

		AGENDA ITEM 7
		GTP/02/11
Meeting:	GREAT NOTLEY COUNTRY PARK JOINT VENTURE PARTNERSHIP BOARD	
Date:	28 July 2011	
Great Notley Country Park Site Report and Financial Summary April 2010 – March 2011		
Enquiries to:	Tim Dixon, Head of Country Parks 01245 437706 Tim.Dixon@essex.gov.uk	

This year has been a particularly interesting year for the team at Great Notley Country Park (GNCP), as a wide variety of work, projects and events have been carried out. Visitor numbers have increased from the last financial year and we are finding the dwell time of visitors to be increasing. There is also a wide variety of user groups visiting the park, including organised dog walks, fitness groups, kite boarders, free runners, people with learning difficulties and their carers, family's, cyclists and horse riders.

Green Flag

The team are trying to improve the site for visitors on a yearly basis and the award of another Green Flag in 2010 has shown they are succeeding in this task. GNCP has now been awarded the Green Flag Award for two years in a row. The team are keen to keep up the standards and hopefully receive another Green Flag Award in 2011.

Play Equipment

Easter 2010 saw the opening of a new piece of water play equipment. This is situated adjacent to the existing piece of water play equipment and has been well received by adults and children alike. After the initial opening of the equipment there were some issues with the grass surfacing, however, these were resolved quickly by Timberplay, the installers of the equipment.

Management Plan

A number of small projects have been completed within the country park and also in The Discovery Centre in line with the management plan. New fishing platforms were installed around the lake to replace the old ones. The fishing lake is becoming a popular place to fish by amateurs and families. General upkeep of grounds works such as cutting back the rides, mowing, strimming, tree planting etc. have also been completed in line with the management plan. The Discovery Centre interior has been repainted

from top to bottom and new sink units and much needed flooring has been installed in the café level toilets.

Staff

This year saw a number of changes within the team at the park. In January 2010, Duncan Fisher went on a secondment for twelve months to work in the Natural Environment Team at County Hall. Richard Bicheno has taken his place as a ranger for twelve months. In January 2011 Mark Kowalski left the park and his caretaker position was taken up by Phil McGrath.

Hirings

GNCP and The Discovery Centre is becoming a popular venue for third party events, school groups, birthday parties and conference room bookings. The table below shows the number of bookings/activities per user group.

Activity	Number of Bookings/Activities
Conference Room Bookings	62
School Visits	11
Puddleducks	42
Hot Air Balloon Launches	58
Third Party Events/Activities	20
Go Bonkers Bouncy Castles	10
Birthday Parties	30

The introduction of Puddleducks, a free ranger led activity for pre school children run by the Education Officer, has increased the number of mum's and toddlers in the park not only on Puddleduck days, but also on other days of the week.

There is now a wide range of community groups and charities which use the park to book their third party events. These range from large scale events, such as Race for Life to small scale events, such as cross country runs. Other third party events/activities have included a Macmillan Coffee morning, children's Welly Walk, Farleigh Hospice Walk, Nordic Walking, Stargazing, Born 2 Tri duathlon and cubs and brownies groups visiting the park.

Events

The team have organised three large scale events over the year. These being the Big Screens events for the football World Cup in June/July 2010, Spooky Fun in October 2010 and Cursed in October 2010. The Big Screen events went well at the start of the tournament with hundreds turning up to watch England play on the biggest screen in the world. However, once England were knocked out the numbers dropped. The event was successful in raising the profile of the country park. Spooky Fun was a new Halloween event aimed at young children. 400 children attended the event and the rangers will be running the event again in 2011. Cursed, a scare event aimed at teenagers and adults,

is now in its second year of running and in 2010 it attracted over 1700 visitors to the park over two nights.

The Spooky fun and Cursed events will be operated from Cressing Temple in 2011.

Volunteers

This year the team introduced volunteering opportunities for Duke of Edinburgh students at weekends. In total four students volunteered at the park to help themselves gain their bronze awards and one student volunteered to help him gain the silver award. During the year there has been six HCS, formerly Trident, student placements, which involves a year ten pupil volunteering for a two week period.

The rangers still have a close working relationship with the Friends of the Flitch Way volunteer group and hold work parties every Tuesday and Thursday in winter and Tuesdays in summer. With the help of the volunteer group approximately eight miles of the Flitch Way has been cut back on both sides, benches, interpretation boards and an educational wildlife trail have been installed and a visitor survey has been completed. The volunteers were awarded a Greenfield's Community Award grant and have been able to purchase the benches, interpretation boards, a woodchipper and a wood processor.

The team believes GNCP is a real asset to Essex County Council and Braintree District Council and will continue to improve and maintain the site to ensure it exceeds the expectations of local residents and visitors from further afield.

Financial Summary 2010-11

Great Notley Country Park

	2010-11			2011-12		
	Budget	Final Outturn	Variance	Budget	Projected Outturn	Variance
	£	£	(Under)/Over £	£	£	(Under)/Over £
Great Notley Country Park						
Income						
Car Parking	(105,584)	(102,795)	2,789	(110,901)	(115,916)	(5,015)
Meals / Snacks / Beverages	(45,000)	(47,379)	(2,379)	(45,000)	(42,635)	2,365
Rents & Lettings	(12,600)	(11,023)	1,577	(15,932)	(10,758)	5,174
Events & Other Income	(42,920)	(41,139)	1,781	(42,920)	(42,598)	322
Total Income	(206,104)	(202,336)	3,768	(214,753)	(211,907)	2,846
Expenditure						
Staff	148,906	133,064	(15,842)	148,906	146,935	(1,971)
Premises	67,000	50,230	(16,770)	67,000	66,489	(511)
Supplies & Services	18,400	12,753	(5,647)	18,400	17,928	(472)
Transport	14,740	11,948	(2,792)	14,740	14,509	(231)
Total Expenditure	249,046	207,995	(41,051)	249,046	245,861	(3,185)
Net Revenue	42,942	5,659	(37,283)	34,293	33,954	(339)