



Mount Edgumbe Joint Committee

Joint Clerks

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#mountedgumbe

Published Tuesday, 18 July 2017

Mount Edgumbe Joint Committee

Date: Friday 28 July 2017

Time: 10 am

Place: Belvedere Room, Barrow Park Complex, Mount Edgumbe, Cremyll, Cornwall

Committee Members–

Plymouth City Councillors-

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

Cornwall Councillors-

Councillors Burden, Crago, Flashman, Frank, Foot, James and Trubody.

Co-opted Members-

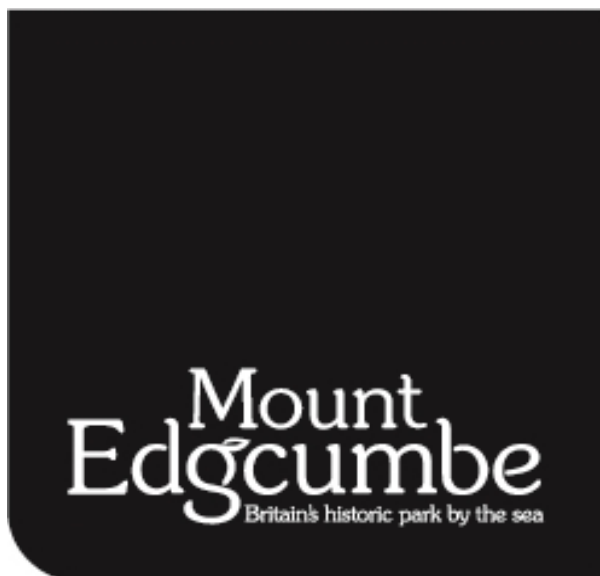
Sir Richard Carew Pole Bt., Mr N Rugg and Mr D L Richards.

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 Edgumbe Joint Committee



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Published 17 July 2017

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|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Mount Edgumbe Joint Committee | |
| Annual Inspection | |
| Date: | Friday 28 July 2017 |
| Time: | 1.30pm |
| Place: | Mount Edgumbe, Cremyll |

Members of the Joint Committee are asked to note the itinerary for the Annual Inspection as follows –

| | |
|------------------|---|
| 12.30pm – 1.30pm | Lunch |
| 1.30pm – 3-30pm | Tour of the Black Bee Reserve, Shepherd Huts and D-Day Boards |

Members are advised that due to the nature of the visit, suitable footwear for walking and if raining, waterproofs should be worn.

Please note: The Annual Inspection is not a public meeting and is only open to Joint Committee Members.

Tracey Lee and Kate Kennally
Joint Clerks

Mount Edgumbe Joint Committee

Agenda

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

The Joint Committee will be asked to note the appointment of the Joint Chair from Plymouth City Council and to appoint a Joint Chair from Cornwall Council.

2. Apologies

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

3. Declarations of Interest

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

4. Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2016 as a correct record.

5. Chair's Urgent Business

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

6. Talk on the Black Bee Reserve

The Joint Committee will receive a talk on the Black Bee Reserve.

7. Mount Edgumbe Website

The Joint Committee will receive a verbal update on the website.

8. Revenue Outturn 2016/17 and Budget 2017/18 (Pages 5 - 14)

The Joint Committee will receive the Revenue Outturn 2016/17 and Budget 2017/18.

9. Park Activity (July 2017) (Pages 15 - 20)

The Joint Committee will receive a report on the Park's activity (July 2017).

10. Friends of Mount Edgumbe Country Park Update (Pages 21 - 22)

The Joint Committee will receive an update report from the Friends of Mount Edgumbe Country Park.

11. Update on Sea Wall Repairs

The Joint Committee will receive a verbal update on the sea wall repairs.

Mount Edgcumbe Joint Committee

Friday 25 November 2016

PRESENT:

Councillor Duffin, Joint Chair in the Chair.

Councillors Austin, Ellison, Frank, Fry, Hobbs, Dr Mahony, Smith, Sparling and Trubody.

Co-opted Representative: Sir Richard Carew Pole Bt.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Candy, Carson and Mrs Pengelly.

Also in attendance: Nick Butcher (Head Gardener/Ranger), Chris Burton (Mount Edgcumbe Park Manager), Mr S Creese (Friends of Mount Edgcumbe Country Park), Sarah Fell (Business Partner), Jon James (Natural Environment Manager), Peter Marsh (Service Director Environment), David Marshall (Business Development Manager), Nicola Moyle (Head of Heritage and Arts), Jon Selman (Plymouth Energy Community), Helen Wright (Democratic Adviser).

The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 12.10 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.

13. **Declarations of Interest**

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

14. **Minutes**

The Joint Committee agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 July 2016 are confirmed as a correct record.

Following a request at the previous meeting, the Head of Heritage and Arts (Nicola Moyle) provided a verbal update on the current position relating to the provision of a water transport service; work was currently being undertaken with the existing water transport provider and the Plymouth Waterfront Partnership, in order to provide a more joined up approach.

15. **Chair's Urgent Business**

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

16. **Co-Opted Representative**

Agreed that Mr Neil Rugg the Chair of the Friends of Mount Edgcumbe Country Park is confirmed as a co-opted representative for the current municipal year.

17. **Update on Torpoint and Rame Peninsula Coastal Communities**

Councillor Trubody (Vice Chair of the Torpoint and Rame Peninsula Coast Communities) provided a verbal update on the progress of the partnership which included the key projects in the plan (the provision of a jetty at Torpoint and improvement works to the jetty at Cremyll), funding streams and work with other coastal communities in the area to achieve shared aims.

The Joint Committee noted the update.

18. **Plymouth Energy Community**

Jon Selman (Plymouth Energy Community) provided a presentation on Mount Edgcumbe LED and biomass proposals which included the following key points –

- background information relating to Plymouth Energy Community);
- Proposals for Mount Edgcumbe (including LED lighting proposals and biomass heating proposal;
- benefits for Mount Edgcumbe;
- capital costs, business case and options.

The main areas of questioning related to the comparable cost of woodchip and pellets and the efficiency savings arising from the scheme.

The Joint Committee agreed that it supports the pursuant of energy efficiency savings and delegate the final decision of the business case to officers in consultation with the Joint Chairs.

19. **Revenue Budget Monitoring**

Sarah Fell (Business Partner) presented the revenue budget monitoring 2016/17 which provided an update on the current financial position for the 2016/17.

The Joint Committee noted the financial position as reported together with the risks, issues and mitigating actions.

20. **Report on Park Activity to September 2016**

The Strategic Director for Place and the Service Director Environment submitted a report which provided an update on activities in the Park 2016/17. The report highlighted the following key areas –

- Park matters including High Level Stewardship;
- buildings and park infrastructure;
- business development;
- weddings.

The Joint Committee noted the report.

21. **Friends of Mount Edgcombe Country Park - Update**

Mr Steve Creese provided a verbal update on the key areas of work that the Friends of Mount Edgcombe had undertaken since July 2016, which included the provision of funding for the Elizabethan Garden, assistance at events and future funding projects (which included the replacement of two golf buggies).

The key areas of questioning related to the continued commitment of the constituent authorities to continue to support the Park, the need for a marketing strategy and an enhanced website which included the social media networks.

On behalf of the Joint Committee, the Chair, thanked the Friends of Mount Edgcombe for their continued commitment and support.

22. **Update on the Repair Works to Sea Wall**

Jon James (Cornwall Council) provided a verbal update on the current position relating to the repair works to the sea wall which highlighted that –

- (a) the application had been submitted with a re-focus on the protection of businesses and transport links rather than residential properties;
- (b) it was anticipated that 30% of the costs would be funded through this application with the remaining sum being met from the constituent authorities;
- (c) tenders for the work were due back on 16/17 December 2016; the contract would be awarded after Christmas with work commencing for a period of 14 weeks in February 2017.

The main area of questioning related to the impact of the delay in commencing these works.

The Joint Committee noted the report.

23. **Exempt Business**

Agreed that 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.

24. **Revenue Budget Monitoring 2016/17 (Appendix 2)**

Sarah Fell (Business Partner) presented the revenue budget monitoring 2016/17 (appendix 2) report.

The Joint Committee agreed to recommend approval of the business case to the Leader (Plymouth City Council).

25. **Capital Bid**

Chris Burton (Park Manager) provided an update on the proposals for the capital bid for the Park which were contained within the business case.

The Joint Committee noted the update.

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

Subject: Revenue Outturn 2016/17 and Budget 2017/18

Committee: Mount Edgumbe Joint Committee

Date: 28 July 2017

Cabinet Member: Councillor Jordan (Plymouth City Council)
Councillor James (Cornwall Council)

CMT Member: Anthony Payne (Strategic Director for Place- Plymouth City Council)
Peter Marsh (Service Director – Environment – Cornwall Council)

Author: Christopher Burton (Mount Edgumbe Park Manager)

Contact: Tel: 01752 307269
Email: Chris.Burton@plymouth.gov.uk

Ref: SF Place Fin.

Key Decision: No

Part: I

Purpose of the report:

This report presents the final outturn position of Mount Edgumbe for the financial year 2016/17 and confirms the 2017/18 budget.

The Corporate Plan 2016 -19:**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**

In November 2016, a forecast position of £58k deficit was reported to the Joint Committee. The final outturn is a £20k surplus.

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 as well as monitor commercial projects delivery times and ensuring they perform in accordance with budgets set. 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
- Progresses a decision on 2017/18 and onwards, as to the audit arrangements

Alternative options considered and rejected:

None

Published work / information:

None

Background papers:

See appendix

Sign off:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|-----|-----|---------|-----|----|-----|--------|-----|----|-----|------------|-----|
| Fin | pl1718.52 | 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 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

I.1 Revenue outturn 2016/17 - Financial summary

| Business type | Activity volumes | | | 2016/17 Budget | | | 2016/17 Outturn | | | Variation to net budget | Comments |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------|----------|----------------|------------|-------------|-----------------|------------|-------------|-------------------------|---|
| | Potential /Average | Actual | Variance | Income | Exp. | Net | Income | Exp. | Net | | |
| | | | % | £000's | £000's | £000's | £000's | £000's | £000's | £000's | |
| Staffing & operations | | | | -14 | 510 | 496 | -43 | 510 | 467 | -29 | |
| House | | 6415 | | -53 | 51 | -2 | -30 | 63 | 34 | 36 | Visitor admissions |
| Gardens | | | | 0 | 18 | 18 | 0 | 30 | 30 | 12 | |
| Grounds | | | | -27 | 72 | 45 | -57 | 73 | 16 | -29 | |
| Trading activities: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Rents</i> | | 328 | | -143 | 40 | -103 | -146 | 47 | -99 | 4 | Ac days occupied in 16/17 |
| <i>Holiday Lets</i> | | 155 | | -27 | 5 | -22 | -30 | 9 | -21 | 1 | Av days occupied in 16/17 |
| <i>Chalets</i> | | | | -66 | 0 | -66 | -68 | 0 | -68 | -2 | Occupancy over financial year |
| <i>Glamping</i> | | | | -29 | 0 | -29 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 29 | Not operational for 16/17 |
| <i>Parking</i> | | | | -71 | 1 | -70 | -75 | 2 | -73 | -3 | No figures available |
| <i>Special events</i> | | | | -22 | 24 | 2 | -32 | 27 | -5 | -7 | Number of events held? |
| <i>Conferences</i> | | 9 | | -15 | 6 | -9 | -5 | 1 | -4 | 5 | Total annual bookings |
| <i>Weddings</i> | | 22 | | -52 | 21 | -31 | -58 | 13 | -45 | -14 | 22 weddings & 25 receptions |
| <i>Filming (future Opp)</i> | | 4 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | -9 | 0 | -9 | -9 | |
| <i>Misc. activities</i> | | | | -7 | 3 | -4 | -6 | 1 | -6 | -2 | No measurable comparison |
| Total operations | | | | -526 | 751 | 224 | -558 | 775 | 218 | -6 | |
| Subsidy Corn.CC | | | | -112 | 0 | -112 | -119 | 0 | -119 | -7 | Additional cont. for increased staffing costs |
| Subsidy PCC | | | | -112 | 0 | -112 | -119 | 0 | -119 | -7 | |
| Subsidy total | | | | -224 | 0 | -224 | -238 | 0 | -238 | -14 | |
| Deficit / (Surplus) | | | | | | 0 | | | -20 | -20 | |

Note

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

I.2 Commentary

Key variations can be summarised as:

- £14k Increased electricity charges
- £20k backdated electricity bills;
- £29k income from “Glamping” not achieved
- (£28k) various other low value favourable variations including reduced salary costs, additional rental income and managed budget savings.
- (£29k) Potential grounds risks not realised - reduced maintenance due to less weather damage and replacement costs than expected
- (£15k) Various additional income including from last minute wedding bookings, donations and service charge income not previously collected from users
- (£9k) Overtime and temporary staffing reduction arising from a reduction in planned weekend working
- (£11k) Overheads, professional fees, new telephone provider
- (£6k) Unexpected backdated income from Lady Emma’s cottage
- (£5k) Parking income in Q4 more than anticipated
- £20k NB - Element of Cornwall County Council contribution 2016/17 that is not required to fund 50% of spend, has been transferred to a reserve account, to meet potential future budget pressures.
- **(£20k) Total**

Staffing & operations

Position looks favourable due to the inclusion of donations relating to new Knott Garden, Black Bee Reserve 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 & Black Bee Reserve has created an overspend but off-set by donations from the Friends of Mt. Edgcumbe.

Grounds

Saving on works carried-out as potential grounds risks not realised – Reduced maintenance due to less weather damage and replacement costs than expected.

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 – Mitigated by increased income from weddings
- Lack of progress in developing a glamping site resulting in no income achieved – Mitigated by increased income from special events, weddings and filming
- Unachieved conference income due to lack of conference bookings

Subsidy

This was higher than £112k budgeted due to further approved contribution paid by each authority for a salary on-cost rebate no longer being received by local authorities. Please see appendix I. for prior year subsidy trend analysis.

Section 2

2.1 Revenue budget planning 2017/18

| Business type | 2017/18 Budget | | | 2017/18 Latest Forecast | | | Variation to net budget | Risks & management actions required |
|-----------------------------|----------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|--|
| | Income | Exp. | Net | Income | Exp. | Net | | |
| | £000's | £000's | £000's | £000's | £000's | £000's | £000's | |
| Staffing & operations | -14 | 501 | 487 | -14 | 501 | 487 | 0 | |
| House | -42 | 55 | 13 | -42 | 55 | 13 | 0 | |
| Gardens | 0 | 16 | 16 | 0 | 16 | 16 | 0 | |
| Grounds | -27 | 97 | 70 | -27 | 97 | 70 | 0 | |
| Trading activities: | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Rents</i> | -161 | 61 | -100 | -161 | 61 | -100 | 0 | |
| <i>Holiday Lets</i> | -45 | 12 | -33 | -45 | 12 | -33 | 0 | Flat 4 & Capt. BLK's hut now not expected to be ready until nearer the end of holiday season - Pot. 5 mth's lost income. Expected to be off-set by reduced borrowing charges in 2017/18. |
| <i>Chalets</i> | -66 | 0 | -66 | -66 | 0 | -66 | 0 | |
| <i>Glamping</i> | -15 | 2 | -13 | -15 | 2 | -13 | 0 | Bookings started on 14/06/2017 - Budgeted assumptions were from start of May. Any loss of income expected to be off-set by reduced borrowing charges in 2017/18. |
| <i>Parking</i> | -83 | 1 | -81 | -83 | 1 | -81 | 0 | Application submitted for charge increase but still waiting for process to conclude with Corn.CC. Senior management to see if this can be expediated. |
| <i>Special events</i> | -22 | 29 | 8 | -22 | 29 | 8 | 0 | |
| <i>Conferences</i> | -15 | 11 | -5 | -15 | 11 | -5 | 0 | |
| <i>Weddings</i> | -58 | 7 | -52 | -58 | 7 | -52 | 0 | |
| <i>Filming (future Opp)</i> | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | |
| <i>Misc. activities</i> | -7 | 3 | -4 | -7 | 3 | -4 | 0 | |
| Total operations | -554 | 797 | 243 | -554 | 797 | 243 | 0 | |
| Subsidy Corn.CC | -112 | 0 | -112 | -112 | 0 | -112 | 0 | |
| Subsidy PCC | -112 | 0 | -112 | -112 | 0 | -112 | 0 | |

Section 3

3.1 Approved capital programme

| Scheme | Funding | Prior Years Spend | 16/17 Actual spend | 17/18 Budget | 18/19 Budget | Total Scheme cost |
|---|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| | | £000's | £000's | £000's | £000's | £000's |
| Sea Wall Repairs | Loan (50% Corn.CC & 50% PCC) and Environment Agency grant. Funded outside of Mt.Ed. accounts | 0 | 130,803 | 569,197 | 0 | 700,000 |
| Mount Edgcumbe Marquee Floor | Contribution (50% Corn.CC & 50% PCC). Funded outside of Mt.Ed. accounts | 0 | 22,502 | 0 | 0 | 22,502 |
| Mount Edgcumbe Commercialisation | Loan (50% Corn.CC & 50% PCC) | 0 | 40,265 | 179,545 | 84,310 | 304,120 |
| Higher Level Stewardship | Ringfenced grant | 78,968 | 287,899 | 0 | 0 | 366,866 |
| Total | | 78,968 | 481,468 | 748,742 | 84,310 | 1,393,488 |

Note

Sea wall repairs and the marquee floor replacement are now being funded outside of Mt. Edgcumbe's accounts.

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 | | | | | | Business case presented to CCIB |

Section 4

4.1 Accounts Audit

Mount Edgumbe is no longer legally required to complete a Small Bodies Audit & has not instructed an auditor to carry one out. As Mount Edgumbe forms part of both Plymouth & Cornwall authority’s statement of accounts, it is already subject to both ongoing internal and external interim / annual audit checks.

Note, as to future intentions regarding audit arrangements, **it still requires a decision to confirm whether Mount Edgumbe continues with this arrangement.**

As the Annual Governance Statement is no longer required for the Small Bodies Audit, this year, we have included (see appendix A) Plymouth City Council’s most up-to-date version, which is essentially Mount Edgumbe’s too.

Section 5

5.1 Recommendations

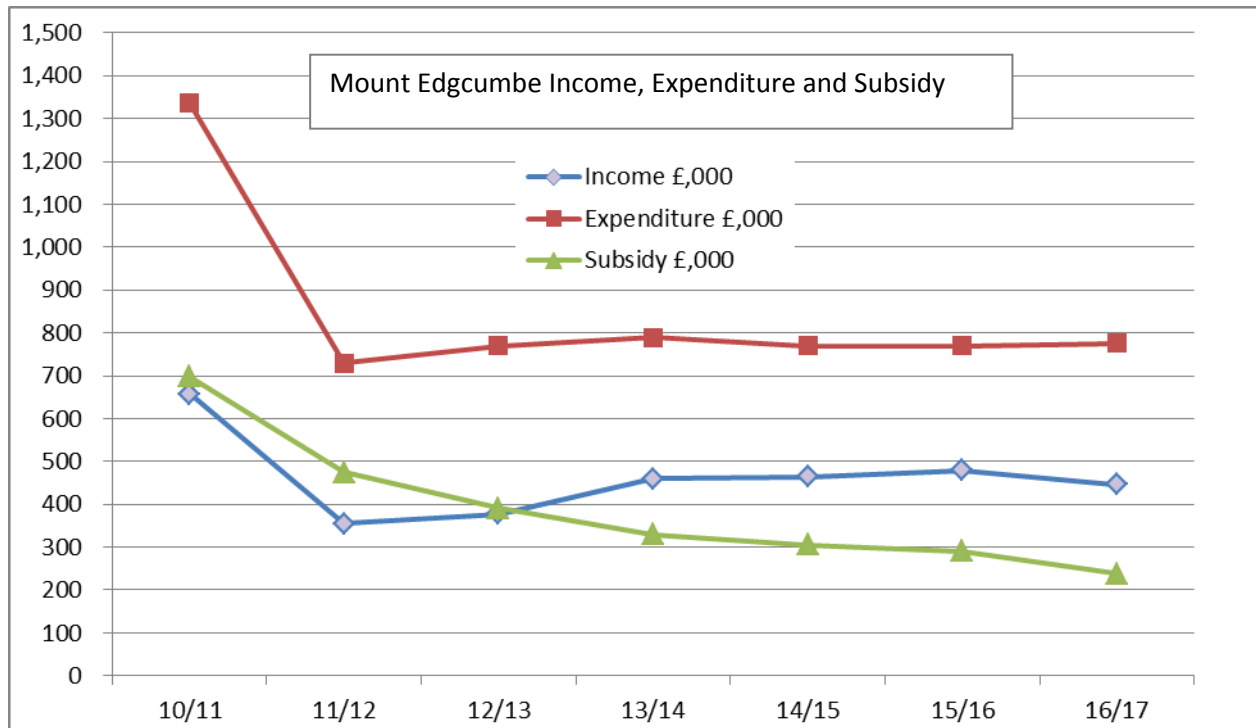
It is recommended that Joint Committee:

- 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, subject to a details business case
- Progresses a decision on 2017/18 and onwards, as to the audit arrangements

Appendix. I

I.0 Income & expenditure V's subsidy

Financial performance over last 7 years.



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PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

Subject: Report on Park Activity to July 2017
Committee: Mount Edgumbe Joint Committee
Date: 28 July 2017
Cabinet Members: Councillor Jordan (PCC) and Councillor James(CC)
CMT Members: Anthony Payne (Strategic Director for Place) and Peter Marsh (Service Director – Environment)
Author: Chris Burton - Park Manager
Contact details: 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 2016/17 financial year to end of June 2017.

The Corporate Plan 2016 -19:

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:

That the Joint Committee notes the information.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

Revised Jul 2013

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

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

2.0 Park Matters

2.1 On 25 May 2017 Mount Edgcumbe Country Park became the site of the first Black Bee Reserve in England. This represents the first native honey bee reserve in England and will provide a template that can be followed across the country for the reintroduction and protection of our native honey bee.

Partnered from B4, Tesco and Plymouth University the project was entirely grant aided. Sir Tim Smit officially opened the reserve saying: "This is a landmark opportunity to promote the advances in the care and promotion of the endangered native black bees. The work done here can be used as a template that we hope to use as we roll out the programme at future sites. It is imperative that we work together to preserve the local bee populations and their unique genetics across Europe".

2.2 The new website is now up and running and is proving very popular. A survey to ascertain impact will be carried out this summer, initial feedback from business units is very positive. Staff have received training in web site management and a maintenance package is in place with Crunch Creative.

2.3 An interpretation board telling the story of D-DAY and the 115th Infantry Division, US Army, has been put in place at Barn Pool. The launch was well attended by members of the public, Royal Marines and re-enactors and ITV News. Lieutenant Colonel Neil Wraith R.M, and Father Brown dedicated the plaque accompanied by a rather loud howitzer.

2.4 Higher Level stewardship Scheme is completed and the claim sent to Natural England.

2.5 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 took place this winter.

2.6 The Park has been granted a sum of £10,000 from the Friends of Mount Edgcumbe in order to draw up an Heritage Lottery (HLF) bid for the English Garden House, under the Enterprise Heritage Scheme. A consultant will be appointed in the summer.

2.7 Over 22,000 bedding plants have been planted in the formal garden thanks to a donation from the 'Friends'.

2.8 Two new cedar benches, repair of the wall and a new pergola in the Rose Garden have been funded by a generous donation from a member of the public. Work was completed in June.

2.9 The Elizabeth II Knot Garden is now maturing into a very beautiful garden indeed.

2.10 There is now a Model Railway in the Park at Artists Platt. It is hoped to develop this over the years. The railway is managed by the Mount Edgcumbe Railway Volunteers (MERV's) and runs on Sundays and during school holidays.

3.0 Buildings and Park Infrastructure

- 3.1 Work has been undertaken on the pond at French Garden which will hopefully see it retaining water and acting as a water feature by the summer.
- 3.2 The Park is now opened and shut at nightfall which has helped greatly with security and parking issues. This has been enabled by having a resident gate keeper in West lodge. West Lodge itself has been made habitable and is lived in by our new handyman/gatekeeper role.
- 3.3 There is now an honesty box at Maker Church it will have taken well over £2000 this year. The money will be ring-fenced and used for the Church road repairs that will take place this summer in partnership with the Parish Council, The Earl and the Church.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 The 'A Seat with a View' leaflet is proving very popular and has needed a reprint. The Tree Trail leaflet has also been reprinted.

4.0 Events

- 4.1 Between November and June we hosted over 25 walks, talks, and workshops; these comprised of in-house talks, walks and creative workshops including Camellia walks, The Metta Catarina, crochet workshops, garden tours, dowsing for beginners, bat walks, Easter egg hunt, and garden tours.
- 4.2 The Easter egg hunt was incredibly successful this Easter and we ran out of Easter eggs
- 4.3 The Green Man was again a great success this year with 7211 people attending.
- 4.4 May also saw the introduction of 'South West Paddle Fest' which showed the potential interest in this third party event which we will grow over the years.
- 4.5 'Faery Fest' was again a great success and saw our first customers for the Glamping Huts we were able to add this income to the £5000 we also make from the festival so income totalled nearly £6000 and no faeries were harmed!
- 4.6 Miss Ivy Events have held several small scale events at weekends since the spring including Farmers Markets and a Pet Market. They will hold a bigger event in July, The Great British Festival that will champion everything good about a great British Summer!
- 4.7 The Christmas Fayre was a great success and very well attended. Feedback from the event means we need to make sure that there is some new elements to offer next year. Income from the event was up at around £13500.

5.0 Business Development

- 5.1 The Park was successful 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 The Parks Shepherds Huts are now in place and earning their keep. They will be marketed with 'Quality Unearthed' and 'Cool Camping' along with our own website. Guests will be able to book and pay online.
- 5.3 We have welcomed three new businesses to the Park, Whites Farm Shop, Edge Cycle Hire and Rame Visions Gallery.
- 5.4 Negotiations over the installation of a high ropes course are still under way.
- 5.5 Holiday lets are going very well with higher than expected levels of occupancy. This is a reliable income stream that will be developed over future years. Yew Tree cottage will come online 6 months early this Christmas.
- 5.6 The Park has started recouping the electricity from the restaurant businesses within the Park. This will provide around £1500 extra income a month.
- 5.7 The Park is will have WIFI coverage to all its top buildings by the time of writing this. This will enable conferencing to take place and the Park to market this better. The park is now a member of Conference Plymouth. The conferencing market will be actively targeted this winter season.
- 5.8 The House has now reached capacity in terms of letting out empty or redundant rooms. We now have a recording studio, ceramics storage area and a health care practitioner all renting office space.
- 5.9 Captain Blake's hut work will commence this summer with the aim of having its first guests by the Christmas season. The Park is working with PWH and Classic Cottages to make sure we have a 'Boutique Retreat' style property that should bring in some £30000 a year income to the Park.
- 5.10 The cleaning contract for the Park has now been awarded to Kernow Maid; this will represent a £15000 saving a year for the Park and allow a more flexible operation focusing cleaning time on a seasonal basis.

6.0 Weddings

- 6.1 We currently have 18 weddings and 15 marquee receptions (25% increase) and 12 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.

Summary

Through good housekeeping measures the Park has been able to generate a surplus this year. This will be further enhanced as the income generating components of the commercial capital works begin to kick in this financial year.

The Park continues to have a better offer to the public with new dynamic activities such as cycle hire and glamping, these and other commercial activities are now marketed by a customer friendly modern website. All this is pushing the Park towards a 'staycation' with customers will spending a day or more at the Park and its visitor attractions.

Tree safety works and an aging fleet of vehicles will however place an increasing burden on the finances of the Park over coming years, staff will need to work more flexibly to be able to cope with commercial activities that are customer focused such as holiday lets and glamping.

The Park has a wealth of infrastructure that could be developed into commercial enterprises however and where appropriate new revenue streams can be achieved if capital funding is made available.

The Friends of Mount Edgcumbe Country Park
Report to the Joint Committee, 28 July 2017

Committee Changes

At the AGM in March Val Horsley retired after 13 consecutive years as treasurer and was roundly thanked for her guidance and diligence in carrying out the task.

Val has been replaced by Tony Hutchings.

Membership

Membership is open to all who wish to support and assist the Park in preserving, maintaining and enhancing the amenities available for the benefit of all users.

The number of members currently stands at 587 and year on year we sign up more members than we lose. While the total constitutes a minor percentage of those visiting the Park the input from the members in financial and practical terms is significant.

Financial Support

Committee Members attended the official opening of the Knot Garden, financed by The Friends as reported previously.

Since November 2016 The Friends have agreed to finance the repairs to the pond in the French Garden up to £5,000 and £10,000 for the first step in securing a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund for repairs to the English Garden House.

The Friends have continued to provide funding (£3,000) for the Spring Bedding plants in the Formal Gardens.

The above bring the total donated to The Park to over £250,000.

The Friends have passed into the ownership of The Park all of the equipment donated to them by the Liskeard Model Society to enable the setting up of the Mount Edgcumbe Railway.

Practical Support

People join The Friends because they care about the Park and our aim is to persuade more of the members to join the ranks of those who volunteer to help in a practical way. The majority of volunteers are members of The Friends and they drive the buggies, act as house stewards, assist the gardeners and rangers, make the costumes for the 'dressing up' room in the House, provide traffic management advice and have assisted in the newly created apiary.

The Friends have provided volunteers to assist in the running of the Christmas Fayre and Green Man Event and will be assisting in the Park at the Firework Championships. The Friends have built up and maintain a collection of over 50 highway direction and parking signs which are a necessary adjunct to the running of major events.

Social Events

The Friends aim to provide an annual programme of social events catering for a wide range of tastes and ages. Since November 2016 we have held a Choral Concert and a 'Black Tie' dinner in the House and a very successful Easter Egg Hunt which attracted 900+ child entrants plus family members. The attendance was higher again than the previous year and raised over £2,300. Equally importantly will be the fact that the event will have introduced first time visitors to the Park. The next event will be the Summer Fayre and Classic Car Show on 6th August where it is hoped the Park will be full of visitors enjoying the day.

Miscellaneous

The Friends are currently carrying out a thorough review of its organisation and activities to ensure compliance with the updated requirements of the Charity Commission.