

Briefing note

Mount Edgcumbe Country Park Joint Committee 14 November 2025

Date 03/11/2025

Sandways Camping

Update

On 10 September 2025, Cornwall Council convened a meeting with representatives from Sandways Camping Association and Councillor Kate Ewert. The Association was invited to the meeting in an attempt to avoid further expenditure of public funds and avoid the councils' having to instruct a third party to remove the tents and then to serve a notice issued under the Torts (Interference with Goods Act) 1977. It was also an opportunity for the Association to share their views.

At the meeting and subsequently in writing following the meeting, both parties agreed to the following:

- Association to dismantle the tents, providing a start date and anticipated completion date (subject to weather conditions, etc.);
- Association to commence dismantling the tents on the start date, or, if weather conditions prevent this, that you notify the councils and provide a revised programme;
- In accordance with the Cornwall Council's letter dated 28 July 2025, to confirm whether the Association would like Cornwall Council to organise a geotechnical watching brief to support the safe removal of the tents.

Upon receipt of the Association's confirmation of the above, Cornwall Council and Plymouth City Council committed to the following:

- convene a meeting with the Camping Association, at which the Association will have the opportunity to present the findings of their independent report and outline their proposed risk mitigation measures in response to the risks identified by the Councils (from sea and land);
- to schedule this meeting within two weeks of the completion of the removal of the tents, subject to the availability of key representatives;

- undertake a review of the information provided by the Camping Association to assess whether sufficient mitigation measures can be implemented to allow consideration of a new lease, whether for overnight camping or alternative uses;
- for the Association to share their report with both councils, allowing a minimum of 5 working days for us to review the report prior to the date of the meeting;
- the councils would aim to complete this assessment within one month of the meeting and to inform the Camping Association of our decision.

The councils also offered to store the tents for the Association and subsequently a licence was provided to the Association for a period of up to a year. We also offered for us to bring in a trusted third party to facilitate with the Association.

On 11 September 2025, the Association confirmed that they would meet the conditions outlined in our correspondence and would commence the dismantling of the tents from Friday 12 September, with a planned completion date of 30 September. They did not require a geotechnical watching brief, as members of the Association were happy to manage the site during the removal process.

Plymouth City Council shared a draft licence to occupy the storage building with the Association on 29 September.

All parties had hoped to convene the meeting following receipt of the report by the end of October, but the Association informed Cornwall Council of delays to the completion of the report and it was not until 2 November that the Association proposed 14 November as the date of the meeting; this is the afternoon following the Joint Committee meeting.

At the time of writing this report, Cornwall Council had not received a copy of the Association's report on the campsite but was hopeful that we would receive this within the 5 works days of the meeting at requested.

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Environment and Connectivity

6 November 2025