

## Minutes of the Swanpool Management Forum Meeting held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2005, 10.00am at The Green Centre, Falmouth

**Present:** Dr Allan Lester - Swanpool & Gyllyngvase Residents Association

Guy Doncaster - BTCV

Councillor Malcolm Brain - Falmouth Town Council

Tony Hilder - Community Volunteer Officer Martin Woodley - Carrick District Council David Turner - Carrick Regeneration Officer

1. Apologies: Beth Tonkin - English Nature

2.	Minutes of Last Meeting (16 <sup>th</sup> June 2005) & Matters Arising: The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting with the only correction being reference to Adam Chell not Adam Cheald	ACTION
3.	People's Places Funding update: GD confirmed that funding from People's Places had been used to support the successful Fun Day back in July. In recent weeks volunteers had undertaken a litter pick around Swanpool and the removal of alien species and dumped garden waste. Additional 'No Dumping Garden Waste' signs have been erected. Agreed that a letter would be dropped to all local residents explaining the implications of dumping garden waste, contravention of the appropriate legislation, threat to the conservation value of the site etc. The letter would also refer to the recent useful document delivered to all households in Carrick explaining the policy on recycling and giving guidance on composting.	MW
	GD & TH have met with the Graphic Designer about the new leaflet. The identity and branding will reflect the new information boards with information being condensed and images reused. The final draft may be available at the next meeting. When printed and available all existing old leaflets will need to be recycled.  GD is currently awaiting invoices to be paid from the fund as additional money will need to be drawn down or else it may be withdrawn. The Graphic Designer will need payment at the outset plus instalments as the project continues.  The Forum then discussed potential items to clear the residual funding of the project. Ideas included:	AL

	<ul> <li>Bench seats along the lower level path at the southern end. GD to investigate various designs and costings.</li> <li>Litter pickers plus disposable gloves (health &amp; safety issues)</li> <li>Bins/dog waste bins (on going costs to cover emptying etc)</li> <li>Notice board(s) - possibly one at either end of the lagoon. Boards would need to be anti-vandal standard and covered. GD to investigate costs for manufacture and installation. MW to investigate planning requirements and guidance from English Nature on siting etc.</li> <li>Bamboo Clearance: large stand of bamboo at the northern end needs to be removed. Will require mechanical digger and trailer etc. Need cost implication and advice from BT. Site is not within an area with Japanese Knotweed.</li> <li>Bird Raft: is there a possibility of siting a further raft on the lagoon for birds other than the swans. Could enhance birdwatching opportunities. Concerns over this being a longer project with English Nature liaison.</li> </ul>	GD GD MW GD/TH
4.	Events Programme update:	
7.	<ul> <li>The Forum discussed and reviewed the Events Programme listed on the Swanpool Website. A concern was raised that the schedule was over-ambitious in terms of the number of items planned. As not all groups were represented at the meeting it was agreed that this subject would appear as an item on the next meeting agenda.</li> <li>The Fun Day on 30<sup>th</sup> July ran successfully with events including painting with Audrey Jackson, pond dipping with Martin Rule, a guided walk around the lagoon with Beth Tonkin and sessions building bird boxes and making dragonfly models.</li> <li>September 'Clean up &amp; BBQ' event - this had been cancelled as a litter pick and clean up had already taken place recently and it was considered unlikely that the event would be well attended as publicity had not been arranged.</li> </ul>	ALL
5.	<ul> <li>MW introduced Dave Turner from the Council's Regeneration Team to the meeting and then explained the situation so far with reference to a potential enhancement scheme focussing on environmental and interpretation improvements for the car park and immediate environs. The scheme may include a visitor centre combined with a new ticket office, landscaping and planting in and around the car park and general signage improvements.</li> <li>At the last meeting PL was in the process of obtaining some sketch plans for a potential scheme. It is hoped that these can be presented at the next meeting.</li> <li>DT outlined the position concerning grant sources and a 'Grantfinder' enquiry undertaken and fed back to PL.</li> <li>The Forum then discussed the need to be a formal constituted body in order to apply for and access funds. The body may either have charitable status or, if larger funds were being applied for, be a Company limited by guarantee. It was agreed that as the</li> </ul>	PL

current situation is complicated and confusing as the site is owned by the local authority, leased to a third party and operated partly as a commercial concern, further advice should be sought from the Head of Assets at Carrick. The following issues need clarification:

MW

- What are Carrick's responsibilities for maintaining the site?
- Who would be responsible for, and the programming of, environmental enhancement works?
- How would Carrick view the erection of a visitor centre?
- How would Carrick view the installation of a bird-viewing hide?
- What is Carrick's opinion on the standard of the car park at present?
- What does Carrick believe that the Forum can undertake to enhance the area?

Currently the Forum is an unconstituted body, which will seriously limit funding opportunities. Whilst a new constitution was previously investigated and drafted, this was not pursued as the particular funding source (Living Spaces) being considered was withdrawn. It was agreed that this matter would now be resurrected and further advice would be sought from Carrick Council's Legal Section on the following matters:

MW

- The suggested form of the constitution
- The current and suggested legal status of the Forum

It was agreed that a special meeting of the interested bodies on the Forum would be arranged to discuss and progress the constitution before the next quarterly meeting.

## 6. **Any Other Business:**

- No further information was available on the rumoured sale of land at Swanpool/Swanvale adjacent to the pumping station immediately to the north of the lagoon. EN should have been notified if land had been transferred.
- MW reported that BT had been consulted again by Adam Chell over the treatment of Japanese Knotweed. Previously treated areas will be treated again but areas alongside the lagoon would not be considered until further research had been undertaken and advice received. Restricted resources would not allow a more extensive treatment programme at this stage. MW agreed to contact Jon James at Carrick over the extent of grass cutting alongside the car park as an infected area seems to have been flailed.

MW

MB reported a request from local residents for traffic calming along the eastern side of the lagoon as vehicle speeds are giving cause for concern. Options may include the introduction of a further chicane. AL to write to the Traffic Engineer at Cornwall County Council for advice on what could be undertaken along this stretch.

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- It was confirmed that seven cygnets have survived on Swanpool.
- MW reported the receipt of the 'Views about Management' document (VAM) from English Nature. The brief paper was

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circulated to members. It provides generic guidance on the management of the habitats found at Swanpool and should be considered alongside the existing management Plan and the Schedule attached to the SSSI citation sheets. Following a brief discussion members raised concerns over the final paragraph which states...."...invasive introductions such as Japanese Knotweed should be removed". This statement is far too simplistic as attempts to pursue this goal have proved time consuming and difficult to achieve. Members also requested that an item relating to Knotweed eradication be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

BT

7. Date, Time and venue of next meeting(s)

<u>Special Meeting to discuss the Constitution for the Forum</u>. It is requested that all representatives attend so that this matter can be assessed and a final draft agreed.

ALL

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2005 @ 10.00am, Falmouth Green Centre

Next regular Forum Meeting

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Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2005 @10.00am, Falmouth Green Centre