

	AGENDA ITEM 6
	GTP/04/17
Committee:	GREAT NOTLEY COUNTRY PARK JOINT VENTURE PARTNERSHIP BOARD
Meeting Date:	6 NOVEMBER 2017
Report:	SITE REPORT
Enquiries to:	Claire Bunn, Senior Ranger

Staffing

Claire Bunn, the site manager, has returned from maternity leave in July to work part time. Steffanie Robertson finished her interim site manager post on Claire's return to work. There was an interim period for 3 weeks, where both members of staff were onsite, which led to a smooth handover. Stuart, the new ranger left in June to go to another job. This leaves the ranger team with Tom Hamilton, the ranger, and Claire, the Site Manager. The back filling of staff is covered by the roaming ranger team. The Sky Ropes team assist with daily checks and procedures.

Play Trail

The new pieces of play equipment – the cable way, cross scales, building system in the sand play and the sound roller have all been installed. The cable way, cross scales and building system were all ready for the school holidays and were well received by visitors. Unfortunately the new cable way was vandalised due to arson, a matter of days after it was installed. This meant it was out of action throughout the summer holidays, as new parts needed to be ordered and shipped from Germany. The cable way has now been fixed and we are waiting for the ground to be resurfaced with turf and rubber matting before it can be opened. This should be completed in the next week or so.

As the play equipment ages more repairs are needed on the structures and work has been carried out on the Queen Swing, the Giant See Saw, the Hexagon Swing, the Climbing Structure and the Rope Bridge.

Car Parking

The car parking machines have now all been updated to accept the new £1 coins. The barrier system is working well. The PARC user's data base on the barrier system has become out of date. PARC have been given the task to collect all their customers' registrations. Once this is complete the current PARC list will be wiped and the new registration list will be added.

Visitor Numbers

The school holidays started slowly with fewer visitors in July 2017 than July 2016. However, once we were into August the numbers picked up and saw increase of £4,000 from car parking from the 2016 figures. From August the summer holidays went well. The overflow car park was consistently $\frac{3}{4}$ full and on some occasions full. The rangers created extra space in the overflow car park, by mowing an extra section of grass right at the back of the overflow field. This has created an extra 50 spaces in the overflow capacity.

Catering

Lily's café was well received over the summer holidays and they have had their mobile catering outlets out during some of the shows and events over the summer.

Sky Ropes

Sky Ropes are already 11% over their target visitor figures for this financial year and Sky Ropes Junior are 10% over their target visitor figures. These percentages will no doubt change over the next few months due to the unpredictable weekend weather. Over August Sky Ropes and Sky Ropes Junior were visited by just over 6,500 people.

Zip Line

The plans for the zip line continue to progress. The expectation is for the new facility to be open in April. The plans are currently being finalised before they are submitted for planning permission.

Events

Over the summer a number of events were held at the park including the monthly Astronomy events, which consist of solar gazing during the summer months, two outdoor cinemas evenings showing Pitch Perfect and Top Gun. There was also the greyhound dog show in August, the Born 2 Tri Duathlon in October, cross country races, Park Run and Junior Park Run.

Flich Way

Work continues along the Flich Way with the volunteers concentrating their efforts on clearance work. Work parties are twice weekly on a Tuesday and Thursday and are supervised by members of the Ranger team. The annual cut back along the Flich using the tractor flail is scheduled in November and tree work continues to be carried out along the Flich by contractors and rangers from other sites.