

## PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

**Subject:** Update of Suggested Additional Activities on the Park  
**Committee:** Mount Edgcumbe Joint Committee  
**Date:** 6 November 2015  
**Cabinet Member:** Councillor Smith (Plymouth City Council)  
Councillor Mrs 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:** Jerry Masters (Interim Park Manager)  
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**Ref:**  
**Key Decision:** No  
**Part:** Part I

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### **Purpose of the report:**

To appraise members on progress of suggested activities on the Park following the last Joint Committee meeting.

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### **The Brilliant Co-operative Council Corporate Plan 2013/14 -2016/17:**

This report will deliver priorities within the Council's Corporate Plan by providing excellent services.

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

There may be a small additional cost of £2,500 to purchase 'Parkrun' software, which will be recovered from extra car park income from those travelling to the Park to participate.

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

The 'Parkrun' Manager will undertake a risk assessment of the selected route to ensure wherever possible risks are mitigated. A review will be undertaken on each event to take into account any unfore before the run to ensure that the event can be undertaken safely. Appropriate DBS checks will be made for those marshals who may come into contact with 'minors' as there is the potential for young people to participate.

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### **Recommendations and Reasons for recommended action:**

The Joint Committee notes the information, and that as other initiatives develop, the Joint Committee is kept informed at subsequent meetings.

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**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

None.

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**Published work / information:**

Parkrun web site available for further details.

**Background papers:**

| Title | Part I | Part II | Exemption Paragraph Number |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|-------|--------|---------|----------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|       |        |         | 1                          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|       |        |         |                            |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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**Sign off:**

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|--|--|-----|--|------------|--|----|--|--------|--|----|--|---------------|--|
| Fin  |  | Leg |  | Mon<br>Off |  | HR |  | Assets |  | IT |  | Strat<br>Proc |  |
| Originating SMT Member Nicola Moyle                                  |  |     |  |            |  |    |  |        |  |    |  |               |  |
| Has the Cabinet Member(s) agreed the content of the report? Yes / No |  |     |  |            |  |    |  |        |  |    |  |               |  |

- 1.0 At the Joint Committee meeting in July, a few suggestions were made of possible additional events or activities that might be undertaken on the Park and help to develop additional income.
- 1.1 One of the ideas was a suggestion that a regular 'Parkrun' activity could be introduced as the Park had the potential to offer the terrain suitable to meet the Parkrun requirements. The event briefly is a regular Saturday morning (9am) start where participants run around a set course of 5km and time themselves against previously recorded runs. It is not a race, more of an individual challenge.
- 1.2 Each participant wears a band which is scanned at the start and again at the end of the run and the time recorded on the Parkrun web site where the individual can access and monitor increased (or decreased!) improvements on the previous week/s recorded times.
- 1.3 Following the meeting, contact was established with Cornwall's sports development team and a race manager has been identified who is currently developing the event by getting an agreed route sanctioned by Parkrun, organising volunteers to marshal the route and ensure that the logging equipment is in place ready for a first run.
- 1.4 It is hoped the route will be challenging which will attract participants from the local area and Plymouth. Currently, the two nearest Parkrun locations are at Plym Valley in Plymouth and Lanhydrock in Cornwall, both of which attract good numbers of runners, (average between 35 and 60) to the regular runs.
- 1.5 The initial registration fee and software to operate as an official Parkrun event costs £2,500 however with the increase number of people who travel to participate, it is anticipated the additional car park income will recover this expenditure through additional income of £3 – 3,500 per annum, with of course the additional trade to our onsite caterers.
- 2.0 An equine event was also promoted such as a gymkhana or a pony club event. These are being investigated as a possible event in 2016, but have to be considered in respect of weather conditions and potential damage, if the ground is too soft. Local contacts are being used to broker a link with a Club to hold an event at an agreed time.
- 3.0 A further suggestion was a swimming gala although we have no recognised pool where this could be undertaken. The area of the Park known as Barn Pool is part of the River Tamar and has a swift shelving of the river bed close to the shore (the area was formerly a private boat landing area for the Edgcumbe family).
- 3.1 For this reason, it is considered unsafe to use the area for an organised event as the difficulties of ensuring younger swimmers safety and the water quality would be impossible to overcome. The existing ponds in the Park are not deep enough or the water quality good enough to contemplate their use.