

Oversight and Governance

Chief Executive's Department
Plymouth City Council
Ballard House
Plymouth PL1 3BJ

Please ask for Democratic Adviser
T 01752 305155
E democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk
www.plymouth.gov.uk

Published 12 November 2020

Mount Edgumbe Joint Committee

Date: Friday 20 November 2020

Time: 10.00 am

Place: Virtual Meeting

Committee Members-

Plymouth City Councillors-

Councillors Mrs Beer, Corvid, Michael Leaves, Mrs Pengelly Rennie, Peter Smith and Vincent (Co-Chair).

Cornwall Councillors-

Councillors Burden, Crago, Foot, Lennox-Boyd, Nolan, Pugh and Trubody (Co-Chair).

Co-opted Members-

Sir Richard Carew-Pole, Nicola Cull 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

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 31 July 2020 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. Presentation on Blitz 80 Display

(Presentation)

6. Revenue Monitoring 2020/21

(Pages 9 -16)

7. Park Activity Report (to November 2020)

(To Follow)

8. Friends of Mount Edgumbe Country Park Update

(Pages 17 – 24)

9. 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 I of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

PART II (PRIVATE BUSINESS)

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.

- 10. Renewal of Trenninow and Wiggle Cliff Ground Leases (Pages 25 – 28)
Update and Next Steps**

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Mount Edgcumbe Joint Committee

Friday 31 July 2020

PRESENT:

Councillor Vincent, Co-Chair in the Chair.

Councillors Allen (substitute for Councillor Peter Smith), Mrs Beer, Burden, Corvid, Foot, Michael Leaves, Lennox-Boyd, Nolan, Mrs Pengelly and Pugh.

Co-opted Representatives: Nicola Cull.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Rennie, Peter Smith, Trubody and Sir Richard Carew Pole (Co-opted Representative) and Mr D L Richards (Co-opted Representatives).

Also in attendance: Chris Burton (Plymouth City Council), Beverly Gardiner (Plymouth City Council), David Marshall (Plymouth City Council), Peter Marsh (Cornwall Council), Nicola Moyle (Plymouth City Council), Helen Prendergast (Democratic Adviser), James Watt (Plymouth City Council) and John Weale.

The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 12.35 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. **To Note the Appointment of the Joint Chairs for Plymouth City Council and Cornwall Council**

The Joint Committee noted the appointment of Councillor Vincent (Plymouth City Council) and Councillor Trubody (Cornwall Council) as Joint Chairs for the forthcoming municipal year 2020/21.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

In accordance with the code of conduct, Councillor Mrs Pengelly declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in relation to minute 11 (Renewal of Trenninow and Wiggle Cliffe Ground Leases).

3. **Minutes**

The Joint Committee agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2019 are confirmed as a correct record.

4. **Chair's Urgent Business**

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

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

The Joint Committee agreed that Nicola Cull, the Chair of the Friends of Mount Edgcumbe Park is confirmed as a Co-opted Representative (non-voting) for a four year term (with an annual review).

6. **Presentation on the Mount Edgcumbe Deer Herd**

John Weale provided a presentation to the Joint Committee on the Mount Edgcumbe deer herd which highlighted the following key areas –

- (a) he had undertaken a census of the deer on the peninsula (which included a count of the deer and the type of deer in the area); there were two types of deer on the peninsula the Roe Deer (which were not present in large numbers) and Fallow Deer (the Fallow Deer had been introduced in the Roman times);
- (b) in 1515 Sir Piers Edgcumbe was given permission by King Henry VIII to empark deer;
- (c) he had approached the Park Manager and a small group had been formed to scope what would need to be done to properly manage the deer herd;
- (d) work undertaken on the scoping of the proposal to rejuvenate the deer within the Park included -
 - identifying the proposed area which covered 200 acres;
 - engagement with the British Deer Society, Natural England and Forestry England to look at the feasibility of re-opening the deer park;
 - investigating whether there would be any grants available for fencing the area;
 - looking at the area that would need to be fenced (it was not proposed to fence the coastal boundary, in order to allow the deer to enter and leave the area);
 - there was a holding capacity within the Park of 400 animals; however it was proposed to have a herd of approximately 150 – 200;
 - engagement with farmers;
 - opportunities for both employment and tourism;
 - this would be a five year project;

- the majority of funding would be for the fencing, although there would be funding needed for larder arrangements and culling; however, it was anticipated that income could be generated through deer events.

(John Weale was a former Naval Officer who had trained to become a professional deer manager. He was the current Chair of the UK Defence Deer Management Organisation which managed deer on all of the defence land in the UK and had a workforce of approximately 350 people).

The main area of questioning from Members related to –

- (e) the need for proper deer management with appropriate fencing/gates in place, in order to ensure the safety of the animals;
- (f) whether the culling of the deer would be done in a sensitive way; the possibility of selling Mount Edgcumbe venison and whether a butchery could be established in the Barrow Centre;
- (g) the risk that the herd could become habituated with tourists/vehicles and being feed;
- (h) the availability of a local slaughterhouse that could process any venison from the Park.

The Joint Committee agreed to support the development of a deer plan for the Park.

7. **Mount Edgcumbe Revenue Outturn Report 2019/20**

Nicola Moyle (Head of Heritage, Art and Film) presented the Mount Edgcumbe Revenue Outturn Report 2019/20 which detailed the final outturn position for the Park for the financial year 2019/20 and confirmed the 2020/21 budget.

The report highlighted –

- (a) staffing and operation: the amalgamated outstanding principal on capital borrowing terms had been extended to 25 years which provided an in-year saving;
- (b) house: additional costs for the lift repairs, removal of asbestos and fire extinguisher testing;
- (c) gardens: savings on supplies and services;
- (d) rents; shortfall due to vacant properties and electricity costs;

- (e) holiday lets: new lets for 2019/20.

The main area of questioning related to whether –

- (f) consideration had been given to extending the opening season for the Park, in order recover some of the lost income;
- (g) the weddings that had been postponed during the pandemic had been re-booked for 2021;
- (h) consideration had been given to marketing Mount Edgcumbe as a staycation venue;
- (i) consideration had been given to holding outside events such as concerts.

Nicola Cull, Chair of the Friends of Mount Edgcumbe Country Park, advised that any support that the Park needed, the Friends would be happy to help and sought clarification as to whether consideration had been given to holding an outside cinema event. The Friends of Mount Edgcumbe Country Park would be conducting a survey in August and September 2020, seeking the views of visitors as to what they would like to see at the Park; it was hoped that this exercise would provide some useful feedback.

The Joint Committee noted the –

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

8. **Mount Edgcumbe Park Activity Report to July 2020**

Chris Burton, Park Manager, presented the Park activity report that highlighted the works and activities carried out in the Park which included the following –

- Park matters;
- buildings and Park infrastructure;
- events;
- business development;
- weddings.

The key areas highlighted that –

- (a) whilst over the last six months the Park had faced challenging times, it had remained open throughout the pandemic, although some services had been limited in line with Government guidelines; currently the whole Park and its businesses were open and operating under the Covid-19 guidelines; the House remained closed as it derived the majority of its income through coach parties;
- (b) the holiday let portfolio had been affected greatly by the lockdown, although bookings from 4 July 2020 had initially surged; cleaning and associated Covid-19 guidelines posed an additional burden on the operator;
- (c) work had commenced on Rame Head Coastal Guard Lookout which would be completed in November 2020 with the aim of hitting the Christmas/New Year market;
- (d) the Cremyll Lodge and Horseshoe Cottage were the oldest holiday lets and had received a makeover this winter, as part of the continuing maintenance regime of the property portfolio;
- (e) the Tree House project had been put forward for initial planning guidance and would be designed with a view to construction next spring for a summer release; consultations with both Cornwall Council planners and Historic England were underway; the budget for the treehouse was approximately £230,000; this development would be an 'eye catching' piece of architecture whilst being sympathetic to its surroundings;
- (f) weddings had been cancelled due to the Covid-19 regulation; work was currently being undertaken to be able to provide a limited offer, as per the guidelines; this situation had impacted the Park's income stream for this year; although 85% of weddings had been re-booked for 2021;
- (g) the Park's management had been working on a 10 year development plan which would detail what the Park would look like in 10 years' time; achieving this vision would depend on a collaborative approach and would include all those involved with the Joint Committee and other bodies; further information would be available at the next Joint Committee; whilst these current times seem uncertain, the Park would be moving forward.

The key area of questioning from Members related to whether the honey produced by the Black Bees could be marketed and sold at Mount Edgcumbe.

The Joint Committee noted the report.

9. **Friends of Mount Edgcumbe Country Park Update**

Nicola Cull, Chair of the Friends of Mount Edgcumbe presented the update report from the Friends of Mount Edgcumbe which highlighted the following key areas –

- (a) the Annual General Meeting had been held on 15 March 2020 at which a new Chairman had been elected (Nicola Cull); she had joined the Committee in 2019;
- (b) the Committee members included Gill Bunnell (Treasurer), Ann Creese, Steve Creese, Tony Hutchins, Neil Rugg, Carole Drummond, Alan Drummond and Nigel Bruce-Robertson (there were currently two vacancies on the Committee);
- (c) the cancellation of all events, due to the pandemic, had impacted the Friends' current main funding stream (the car show and the Christmas fayre being the key income streams);
- (d) during this period the Committee had been able to re-focus on what it could do to ensure the future of the charity and its objective of helping to preserve the Park for the benefit of the public;
- (e) the Committee had been actively engaging with Park management and had reconnected with each trader on site, as lockdown was eased, in order to offer its support;
- (f) the Committee had updated its priorities for 2020/21 in order to reflect lockdown and anticipate a 'new normal' which included -
 - development of a stronger and more diverse membership base;
 - increasing funds without events;
 - involving more people;

to achieve this the Committee would -

- run a membership campaign through to summer 2021;
- highlight to visitors that donations, however small, made a difference;
- encourage local visitors to become active volunteers;

it was anticipated that it would be possible to hold events during 2021 (this would be added back into the priorities when it was possible to do so);

- (g) the new marketing plan supported the priorities for 2020/21 which included -
 - the re-opening of Lambert Lodge during August 2020;
 - running a 'hello' campaign during August and September 2020;
 - holding a meet and greet for visitors;
 - undertaking a 10 question survey to obtain an insight into how to preserve and enhance the Park;

- promoting the benefits and discounts available in the Park and the traders to encourage visitors to join the Friends;
 - launching a Facebook group (and running Facebook campaigns) and refreshing the website and repositioning the marketing material to reach target audiences;
- (h) highlights from 2019/20 included -
- a total of £100,000 had been allocated to projects for 2020; the majority of the funding would be carried forward to 2021 due to the projects being on hold;
 - income from the book sales in the new Lambert Lodge had been significant prior to lockdown;
 - funds had been set aside for projects such as new toilets and a children's area.

The key areas of questioning from Members related to –

- (i) sought clarification as to the children's project that the legacy fund would be allocated to;
- (j) whether there was a demand for the books.

Councillor Mrs Pengelly advised that the Plymouth Rotary Club would be able to help with events and fund raising.

The Joint Committee agreed to send a letter to Mr Neil Rugg, thanking him for his work and support as the former Chair of the Friends of Mount Edgumbe Country Park.

The Joint Committee took the opportunity to thank the Friends of Mount Edgumbe for their continued support for the Country Park

10. **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 item of business on the grounds that it involves 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.

11. **Renewal of Treninnow and Wiggle Cliffe Ground Leases**

Nicola Moyle (Plymouth City Council), Peter Marsh (Cornwall Council) and James Watt (Plymouth City Council) presented the report on the renewal of Treninnow and Wiggle Cliffe ground leases. Plymouth City Council and Cornwall Council were joint freeholders of the ground leases on which the chalets at Treninnow and Wiggle Cliffe stood. These properties formed part of the wider Mount Edgcumbe Country Park estate.

Following a lengthy discussion the Joint Committee agreed to the recommendations contained within the confidential report.

(Councillor Pengelly was not present for this item)

Mount Edgumbe Joint Committee



Date of meeting:	20 November 2020
Title of Report:	Mount Edgumbe Revenue Monitoring 2020/21
Lead Member:	Councillor Peter Smith (Deputy Leader)
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:	2020/21
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

This presents the Q2 position of Mount Edgumbe for the financial year 2020/21 and outlines progress to confirm the 2021/22 budget.

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 and proposals to be presented to Plymouth City Council's Investment Board

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.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

The financial position for Mount Edgumbe is set out in section one of the report.

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.

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.20. 21.1 39	Leg	3370 9A/A C/10/ 11/20	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 (Anthony Payne) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 06/11/2020											
Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Peter Smith email 11 November 2020											
Date approved: 11/11/2020											

Section I**I.1 Q2 Revenue Position - Financial summary**

Business Type	Activities			2020/21 Budget			2020/21 LF			Variation to net Budget £'000	Comments
	Previous Year	As at Now	Increase / decrease	Income	Expenditure	Net	Income	Expenditure	Net		
				£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		
Staffing & Operations				(53)	577	524	(50)	551	502	(22)	
House	7,542	0	(7,542)	(41)	43	2	0	39	39	37	House closed due to Coronavirus
Gardens				0	13	13	0	9	9	(4)	
Grounds				(27)	108	81	(26)	98	72	(9)	
Trading Activities:				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Conferences	9	0	(9)	(8)	1	(7)	0	0	0	7	No Bookings due to Coronavirus
Rents	40	40	0	(185)	28	(157)	(165)	28	(137)	20	43 units available currently 40 Units let
Chalets	81	81	0	(74)	0	(74)	(74)	0	(74)	0	Chalets are let on a 21 year Lease
Parking				(94)	3	(91)	(74)	3	(71)	20	N/A
Special Events	19	0	(19)	(41)	28	(13)	(8)	8	0	13	Cancelled due to Coronavirus
Holiday Lets	1065	596	(44)	(107)	63	(44)	(72)	55	(16)	28	Days occupied - Max poss 183 days per let
Glamping	75	66	(9)	(10)	5	(5)	(7)	5	(1)	3	Days occupied - Max 109 per hut
Weddings	25	3	(22)	(40)	6	(34)	0	6	6	40	Weddings postponed due to Coronavirus
Filming	0	0	0	(1)	0	(1)	(1)	0	(1)	0	
Misc. Activities				(5)	0	(5)	(5)	0	(5)	0	No Measurable comparison
Total Operations				(686)	876	190	(481)	803	322	(132)	
Subsidy											
Cornwall CC				(95)	0	(95)	(161)	0	(161)	66	
Plymouth CC				(95)	0	(95)	(161)	0	(161)	66	
Total				(190)	0	(190)	(322)	0	(322)	132	
Deficit / (surplus)						0			0	(0)	

1.2 Commentary

COVID-19 has had a significant impact on our 2020-21 budget from the start of the new financial year to now and may continue until March. We have been responding to managing and mitigating the financial impact on operations.

In line with central government's lockdown guidance, the house and Earl's Garden have remained closed since April, weddings have been postponed wherever possible, events and glamping were suspended until the 4th July.

We are reporting an additional budget forecast requirement of £132k: and in addition there remains a potential financial risk of £0.0260k – see section four below – as a result of visitors staying at home and therefore not using the car parks plus a loss of rental income also due to the impact of the pandemic.

Section 2

2.1 Revenue budget planning 2021/22

Budget setting continues for 2021-22. The level of joint authority subsidy has yet to be finalised, and a review is underway to assess the likely impact of existing and future income streams for Mount Edgumbe – this includes the new holiday properties coming on stream later this year and next year, the Trennow chalets and the revenue implications of proposed new capital projects. It is expected that the new budget will be agreed in the New Year.

2.2 Revised Budget Forecast 2020/21 (impact of Coronavirus)

Business Type	September LF 2020/21 Budget		
	Income	Expenditure	Net
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Staffing & Operations	(50)	551	502
House	0	39	39
Gardens	0	9	9
Grounds	(26)	98	72
Trading Activities:	0	0	0
Conferences	0	0	0
Rents	(165)	28	(137)
Chalets	(74)	0	(74)
Parking	(74)	3	(71)
Special Events	(8)	8	0
Holiday Lets	(72)	55	(16)
Glamping	(7)	5	(1)
Weddings	0	6	6
Filming	(1)	0	(1)
Misc. Activities	(5)	0	(5)
Total Operations	(481)	803	322
Subsidy			
Cornwall CC	(161)	0	(161)
Plymouth CC	(161)	0	(161)
Total	(322)	0	(322)

Section 3

3.1 Approved capital programme

Project	Funding	Prior Year £	2020/21 £	2021/22 £	Total £
Mount Edgumbe Cremyll Car Park	Service Borrowing	66,775.00		3,225.00	70,000.00
Mount Edgumbe Commercialisation	Service Borrowing	447,982.50	188,487.50	200,000.00	836,470.00

Section 4

4.1 2020/21 Risk Register

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

Mt Edgumbe	
Rental income	Estimated risk of £26,000. of written off rent income invoices due to COVID19.

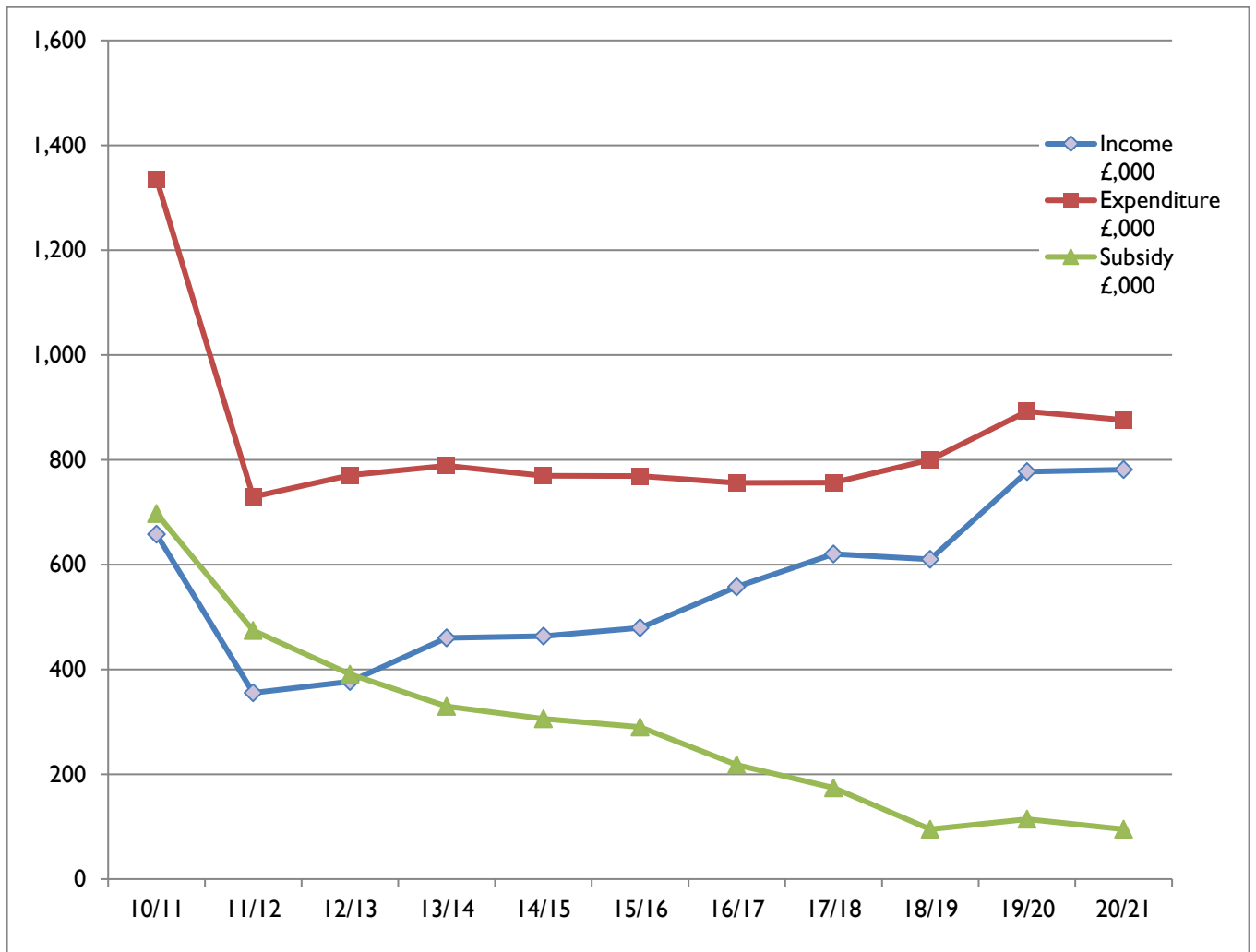
Section 5

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
- Notes the capital programme and proposals to be presented to Plymouth City Council's Investment Board, subject to a detailed business case

Mount Edgcumbe Income, Expenditure and Subsidy



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Friends of Mount Edgumbe Country Park



Update
November 2020

INTRODUCTION

This paper provides an update on activities, priorities and future plans for the FOMECP.

COMMITTEE

- Chairman – Nicola Cull.
- Gill Bunnell remains as Treasurer. Ged Edgcumbe remains as Membership Secretary.
- Committee members: Ann Creese, Steve Creese (Vice Chair), Neil Rugg, Carol Drummond (Secretary) and Alan Drummond.
- Tony Hutchings and Nigel Bruce-Robertson have resigned from the committee, but remain supportive members and volunteers.
- There are four+ vacancies on the committee.
- Members are currently at 584
- The next AGM is due in March 2021. The full annual accounts can be viewed on at fomecp.org.uk.

OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

We have made progress in defining our future vision:

- To have a stronger and more diverse membership base, with active members, volunteers and supporters.
- To work in partnership with the Park management by jointly agreeing funding requirements and projects.
- To have a sufficient funds to grow the charity deliver on our purpose, as set out in our constitution.

PROGRESS THIS YEAR

As reported in July, the cancellation of events has impacted our funding stream, however we have been fortunate to receive legacy donations and have maintained our membership numbers.

Since our last report the committee has been improving its ways of working (systems, policies, processes) so that the charity is ready for the future so it can continue to deliver on its purpose: 'to preserve, or assist in the preservation (for the benefit of the public) Mount Edgcumbe Country Park as a place of historical, botanical, horticultural, architectural and natural beauty'.

As previously reported, a total of around £100,000 has set aside for projects but this funding will be carried forward to 2021 due lockdown restrictions. We are happy to reconsider priorities with the Park if necessary. Our funds currently stand at circa £135,000.

- Our policies have been updated to facilitate improved decision-making and provide more flexibility (whilst still adhering to the Charity Commission guidelines).
- We have approved a donation to the Park of £5,000 for the deer park fencing.
- We are working with the Park to identify priority projects for 2021.

- Funds remain allocated to the plans for new/updated toilets and a children’s shelter, urgent statue restoration and funding for the gardens. These projects will be restarted once the current lockdown is ended.
- The opening of Lambert Lodge in August, September and October was very successful.
- At the same time, we completed our visitor survey.
- The Lodge is now closed until 2021.

SUMMER 2020 SURVEY RESULTS

Over 100 surveys were completed, on paper and online; below are the key themes emerging from the feedback:

- Local people and visitors love the Park and want to see it kept as it is – a beautiful natural space. The top reasons for visiting were:
 - To enjoy the gardens, woodlands and nature for exercise, such as a walk or a stroll
 - The gardens in particular are highly valued by all visitors.
- Over 50% of the visitors surveyed were local to the area (Plymouth and Cornwall side) and of those over 43% visit more than once a month, some as many as a few times a week. 45% of people arrive by car, around 30% by ferry and a few, 20% are lucky enough to be able to walk. Those arriving by ferry from Stonehouse have asked for the council to consider providing an ‘all day’ charge for the car park to facilitate days in the Park.
- Although the Park is much loved, visitors are keen to see improvements made to areas which are deteriorating. For example:

Closed and derelict buildings should be restored/opened	64.76% 68	31.43% 33	3.81% 4	105
I would like the statues restored	50.49% 52	45.63% 47	3.88% 4	103
I would like to see the follies/focal points restored	43.27% 45	52.88% 55	3.85% 4	104
I would like the toilets improved and/or more toilets	54.81% 57	38.46% 40	6.73% 7	104

- 2/3 of visitors surveyed would be happy to pay a nominal amount to have more/better toilets.
- Only half of the visitors know how the Park is funded and many just assume that there is sufficient funding to manage its upkeep.
- We saw little interest in visiting the house, however this might have been due to Covid restrictions as the house was closed to the public.

EXTRACT FROM VERBATIM RESPONSES

Below are interesting verbatim responses which reflect much of the feedback received.

Ideas I would like to attend (via Zoom) some talks on the estate (follies, buildings etc), history of the estate, the flora and fauna, history of the area, wrecks, any archeology etc
9/10/2020 4:58 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Covid In these unprecedented times - I guess it is the matter of keeping on top of what we already have.
9/10/2020 4:51 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Important I would not want many changes as it is a beautiful natural area
9/4/2020 10:38 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Showing 50 responses

Dog Guidance on dog waste: some owners put waste into a bag and then leave it by the edge of a path or trunk of a tree where it will stay for many weeks and produce an unsightly, anaerobic mess. If folk are not prepared to take the waste away, they are better off leaving it for nature to clear up aerobically (slugs, snails, magpies etc. Some guidelines on waste would be useful, e.g. displayed at The Stables, from someone with environmental knowledge and authority (Cornwall CC? Natural England?) to educate dog owners as the problem seems to be getting worse.
9/10/2020 6:17 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Ideas I would like to see a kitchen garden and/or allotments
9/10/2020 5:50 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Ideas More information about the history and flora and fauna of the park and the house and local area
9/10/2020 5:08 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Showing 50 responses

Love I grew up in Mt Edgcumbe during the war and have many memories of childhood fun in the Park
9/10/2020 8:11 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Important Holiday accommodation used as local housing. Plenty of holiday accommodation and second homes in the area already.
9/10/2020 6:48 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Ideas The Park is a tremendous asset to Plymouth. I'd like to see a park and ride in summer weekends from Stonehouse Creek to Admiral's Hard to make it easier for people living further away to make use of the ferry. I'm sure that Plymouth Boat Trips and Princess Yachts would do what they could to make this possible, with a minibus doing a loop from the Princess Yachts car park to Admiral's Hard.
9/10/2020 6:23 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Showing 50 responses

Important The park is a wonderful area of managed semi-wildness. We appreciate that the park is managed by a dedicated team who are doing their best despite an inadequate budget. It is critical that the area is managed to maximise support of its ecology particularly the diverse range of flora and fauna. We greatly appreciate the National Collection of Camelias - a particular joy in the winter months.

9/13/2020 8:57 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Important We are second home owners with a flat at Picklecombe Fort. The survey doesn't seem to cover this. We often take our visitors to the park and they are surprised there is no entry fee. Has the management considered having a suggested donation amount at entry point. Like with the National Trust, we are all conditioned to pay to see lovely gardens.

9/12/2020 9:33 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Ideas As a Life Membership `Friend` I think more could be done to encourage Plymouth people to attend events. e.g late transport after evening events-and Plymouth pick up points when you organise `outings`

9/11/2020 8:07 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Showing 50 responses

Cycline Love I love the Park which is a huge asset to the area. It offers a wide range of possibilities to suit various tastes and needs. I appreciate the semi wild natural environment with so many trees and shrubs to enjoy in all seasons. My preference would be to keep the narrow footpaths for pedestrians rather than sharing with cyclists.

9/18/2020 6:52 PM

[View respondent's answers](#) A

Love Volunteer We love visiting the Park when ever we are staying at our home. If we came more often we would happily volunteer.

9/18/2020 9:09 AM

[View respondent's answers](#) A

Cars Car access should be restricted with much less space given to car parking

9/15/2020 9:06 PM

[View respondent's answers](#) A

Covid I like the park but as a shielded person and a carer I cannot return until all covid dangers are over

9/13/2020 6:16 PM

[View respondent's answers](#) A

I never have coins for car parking, especially now as retailers don't want cash. Please make car parks with card payment or Just Park App.

10/12/2020 4:14 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Dog Love The park is very important to us and we love living nearby. Would it be possible to have dog litter bins ? Have encountered bags left on gates on occasions.

9/29/2020 8:22 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Cycline Ideas I would like to see a far more green approach to recycling. More links with Plymouth and local schools. Greater use of the natural amphitheatre especially in this Covid time.

9/29/2020 6:07 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Table tennis It's lovely Table tennis table dirty and not necessary outside gate shop

FUNDING ISSUES AND DETERIORATION OF THE PARK AND ITS ASSETS

The survey and the feedback received this year (during such difficult times) has highlighted to the Friends that any further reduction in funding from local government could cause further deterioration of the assets of the Park.

The team managing the park are under immense pressure to keep 865 acres safe and open for all to enjoy. During the year there have been no events, very few weddings and no volunteers to help with the grounds.

We believe that funding is critical at this time, without it the Park assets could suffer further deterioration which might be impossible to recover from. The Park team do an amazing job with only a 'skeleton' staff and an unrealistic annual funding budget.

The Friends can support some areas with funding, but the Charity's funds cannot make up for the shortfalls of past years. We will fund on a year by year basis, based on funds built over the previous year.

We fully support the future vision for the Park and will continue to work with the Park management to make it a success; but we believe a stable and improved funding situation for the two to three years is critical. We respectfully ask that the Joint Committee consider this feedback when agreeing funding.

Below we have highlighted our particular areas of concern. This is not an exhaustive list, merely a quick 'brainstorm' via email with people that are passionate about the Park and understand its importance to the people of Plymouth and Cornwall. Undoubtedly, there will be many other areas of need across the region and within the Park, but it would be remiss not to make this plea on behalf of the Park.

Our areas of concern:

1. Woodland canopy management, planting new trees and removing unsafe fallen trees which render paths unsafe and closed to the public
2. Repairing the road around the Barrow Centre which is disintegrating and unsafe
3. The toilets (in general are in a poor state)
4. The formal garden buildings - English and French garden houses need urgent care to prevent further decay
5. Orangery lodge has a constant damp problem
6. The gardeners' lodge does not reflect the hard work and passion which the team exhibit
7. Woodwork in the Stables buildings (windows mostly)
8. The wall at Cremyll end has weeds growing out of one of the pillars
9. Closed walk ways and focal points which are unsafe and as closed will become 'lost' over time and irreparable
10. Fallen trees which cannot be removed without specialist equipment or people
11. There are many pathways and steps which are rotting: the zig zag paths, the steps down to Sand Ways are examples
12. Many of the Statues need urgent and expensive restoration work.
13. Restoring the rotten steps in the Camelia garden
14. Many assets in the house are also deteriorating rapidly now following years with insufficient funds.

2021 PLANS

We have the following planned to raise funds:

1. Membership campaigns through to Summer 2021
2. Campaigning for donations and legacies (to replace lost event income)
3. Encouraging our local visitors to become active volunteers and join the Friends
4. Online payment facility for donations and membership (to be launched in 2021)
5. A 'friends' trail guide highlighting funded projects funded by the charity.
 - o Working with the university to develop an app version of the trail (anticipated launch Q3 2021)
6. At the end of the current lock down we will proactively launch our campaign to promote the discounts of membership and the traders.
7. We will continue to update Facebook and our group is slowly gaining members.
8. We will continue to reposition our marketing material to reach our target audience(s).
9. We will be looking at (eco-friendly) merchandise to promote the charity and raise funds.

We anticipate that events will be possible during 2021; we will add this back into our plans when it is possible to do so.

Prepared 8 November 2020

Nicola Cull

Chairman

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