



Mount Edgcumbe Joint Committee

Joint Clerks

Kate Kennally
Chief Executive
Cornwall Council
Council Offices
Treyew Road
Truro TR1 3AY
T: 01872 322000

Tracey Lee
Chief Executive
Plymouth City Council
Ballard House
West Hoe Road
Plymouth PL1 3BJ
T: 01752 668000

Please reply to:

Helen Wright
01752 304022
helen.wright@plymouth.gov.uk

#mountedgcumbe

Published Wednesday, 16 November 2016

Mount Edgcumbe Joint Committee

Date: Friday, 25 November 2016

Time: 10am

Place: Belvedere Room, Barrow Park Complex, Mount Edgcumbe House, Cremyll, Cornwall

Committee Members-

Plymouth City Councillors-

Councillors Carson, Fry, Dr Mahony, Mrs Pengelly (Co-Chair), Smith, Sparling and Vincent.

Cornwall Councillors-

Councillors Austin, Candy, Duffin (Co-Chair), Ellison, Frank, Hobbs and Trubody.

Co-opted Members-

Sir Richard Carew Pole Bt, Mr D L Richards and Mr T Savery.

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 - 8)

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 8 July 2016 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. CO-OPTED REPRESENTATIVE

The Joint Committee will be asked to consider the appointment of a co-opted representative (non-voting) to the Joint Committee for the municipal year 2016/17.

6. UPDATE ON TORPOINT AND RAME PENINSULA COASTAL COMMUNITIES

The Joint Committee will receive a verbal update from the Torpoint and Rame Peninsula Coastal Communities.

7. PLYMOUTH ENERGY COMMUNITY

The Joint Committee will receive a presentation on the potential use of woodchip boilers and LED lighting in the Park.

8. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2016/17 (Pages 9 - 16)

The Joint Committee will receive the Revenue Budget Monitoring 2016/17 report.

9. REPORT ON PARK ACTIVITY TO SEPTEMBER 2016 (Pages 17 - 22)

The Joint Committee will receive the report on Park Activity to September 2016.

10. FRIENDS OF MOUNT EDGCUMBE COUNTRY PARK - UPDATE

The Joint Committee will receive a verbal update from the Friends of Mount Edgcumbe Country Park.

11. UPDATE ON THE REPAIR WORKS TO SEA WALL

The Joint Committee will receive a verbal update on the repair works to the sea wall.

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 items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

13. PART II (PRIVATE MEETING)

AGENDA

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO NOTE

that under the law, the Joint 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.

14. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2016/17 (APPENDIX 2) (Pages 23 - 34)

The Joint Committee will receive the Revenue Budget Monitoring report 2016/17 (Appendix 2).

15. CAPITAL BID

The Joint Committee will receive a presentation on the capital bid.

This page is intentionally left blank

Mount Edgumbe Joint Committee

Friday 8 July 2016

PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs Pengelly Co-Chair, in the Chair.

Councillor Austin, Frank, Fry, Mavin (substitute for Councillor Vincent), Dr Mahony, Sparling and Smith.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Candy, Carson, Mrs Duffin (Co-Chair), Ellison, Hobbs, Trubody and Vincent and Co-opted Representatives Sir Richard Carew Pole Bt and Mr D L Richards.

Also in attendance: Simon Arthurs (Senior Financial Analyst), Chris Burton (Mount Edgumbe Park Manager), Councillor Davis (Chair of the Torpoint and Rame Peninsula Coastal Communities), Jon James (Natural Environment Manager), David Marshall (Business Development Manager), Nicola Moyle (Head of Heritage and Arts), Mr N Rugg (Chair of the Friends of Mount Edgumbe) and Helen Wright (Democratic Support Officer).

The meeting started at 10.10 am and finished at 12.00 pm.

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.

1. NOTE THE APPOINTMENT OF THE JOINT CHAIRS

The Joint Committee noted the appointment of Councillors Mrs Pengelly and Mrs Duffin as Joint Chairs for the forthcoming municipal year 2016/17.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest by Members in accordance with the code of conduct.

3. MINUTES

The Joint Committee agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2015 are confirmed as a correct record.

4. CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

5. **THE TORPOINT AND RAME PENINSULA COASTAL COMMUNITIES GROUP**

Councillor Davis (Chair of the Torpoint and Rame Peninsula Coastal Communities) gave a presentation on the 'economic plan consultation roadshow' which included the following key areas –

- (a) the background which included -
 - Torpoint Town Council was the lead for the partnership which was established in July 2015;
 - this was a government initiative to form a network of teams to identify the issues and opportunities faced by coastal communities;
 - the first priority had been to complete an economic plan by 31 January 2016;

- (b) the process which included -
 - strengths;
 - opportunities;
 - weaknesses;
 - threats;

- (c) the vision – 'in 2030 Torpoint and the Rame Peninsula's natural and built environment will define the area. The town, an important gateway into Cornwall and the villages and hamlets will be seen as one; part of a thriving and healthy balanced area with communities that will have a vibrant and viable local economy in which local people of all ages can fulfil their potential;

Torpoint and the Rame Peninsula will be sought after places to live and a location for high quality sustainable holidays – whilst still Cornwall's 'hidden corner' – people love to visit';

- (d) the focus areas included –
 - tourism – promoting the visitor economy;
 - transport – enhancing accessibility and communication;
 - environment – enhancing the attractiveness of public areas and encouraging sustainable uses – making the most of heritage, natural and cultural facilities;
 - community – providing improved community facilities;
 - jobs – supporting employment opportunities (across sectors including agriculture, retail and tourism);

- (e) the next steps included -
 - the completion of the economic plan consultation roadshow;
 - securing finance and support to secure the future of coastal

- communities team;
- further develop and encourage partnerships;
- coastal community fund applications.

The main areas of questioning from Members included –

- (f) the lack of focus within the economic plan of the provision of new housing;
- (g) the inclusion of Saltash regarding provision of water transport links;
- (h) the provision of a cycle route.

The Joint Committee agreed that –

- (1) a report is submitted to the next meeting on 25 November 2016 regarding water transport links;
- (2) a web link to the Torpoint and Rame Peninsula Economic Plan is provided to committee members;
- (3) a further update on the economic plan is provided at a future committee meeting.

The Head of Heritage and Arts (Nicola Moyle) undertook to provide information to committee members on the current water taxi provider.

6. **BUDGET OUTTURN 2015/16**

The Strategic Director for Place (Anthony Payne) and the Head of Commissioning and Asset Management (Peter Marsh) submitted the revenue budget outturn 2015/16. The Senior Finance Analyst (Simon Arthurs) presented the report and highlighted the following key areas –

- (a) 205/16 outturn variations – overview;
- (b) review outturn variations which included -
 - Mount Edgcumbe House;
 - Mount Edgcumbe Park;
 - Mount Edgcumbe Trading;
- (c) future budget;
- (d) small bodes audit;
- (e) capital.

The Joint Committee noted the report and agreed to maintain an updated risk register, specifically given the range of initiatives to be delivered and the reduced budget target.

7. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2016/17

The Strategic Director for Place (Anthony Payne) and the Head of Commissioning and Asset Management (Peter Marsh) submitted the revenue budget monitoring 2016/17 report. The Senior Finance Analyst (Simon Arthurs) presented the report and highlighted the following key areas –

- (a) monitoring variations 2016/17 (overview)
- (b) revenue monitoring 2016/17 which included -
 - Mount Edgcumbe House;
 - Mount Edgcumbe Park;
 - Mount Edgcumbe Trading;
- (c) Budget risk;
- (d) future year budgets.

The Joint Committee noted the report.

8. THE WAY FORWARD

The Mount Edgcumbe Park Manager (Chris Burton) introduced himself to the Joint Committee and gave a brief summary of his recent work experience. He gave a presentation on the way forward for the Park which included the following key areas -

- the vision – to be regional leader, connecting people with landscape, wildlife and heritage;
- history of the Country Park;
- achieving the vision, included -
 - ▶ achieving capacity with a capital injection of £250,000, through prudential borrowing; this would enable the Park to develop a series of business initiatives that would help it to push towards a zero budget in the next five years;
 - ▶ sensitively developing commercial activities was a must for the Park, given its wealth of designations and its core values;
 - ▶ increasing the visitor offer, by having more ‘stay opportunities’ and increasing visitor time and spend, was a key to the Park’s financial future; the Park was free to enter but events/activities could be charged for (ie high ropes, Segway, holiday cottages);
 - ▶ making Mount Edgcumbe a ‘staycation’ with a portfolio of holiday lets, glamping and a wide varies of activities to participate in;

- ▶ outsourcing would be key theme throughout the business plan; the Park did not have the staffing capacity to hold regular events but it was able to let others effectively hire a first class venue and pass on the risk and capacity to them.

The main areas of questioning from Members related to –

- (a) whether there was an opportunity to encourage private investment in the Park to renovate properties and project manage these works;
- (b) improving social media for the Park which also included the website.

The Joint Committee noted the presentation.

9. **PARK ACTIVITIES TO SEPTEMBER 2016**

The Strategic Director for Place (Anthony Payne) and the Head of Commissioning and Asset Management (Peter Marsh) submitted the Park Activity to September 2016 report. The Mount Edgcumbe Park Manager (Chris Burton) presented the report which highlighted the following key areas –

- (a) park matters including High Level Stewardship;
- (b) buildings and park infrastructure;
- (c) events;
- (d) business development;
- (e) weddings.

The Joint Committee noted the report.

10. **FRIENDS OF MOUNT EDGCUMBE COUNTRY PARK UPDATE**

The Joint Committee welcomed Mr Neil Rugg, the newly appointed Chair of the Friends of Mount Edgcumbe Country Park.

The Chair of the Friends of Mount Edgcumbe Country Park (Mr Neil Rugg) provided an update on with work of group which highlighted the following key areas –

- (a) the recent retirement of Commander Gordon Crocker as Chair of the Friends of Mount Edgcumbe Country Park;
- (b) since the last Joint Committee meeting in November 2016 the number of members had increased by 32 to 568;

- (c) the Friends continued to provide financial support to the Park which included funding up to £20,000 for the creation of a garden to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday;
- (d) social events (including an Easter egg hunt and a black tie dinner);
- (e) World War I project.

The Joint Committee agreed to send a 'thank you' letter to Commander Gordon Crocker for his services as Chair of the Friends of Mount Edgcumbe Country Park.

The Co-Chair undertook to contact the Rotary Club with a view to their members volunteering to assist with events at the Park.

The Joint Committee noted the report.

11. **MOUNT EDGCUMBE COASTAL DEFENCE WORKS**

The Strategic Director for Place (Anthony Payne) and the Head of Commissioning and Asset Management (Peter Marsh) submitted a report on Mount Edgcumbe coastal defence works. The Natural Environment Manager (Jon James) presented the report which highlighted the following key areas –

- (a) Cornwall Council was in the process of submitting a second round of funding applications for sea defence/coastal protection works through the Flood Defence Grant in Aid process (FDGiA) which was managed by the Environment Agency;
- (b) in July 2015 a summary application was submitted for sea defence works between Cremyll Quay and Garden Battery Beach; following this application the Environment Agency had requested further information; in order to provide the information it has been necessary to carry out a Project Appraisal Report (PAR);
- (c) Royal Haskoning had been appointed to prepare the PAR which was due to be completed by mid-July; however early indications had shown that there may not be sufficient residential properties requiring protection by the sea defences, therefore the economics would be focussed around the loss of visitors to the Park, the ferry and associated infrastructure;
- (d) the estimated cost of the project for the Cremyll Quay, Cremyll slipway quay and sea wall works would be £600,000; it was hoped to secure 50% of the funding through the FDGiA funding stream.

The main areas of questioning from Members related to –

- (e) the unacceptable length of time it had taken to progress this scheme (12 months in total);

- (f) the likelihood of securing funding for the scheme based on the Environment Agency's focus on the protection of residential properties.

The Joint Committee noted the report.

12. **COLLECTION ITEMS FOR DISPOSAL**

The Strategic Director for Place (Anthony Payne) and the Head of Commissioning and Asset Management (Peter Marsh) submitted a report on collection items for disposal. The Mount Edgumbe Park Manager (Chris Burton) presented the report which highlighted the following key areas -

- (a) that storage of the collection at Mount Edgumbe was problematic due to the limited space available (the bulk of items not on display, largely furniture were being stored in the attic space);
- (b) a review of the collection had taken place from February to May 2016;
- (c) the review had identified 10 items of furniture in the collections that were candidates for disposal.

The main area of questioning related to whether the items could be advertised to be sold. The Park Manager advised that any items that had not been accessioned into the collection could be considered for sale.

The Head of Heritage and Arts undertook to look at the feasibility of selling those items not accessioned in the collections that had been identified for disposal.

The Joint Committee agreed the disposal of items identified within the report.

This page is intentionally left blank

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

Subject:	Revenue Budget Monitoring 2016/17
Committee:	Mount Edgcumbe Joint Committee
Date:	25 November 2016
Joint Chairs:	Councillor Mrs Pengelly, Plymouth City Council Councillor Joyce Duffin, Cornwall Council
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Jordan, Plymouth City Council Councillor Duffin, Cornwall Council
CMT Member:	Anthony Payne, Strategic Director for Place, Plymouth City Council Peter Marsh, Head of Commissioning and Asset Management, Cornwall Council
Author:	Christopher Burton, Mount Edgcumbe Park Manager
Contact:	Tel: 01752 307269 e-mail: Chris.Burton@plymouth.gov.uk
Ref:	SF Place Fin.
Key Decision:	No
Part:	I

Purpose of the report:

This report presents an update of the financial position for the Mount Edgcumbe Joint Committee for financial year 2016/17.

The Corporate Plan 2016- 2019:**Plymouth City Council:**

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

Cornwall Council:

Business Plan Immediate Priorities: Use of resources and performance management

Environment, Planning and Economy Directorate Plan priorities:

Creating a Green Cornwall

Creating Better Places to Live

Delivering Excellent Services

**Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:
Including finance, human, IT and land**

The current year end forecast in 2016/17 is projecting a £58k deficit. Management continue to review expenditure and income opportunities in order to mitigate this.

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

Increased risk management will need to take place to manage the impact of the challenging financial position. Increased focus to sensibly capitalise on existing assets, to generate new and / or more income as soon as possible.

Recommendations and Reasons for recommended action:

It is recommended that Joint Committee:

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

Alternative options considered and rejected:

None

Published work / information:

None

Background papers:

None

Sign off:

Fin	SF FIN1617130	Leg	N/A	Mon Off	N/A	HR	N/A	Assets	N/A	IT	N/A	Strat Proc	N/A
Originating SMT Member: David Draffan													
Has the Cabinet Member(s) agreed the contents of the report? Yes/No													

Section I

I.1 Revenue financial summary

Business type	Activity volumes			2016/17 Budget			2016/17 Forecast			Variation to budget	Risks & management actions required
	Budget	Forecast	Variance	Income	Exp.	Net	Income	Exp.	Net		
				£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's		
Staffing & operations			0	-14	510	496	-37	513	476	-21	
House			0	-55	51	-3	-41	74	33	36	
Gardens			0	0	18	18	0	34	34	16	
Grounds			0	-27	78	51	-27	62	35	-16	
Trading activities:											
<i>Rents</i>			0	-108	34	-74	-114	48	-66	8	
<i>Holiday Lets</i>			0	-27	6	-21	-27	3	-24	-2	
<i>Chalets</i>			0	-66	0	-66	-66	0	-66	0	
<i>Glamping</i>			0	-29	0	-29	0	0	0	29	
<i>Parking</i>			0	-71	1	-69	-71	2	-68	1	
<i>Special events</i>			0	-22	24	2	-22	33	11	9	
<i>Conferences</i>			0	-15	6	-9	-2	7	5	14	
<i>Weddings</i>			0	-87	21	-66	-90	20	-70	-4	
<i>Filming (future Opp)</i>			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<i>Misc. activities</i>			0	-7	3	-4	-7	3	-4	0	
Total operations	0	0	0	-528	752	224	-504	799	295	71	
Subsidy Corn.CC				-112	0	-112	-119	0	-119	-7	
Subsidy PCC				-112	0	-112	-119	0	-119	-7	
Subsidy total				-224	0	-224	-238	0	-238	-14	
Deficit / (Surplus)						0			58	58	

Note

Staffing & operations heading requires apportionment to give a true financial position.

I.2 Commentary

Key variations can be summarised as:

- £15k Higher electricity charges than budgeted
- £20k Previously uncharged and backdated electricity charges from 2013/14 to 2015/16
- £29k Budgeted glamping income will not be achieved
- £12k Admissions income lower than budgeted
- (£18k) Favourable variations across the whole of Mt. Edgcumbe
- **£58k Total**

Staffing & operations

Position looks favourable due to the inclusion of donations relating to new Knott garden and special events

House

Admissions income has been lower than budgeted but closely comparable with 2015/16 income. Higher than budgeted and back-dated electricity charges from 2013-2015 being presented to Mt. Edgcumbe for payment in 2016/17.

Gardens

New Knott garden has created an overspend but donations from the Friends of Mt. Edgcumbe has resulted in a nil variation.

Grounds

Saving on works carried-out to date and anticipated for the rest of the financial year resulting in underspend forecast to-date. This forecast does not include any further tree safety works.

Trading activities

Reduced surplus due to:

- Higher than budgeted and back-dated electricity fees from 2013-2015 unexpectedly charged to Mt. Edgcumbe for payment in 2016/17, spread over mainly rental units and weddings
- Lack of progress in developing a glamping site resulting in no income achieved
- Unachieved conference income due to lack of conference bookings
- Special events overspend expected to be mitigated by donations received against staffing & operations

Subsidy

Has been reduced by £60k (£30k each authority) in 2016/17 as part of the ongoing initiative towards Mt. Edgumbe becoming self-sufficient by developing new income and further reducing costs through efficiency savings. Forecast subsidy is higher than £112k budget due to further approved contribution paid by each authority for salary on cost rebate no longer received. Please see appendix 1. for prior year subsidy trend analysis.

Section 2

2.1 Medium term revenue budget planning 2017–20 proposals

Business type	2017/18 Budget			2018/19 Budget			2019/20 Budget			Comments
	Income	Exp.	Net	Income	Exp.	Net	Income	Exp.	Net	
	£000's			£000's			£000's			
Staffing	-117	566	449	-117	566	449	-117	566	449	Subject to change, pending outcome of agreed joint authority subsidy & approval of capital projects - DRAFT budget
House	-42	57	15	-42	57	15	-42	57	15	
Gardens	0	18	18	0	18	18	0	18	18	
Grounds	-27	85	58	-27	85	58	-27	85	58	
Trading activities	-439	123	-316	-439	123	-316	-439	123	-316	
Total operations	-624	848	224	-624	848	224	-624	848	224	
Subsidy Corn.CC	-112	0	-112	-112	0	-112	-112	0	-112	
Subsidy PCC	-112	0	-112	-112	0	-112	-112	0	-112	
Subsidy total	-224	0	-224	-224	0	-224	-224	0	-224	
Deficit / (Surplus)			0			0			0	

Budgets are work in progress due to joint authority subsidy yet to be finalised. Budgets will progress savings targets, future income streams (includes parking and events) and revenue implications of capital projects proposed.

Note

Loan repayments for seawall defence repairs will not be factored into these draft budgets until the outcome of the Environment Agency grant bid is known.

Section 3

3.1 Approved capital programme

Scheme	Funding	Prior Years Spend	16/17 Budget	16/17 Spend & committed	16/17 Forecast	17/18 Budget	18/19 Budget	19/20 Budget	Total Scheme cost
		£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Sea Wall Repairs	Loan (50% Corn.CC & 50% PCC), plus grant BID with Environment Agency.	0	600	0	600	0	0	0	600
Higher Level Stewardship	Ringfenced grant	79	286	275	286	0	0	0	365

Sea wall repairs

Work has yet to begin and not expected to start until February 2017 at the earliest. The Environment Agency grant application is still work in progress.

3.2 Proposals for future capital projects

Proposed future projects	Possible funding	Mandate	Business case	Leader approval		Key:		
Restoration & maintenance								
Restoration works on French Conservatoire as an education room and art school	Herritage Lottery Fund grant	Bid expected to be submitted for work to begin in 2018/19						
Restoration of English Garden House	Herritage Lottery Fund grant & Landmark Trust grant	Bid expected to be submitted for work to begin in 2018/19						
Income generation								
Flat 6 holiday let refurbishment	Loan	Business case being put forward to City Council Investment Board (CCIB)	See appendix 2.					
Glamping huts	Loan	Business case being put forward to City Council Investment Board (CCIB)	See appendix 2.					
Conversion of Capt. Blake's Hut to luxury holiday let	Loan	Business case being put forward to City Council Investment Board (CCIB)	See appendix 2.					
Conference room upgrade to WIFI connectivity	Loan	Business case being put forward to City Council Investment Board (CCIB)	See appendix 2.					
Rame car park charging	Loan	Business case being put forward to City Council Investment Board (CCIB)	See appendix 2.					
West Lodge conversion into a holiday let	Loan	Business case being put forward to City Council Investment Board (CCIB)	See appendix 2.					
Gardeners Lodge conversion into a holiday let	Loan	Business case being put forward to City Council Investment Board (CCIB)	See appendix 2.					
Conversion of Maker kennels into a four birth stables livery	Loan	Business case being put forward to City Council Investment Board (CCIB)	See appendix 2.					
Develop and create Mt. Edgcumbe website	Loan	Business case being put forward to City Council Investment Board (CCIB)	See appendix 2.					

Section 4

4.1 Recommendations

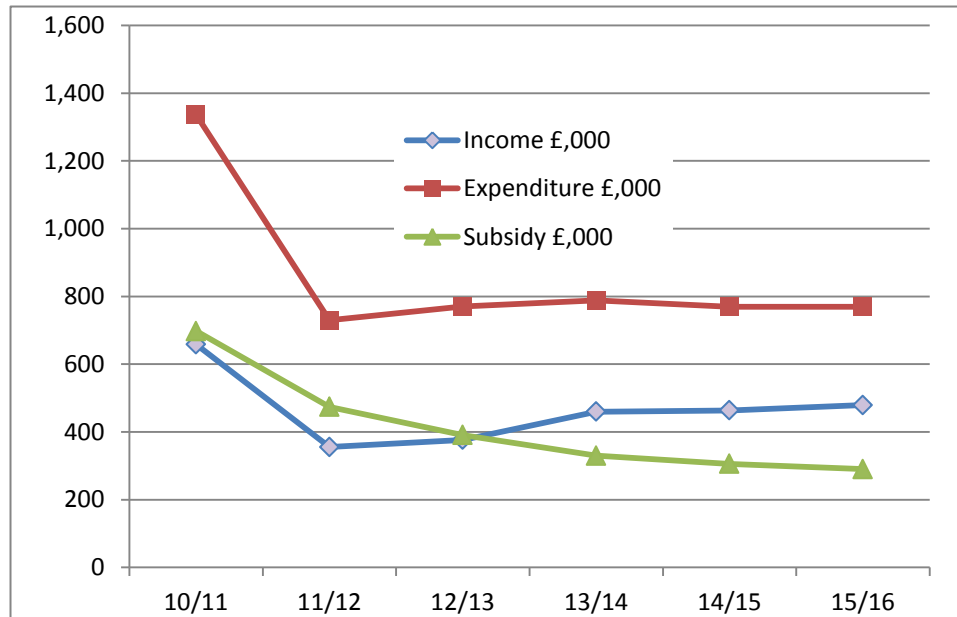
It is recommended that Joint Committee:

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

Appendix. I

I.0 Income & expenditure V's subsidy

Financial performance over last 6 years.



PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

Subject: Report on Park Activity to September 2016

Committee: Mount Edgumbe Joint Committee

Date: 25 November 2016

Cabinet Members: Councillor Jordan (Plymouth City Council)
Councillor Duffin (Cornwall Council)

CMT Members: Anthony Payne, Strategic Director for Place (Plymouth City Council)
Peter Marsh, Head of Commissioning and Asset Management (Cornwall Council)

Author: Chris Burton - Park Manager

Contact details: T: 01752 822236 Email chris.burton@plymouth.gov.uk

Ref: MEP /gen

Key Decision: No

Part: Part I

Purpose of the report:

This report provides an update on activities in the park in the 2015/16 financial year to end of October 2016.

The Corporate Plan 2016 -2019:

Delivering excellent services.

Maintaining service through income generation.

**Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:
Including finance, human, IT and land:**

None.

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

N/A

Equality and Diversity:

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been undertaken? No

Recommendations and Reasons for recommended action:

The Joint Committee notes the information.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

N/A

Published work / information:

N/A

Background papers:

Title	Part I	Part II	Exemption Paragraph Number						
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

Fin		Leg		Mon Off		HR		Assets		IT		Strat Proc	
Originating SMT Member													
Has the Cabinet Member(s) agreed the content of the report? Yes / No													

1.0 Introduction

This report informs members of the works and activities carried out since July 2016.

2.0 Park Matters Including High Level Stewardship

- 2.1 Work on the Natural England High Level Stewardship (HLS) scheme for various follies within the Park has been finished. It has been decided to add some appropriate railings to Harbour View Seat to protect it from sheep damage. It is hoped to have the walks and interpretation leaflet completed by Christmas. Money for the capital works will also be claimed by Christmas.
- 2.2 The Elizabethan Knot Garden has been completed next to the house and was opened in November by Robert Earl of Mount Edgcumbe and Lady Megan and Lady Vanessa Edgcumbe. The garden is proving very popular along with the Plymouth Blitz interpretation area. A team of twenty German volunteers helped with its construction, along with the garden team and Head Gardener Lee Stenning. The cost of the Garden (£20,000) was paid in full by the 'Friends'
- 2.3 A purpose built disabled parking area has been put in place adjacent to the new Knot Garden and is proving very popular; however parking is still at a premium in the Park and presents operational difficulties for the Park particularly during events.
- 2.4 Phase one of the signage projects has been completed and installed in the Park. Visitor numbers are reported by the business tenants to be up on previous years so it would seem they are directing people to the Barrow Centre and other areas of the Park, as well as being rather more attractive. The signs were completed in house at minimum cost.
- 2.5 The wall next to the Marquee has been stabilised and its coronets replaced, along with gate repairs.
- 2.6 Dog waste and rubbish bins have been re-located to more strategic areas where existing bins were being over filled at weekends.
- 2.7 General HLS work continues with fence work, scrub clearance and tree management.
- 2.8 The Rangers have been on a 'Quantitative Tree Safety Risk Assessment' (QTRA) course and are now able to follow national best practice in assessing tree safety in the Park. The Park now has a Tree Safety Management Plan in place. A good deal of tree safety work will take place this winter.

3.0 Buildings and Park Infrastructure

- 3.1 Work has been undertaken (and continues) in and around the Barrow Centre to uplift and refresh the general presentation of the built environment. Work to make the doors at the back of the Barrow Centre match those at the front will take place this winter. Work on the Orangery has continued and the huge Georgian windows have been repainted.
- 3.2 A programme of building repairs is now being undertaken. West Lodge has been made habitable and will provide an income for the Park; it will also be protected and available for further development as a holiday let in future years.

- 3.3 The lobby of the House is being redecorated as a Georgian boudoir, this is the main entrance to customer facing operations of the House and is now home to an event organiser as well as our wedding operation. It is hoped to develop the conferencing venue side of the house as well as the filming location businesses. This decorating will help sell the house as a venue.
- 3.4 The filming of a Rosamunde Pilcher novel 'Almost Unmarried' took place in September, and will be shown in the New Year. BBC 'Flogit' also made an appearance in August along with Julie Walters and 'Great Coastal Journeys'. The park is now registered on an international data base for filming, thelocationguide.com .
- 3.5 The House has been open for a trial period this winter at weekends, using a guide based system in order to ascertain the potential for winter opening. The two cafes on site in the Barrow Centre and Orangery are also open every day throughout the winter months.

4.0 **Events**

- 4.1 Between July and November we hosted over 30 walks, talks, and workshops; these comprised of in-house talks, walks and creative workshops including Paintings of the Past, The Great War, crochet workshops, garden tours, dowsing for beginners, bat walks, Halloween hunt, and a garden Tour.
- 4.2 Mount Edgcombe has hosted 'Park Run' every Saturday morning since January. These events have proved very popular with a strong turnout enabling Café traders to open early.
- 4.3 The Classic Car Show was again a great success this year with nearly 19,000 people attending.
- 4.4 The Military Vehicle Trust event event was smiled on by the weather and had over 4000 people in attendance. We also hosted the national body painting championships which was real eye opener.
- 4.5 The Sealed Knot event was not so dry but also received a large number of visitors who were well entertained with lots of bangs and explosions.
- 4.6 Sadly the worst day of weather for the whole year fell on the day of the 'Proms on the Peninsular' and the organisers took the decision to cancel the event. Ticket sales had been good and could have generated a good return for the park. The Park manager is trying to persuade the organisers to have another go.

5.0 **Business Development**

- 5.1 The Park has put in a capital bid to further develop a series of commercial activities. These commercial activities include the development of further holiday Lets, including Captain Blake's Hut at Whitsand Bay, installation of 4G in the house to aid conferencing, a new web site and the development of 'Glamping'.
- 5.2 We have welcomed three new Businesses to the Park Baba Yaga's Circus, 'Miss Ivy Events' and 'Twisted Leather'. There are now a total of 18 small businesses in the Park and we are now a medium employer on this part of the Rame Peninsular. Park manager is in the process renegotiating business on costs such as electricity and waste as these had not been envisaged when tenancies were originally let.

- 5.3 Negotiations over the installation of a high ropes course are currently under way.
 - 5.4 Holiday lets have been running since March and marketed through Classic Cottages. They are going very well. This is a reliable income stream that will be developed over future years.
 - 5.5 The Park has started recouping the electricity from the restaurant businesses within the Park.
 - 5.6 The Park is developing a new web site to complement its very effective Facebook and Twitter accounts. The Facebook account has 6133 followers and Twitter, 212.
 - 5.7 The Park currently employs around 40 individuals through its business franchises which along with the 13 staff make the Park a major employer in the Rame peninsular. The Park is now moving towards a place where people come to visit and stay to spend money. At its current level of LA subsidy the park provides access to 850 acres of grade one listed landscape for 58 pence per head per year for the 250,000 visitors per year the Park receives.
- 6.0 **Weddings**
- 6.1 We currently have 15 weddings and 12 marquee receptions (20% increases marquee early predictions for weddings are good) and 9 Orangery bookings for 2017/18. The Park Manager is now allocating all on costs to the wedding budget so there is a better understanding of profit and loss. The wedding floor had to be replaced this year at a cost of some £20,000 this had to be done in order to keep the business going. It is likely that the drapes will need replacing this year.

This page is intentionally left blank

The following relates to exempt or confidential matters (Para(s) 3 of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Govt Act 1972). Any breach of confidentiality could prejudice the Council/person/body concerned & might amount to a breach of the councillors /employees codes of conduct.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank