The existing deer fence was in a very poor state.

- 2.8 The Park will negotiate a new Stewardship agreement as land-owner at Rame Head with Natural England this year as the old one ends. At the time of writing however there is some confusion as to the future of the scheme and what (if any) extensions will be given.
- 2.9 A replacement decking area has been installed in the Barrow Centre, and this will have extra seating that can be used by the public or café goers. This is part of a phased improvement of the area which will include the moving of the Cornish hay wagon to a better, less hidden, display area and the replacement of the now defunct play area. The FOMCP have donated money towards the refurbishment of the hay wagon.
- 2.10 The Park continues to replace its aging vehicle fleet, it is planned to phase in vehicle replacement over the next three years as we are now in a situation where we spend more on 20 year old vehicles than they are worth.
- 2.11 The Park continues with its 'Tree Safety Management Plan' to which is now added the spectre of Ash Dieback, with surveys taking place on a rolling programme and removal as necessary this may represent a pressure on existing budgets as this national issue is dealt with. There is no doubt that this will have implications for the work stream and funding of the Park. The Park Rangers will be looking at adopting the PCC Alloy system to augment the QTRA system in the Park.
- 2.12 The Park has two new Austrian volunteers that have returned on a six month placement, this has been a great help and we hope to continue with this arrangement in the foreseeable future. The scheme is run through European funding through a partner CUBIC and essentially supplies two people one gardener and one ranger for the Park.
- 2.13 A new Education Centre is completed and is proving very popular giving us versatile covered space for environmental education and also as an overspill for the Farriers restaurant. This was made possible with funding from with the FOMCP (Friends of Mount Edgcumbe) in a partnership project with the local schools and Awenek Studio CIC.
- 2.14 The Black Bee Reserve has been managed by staff and volunteers with around a dozen new colonies being distributed around the Peninsula. This is a great step forward in terms of supporting the reintroduction of this native species, Mount Edgcumbe is on the biodiversity map for its ground breaking work with this project.
- 2.15 Earlier in the year, the Park Manager attended the rededication ceremony in Esquelbeq Military Cemetery, of 2nd Lt Piers Edgcumbe 11th Lancers, who after many years is no longer listed as a missing soldier, sufficient proof having been found to name the grave of a hereto unknown Officer. This was a deeply moving event attended by the family, representatives of Eton College, The Army and Commonwealth War Graves Commission.
- 2.16 Secure Forests CIC Ltd with funding from the Oak Foundation will be delivering a Veterans and Blue Light Services Land Management and Wildlife Conservation Course starting in the spring

of 2023 based at Mount Edgcumbe. In partnership with Duchy College this will help provide the Park with added capacity in terms of workforce, as well as recognising us as a training location.

3.1 Buildings and Park Infrastructure

- 3.1 Designs for wrapping the English Garden House, are being considered. This will prevent water ingress and stabilise and make good this important building, the building was re designated to Grade 2* and put on the risk register by Historic England and as such will be eligible for grants to restore it, and we have received a small grant from Historic England to help with this wrapping process.
- 3.2 Thompsons Seat and Milton's Temple have received an overhaul, Thompsons Seat in particular now has a particularly fine set of woodwork rose motifs, these have been uncovered and restored.
- 3.3 The Main House has had remedial works to the roofs of two turret rooms and has had an improved roof drainage system installed that allows for sudden downpours. These weather events are all the more likely in the future and were not envisaged when the house was built, so far they have been tested a couple of times and worked well.
- 3.4 The Main House is being run on a guided tour system and this worked well, reducing staff overheads with visitor numbers remaining much the same since the Blitz display was installed. The Blitz display, now in its second full year, continues to have favourable reports. Each year we will tweak the story to highlight a particular year of the war.
- 3.5 Students from the Arts University of Plymouth, Formerly Plymouth College of Arts, displayed several art installations throughout the Park as part of their 2022 season and these generated a lot of interest with the Park negotiating the purchase of a couple of these.
- 3.6 Cremyll play area has now been renovated and is open to the public. It is hoped that Barrow Centre play area will be completed in the next budget and before the summer.
- 3.7 Work on the Orangery building continues after storm damage to the glass and doors, but the restaurant has managed to stay open throughout this work. We as everyone else are experiencing more and more storm damage, the Orangery is particularly susceptible being a largely glass building.
- 3.8 The Park has had a major overhauling of its signs in order to bring some uniformity to its plethora of signs and remove where possible old and dated ones. Initial designs for the overall main park sign are being considered at the moment and will, it is hoped, be in place by the next summer season. The main carpark signs have had the Perspex covers replaced and signage updated.

4.1 Events

- 4.1 We have seen a full summer programme of events and the return of our core events such as Christmas Fayre, The Green man, Armchair Adventure Festival and Classic Car Show. This year saw the thriving partnership with Miss Ivy Events continue with events such as Caribbean Family Fun Day, Ice Cream Festival and Summer Fete. We had 15 major events with the Classic Car show attracting around 13,000 visitors on a very hot and dusty weekend.
- 4.2 The Armchair Adventure Festival (AAF2) has doubled in terms of numbers attending this year. With some inspirational guest speakers from the world of adventure travel. It is hoped that this will continue to be one of our core events in years to come, dates for next year (AAF3) are already booked.
- 4.3 The Park hosted a week long 'Archaeology Camp' with children from Plymouth and Cornwall Schools in partnerships with the Ships Project and the National Marine Park Rangers. The children attending were pupil premium children, all of who had a fantastic time digging, exploring the foreshore and interacting with the 'Blue and Green' environment.
- 4.4 The BBC filmed a Remembrance Sunday special (that will be aired this Remembrance Sunday) at Mount Edgumbe.

5.0 Business Development

- 5.1 The Park continues to develop its holiday let portfolio, with Rame Head now completed. We now have nine holiday lets and hope to add more perhaps developing current Gardeners' accommodation and relocating them. Currently building costs are prohibitive and supply chain is at best creaking so no further builds are planned in the next year or so. A pricing review took place this summer with Classic Cottages, which resulted in small income increases and some re-banding.
- 5.2 The holiday let portfolio saw the introduction of Rame Head Lookout <https://www.classic.co.uk/holiday-cottage/desc-4634.html> in May. The Holiday lets continue to perform with high levels of occupancy, post COVID19. The impact that the cost of living crisis will have has yet to be seen, but the market for holiday lets at least for the moment seems buoyant.
- 5.3 A new parking machine will be installed at Cremyll that takes cards and coins. All our carparks now use a 'RingGo' system that enables telephone (none cash) parking payments. Cremyll car park will receive a chip and pin machine this winter and will be the first of a phased replacement of the old machines that are now some 20 years old, in most cases and reaching the end of their operational life.
- 5.4 Alpaca trekking is now in place and is proving to be very popular. This initiative in itself has provided two new local part time jobs. Some of our best Trip Advisor reviews centre on this activity. We also used the Alpaca Experience as the basis for a team building event for the whole staff at Mount Edgumbe which worked very well.
- 5.5 The development of the Heritage Centre will allow some funding for business development that will include a new survey to ascertain up to date visitor figures, demographics and usage

identifying current trends and (perhaps more importantly) any gaps in who is not coming to the Park. This will enable us to target the hard to reach groups highlighted by the Heritage Lottery Fund, and develop a marketing strategy.

- 5.6 The Park received an award 'Traveller's Choice' from Trip Advisor for being in the top 10% of attractions in the world! By scoring consistently high visitor satisfaction survey results. This is a landmark result for the Park and is greatly helped by the restaurant offer now in place in the Barrow Centre.

6.0 Weddings

- 6.1 This year we have had 36 weddings and 9 marquee receptions making it another good year. There is an issue with the marquee which was installed around a decade ago and it is doubtful that this will last another year, a replacement structure is currently being considered but this will have a tight time frame and must be completed before the wedding season of 2024. The new structure will need to be part of a capital business case.

7.0 Summary

- 7.1 The Park has reached the end of a financial firefighting era and is now in a planning for the future stage. This will involve the creation of a 10 year development plan that will help shape the future direction and work programme.
- 7.2 The Park is many things to many people, it's a place full of designations and historic buildings but also a place to kick a ball around and relax on a summers evening. Balancing the various needs and interests of its community and ensuring its continuation as an area of free greenspace, is key to future development. Having achieved zero budget, and financial security, we will be developing a costed 10 year plan to address the infrastructure needs over the next 18 months.
- 7.3 The Park has seen a gradual return of its volunteer work force, it will however sadly loose its two Austrian placements from next year as European funding dries up.
- 7.4 We look forward to working with the Committee and other stakeholders on the next phase of the Park's development.

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FRIENDS OF MOUNT EDGCUMBE COUNTRY PARK (FOMECP) (CHARITY NO. 295261)**Report to The Joint Committee, November 2022**

This paper provides an overview of the FOMECP vision and Executive Committee structure and an update on membership, finances, priorities, events and future plans for the FOMECP.

Our Vision

To work in partnership with the Park Management by funding – jointly or independently – mutually agreed projects.

To continue to support the Park, as set out in our constitution: ‘to preserve, or assist in the preservation and enhancement of Mount Edgcumbe Country Park, Cornwall, for the benefit of the public, as a place of historical, botanical, horticultural, architectural and natural beauty’.

FOMECP Committee**Officer Posts:**

- Chairman – Ged Edgcumbe.
- Vice Chairman – Alan Drummond.
- Treasurer – Carol Drummond.
- Membership Secretary – Post remains vacant – Ged Edgcumbe will cover until the post is filled.
- Secretary – Glenis Edgcumbe.

Committee Posts:

- Neil Rugg, Steve Creese, Anne Creese, Teresa Tong, Harry Vosper, Janet Vosper and Rozanne Griffiths-Woodcock.
- Two new members have recently joined the committee: Ben Church and Shane Perry
- One Officer post (Membership Secretary) and one Committee post remain vacant.

On 13 October a Service of Memorial was held to commemorate the life of Tony Hutchings who sadly passed away on 15th September. Tony was a staunch, dedicated and well-respected member of the FOMECP committee, serving 5 years as Membership Secretary, 2 years as Treasurer and 3 years as editor of the FOMECP journal. Members of the FOMECP committee and several members of Mount Edgcumbe Country Park staff including Chris Burton and David Marshall attended the memorial.

Membership

Over the past 2 years FOMECP membership figures have been lower than previous years and the number of new members being signed up was extremely sporadic. During the Covid lockdown period, FOMECP membership numbers dipped as low as 550. However since the easing of the lockdown measures in May 2021 numbers have steadily increased. On the 31st October 2022, membership of the FOMECP stood at 695, which is an extremely encouraging number that reinforces a continued support for the FOMECP and the work it does at Mount Edgcumbe.

Financial Update of The Year to Date

The FOMECP financial year runs from 1st January to 31st December each year. Thus far in 2022 the FOMECP have committed to support 6 significant projects; bedding plants (£3,500), an Education Shelter (up to £7,500), resurfacing of the road adjacent to the Barrow Centre (£20,000), the repair of 2 statues (Athena & Diana the Huntress) located close to Mount Edgumbe House (£10,000), refurbishment of a traditional Cornish Hay Wagon (£3,000) and the refurbishment of the toilets at the Orangery (£40,000) – a total of £74,000.

- **Education Shelter & Road Resurfacing:** The bedding plants, resurfacing of the Barrow Centre road and Education Shelter have all been completed.
- **Statue Repairs:** A works order for the repair of the statues (Athena & Diana the Huntress) has been agreed and the contractors are scheduled to start work in February 2023. This is Phase 1 of a project FOMECP hope to continue in the future – subject to the availability of funds - to repair as many of the statues in the Park as we can.
- **Cornish Hay Wagon:** The refurbishment of the traditional Cornish Hay Wagon is an in-house project - i.e. work undertaken by Park staff – and will be conducted over the autumn/winter months. Once complete, the Hay Wagon will be moved to enhance an outdoor seating area directly behind the Barrow Centre buildings that is currently being refurbished by Park staff.
- **Orangery Toilets:** The FOMECP have engaged an architect to undertake the first phase of the Orangery toilets refurbishment, which is the planning/listed building application, building regulations application construction design details, the construction tender process and contract management. At the end of the first phase, a design for the refurbished toilets will have been agreed (by the FOMECP and the Park Manager) and companies will be invited to tender to undertake the work.

Matters of Importance to Raise with The Joint Committee

1. Park Funding

The FOMECP is well aware of the strain on both Plymouth City and Cornwall County Councils budgets and the FOMECP also applauds the enormous efforts by the Park Manager and his staff in achieving zero-funding for the Park's budget.

Notwithstanding the above, the FOMECP remains concerned at the lack of support/funding to enable proper investment in restoring and maintaining the many historic/listed buildings in Mount Edgumbe Park – some of which are already in a critical state - and we are keen to understand if funds could be made available in the future to assist in this matter.

2. Volunteers

Despite a number of requests using different mediums/forums, the FOMECP struggles to generate sufficient volunteers to assist in the running of the events it holds aimed at generating much needed funds that helps to support the Park.

The FOMECP would be keen to understand if there are any Plymouth City or Cornwall County Council run controlled forums/processes that could be used by the FOMECP to promote the Charity and assist in generating support from the public to volunteer at FOMECP/Park events.

FOMECP Events

The FOMECP assisted by Park staff, manage/run 3 main events per year; an Easter Egg Hunt (March/April); a Summer Fair & Classic Car Rally (August) and a Halloween Trail (October). The Easter Egg Hunt and the Classic Car Rally were both extremely successful in terms of the money raised, the enjoyment for the people who attended and the exposure of the House/Park to the general public. Unfortunately, due to an inability to generate sufficient volunteers to enable the FOMECP to run the Halloween trail in a safe and controlled manner, the event had to be cancelled.

Plans are in place to hold all 3 events in 2023.

2022/23 Actions in Discussion

1. Continuing to support the Park and work in a collaborative manner with the Park Manager and his team on mutually agreed projects.
2. Working on a list of projects the FOMECP would like to support in 2023 and presenting the list to the Park Manager.
3. Recruiting for the vacant posts on the Executive Committee and a volunteer(s) to run and manage the FOMECP online presence – e.g. FOMECP website, Facebook etc.
4. Encouraging our existing FOMECP members and local visitors to become active volunteers for all events held in the Park.
5. Continuing to promote and support traders in the Park.

Prepared 28 October 2022

Ged Edgcumbe - FOMECP Chair

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