

This report will be made public on 12 January 2021



Report number: **FPPG/20/03**

To: Folkestone Parks and Pleasure Ground Charity – Board of Trustees
Date: 20 January 2021
Head of Service: Andy Blaszkowicz, Director – Housing & Operations
Subject: Folkestone Parks and Pleasure Grounds – Update Report

Summary: This report provides the Board with an update in relation to all those decisions taken by the (now) Director – Housing & Operations since July 2018 under his delegated authority to deal with charity assets. This report also covers other matters relating to charity land.

Recommendations:

1. To receive and note this report.
2. To agree that the next update report shall relate to the period up to and including the 2021/2022 financial year and that all subsequent annual reports shall relate to their respective preceding financial year.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Board considered report FPPG/18/03 on 18 July 2018 and resolved to agree:
- ‘...the proposal to allow the Head of Commercial and Technical Services to have delegated authority to make decisions regarding charity assets on behalf of the charity to a value of £20,000 and which are not politically sensitive’;
 - ‘...that the Head of Commercial & Technical Services will provide an annual report to update the Trustees of all decisions taken under his delegated authority over the previous 12 months’.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report provides the Board with an update in relation to all those decisions taken by the Director – Housing & Operations (formerly the Head of Commercial & Technical Services) since July 2018 under his delegated authority to deal with charity assets. This report also covers other matters relating to charity land.

3. DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE JULY 2018

3.1 Lower Sandgate Road Recreation Ground (Coastal Park)

- a. Triennial artwork at the beach huts, Marine Walk: a licence has been agreed with Creative Folkestone (CF) for an artist’s design to be painted on to the exterior of the new and refurbished beach huts.
- b. Folkestone’s Heart Forum and The Sandgate Society’s World War One Footprint Project: permission was granted for the installation of 16 cast footprints (to commemorate those who lost their life in WW1) in a footpath at the western end of Lower Sandgate Road.

3.2 Radnor Park

- a. A licence has been granted to EKC Group for the period 15 January 2020 to 19 August 2021, paying a licence fee of £1 per annum (if demanded), which permits the placing of tables and chairs outdoors to generally used in association with the operation of the Radnor Park Tea Room.

3.3 Various charity lands

- a. Triennial artworks: a new lease has been agreed in principle with CF for the placement of six existing artworks and three proposed artworks (for Triennial 2021) on charity land for a term of two years from 1 January 2021.
- b. Triennial artwork: a licence has been agreed in principle with CF for the placement of a proposed temporary artwork (for Triennial 2021) on charity land at The Durlocks Recreation Ground and the Amphitheatre at the Coastal Park.

4. OTHER MATTERS

4.1 The Durlocks Recreation Ground

- a. Land adjacent to St Peter’s C of E Primary School (report no. FPPG/18/05): the new lease granted to Kent County Council was completed 24 July 2020 and is for a term of 21 years from 2 January 2017 paying an initial rent of £2,000 per annum (reviewed every five years by CPI).

4.2 Coastal Park

- a. Beach huts, Marine Walk (report FPPG/19/02): this project incorporates the renovation of 35 existing huts, the removal of 44 dilapidated huts and the installation of 80 new wooden huts. The works started summer 2020 and will be ready for use by spring/summer 2021.
- b. Folkestone Harbour (GP) Limited's request to construct a new car park on the site of the existing public car park at the eastern end of the Coastal Park: a separate report shall be submitted to the Board in relation to this request.

4.2 East Cliff and The Warren Pleasure Ground

- a. Martello Tower No. 3: CF was granted a lease for a period of 99 years from 18 March 2012 but it has exercised its option to terminate the lease on 18 March 2022 although they are seeking to agree a surrender at the earliest opportunity. CF has agreed a contribution of £5,000 towards the repairs of the Tower when the lease is surrendered.
- b. Little Switzerland (report FPPG/19/04): a new two-year lease was granted to the existing tenant from 1 March 2020 paying a rent of £18,150 per annum.
- c. Sidney Cooper Weston Fountain: Go Folkestone has confirmed that its proposed refurbishment of the fountain has been delayed due to Covid-19 but anticipates returning to this project in January 2021.
- d. Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT): early discussions have been had with the trust in relation to it resuming (under a new licence) seasonal fieldwork at the prehistoric settlement and Roman Villa site commencing Summer 2021 and continuing until at least 2025. CAT's focus will remain on those areas at risk of being lost due to erosion.
- e. East Cliff and The Warren: early consideration is being given to improving the visitor experience of this area which may include a new play area, visitor's centre and other facilities. This is a large piece of work which is ongoing. The Council has been successful in obtaining a £20,000 grant from KCC which will be used for further masterplanning and viability work.
- f. Warren Camp Site: the rent was reviewed 1 November 2019 by RPI resulting in an uplift from £5084.48 to £5,576 per annum.
- g. The Warren beach: it was necessary to temporarily close the beach in May 2020 when the sea eroded part of the cliff exposing hazardous material. The beach was shut whilst a clean-up operation and further testing for contaminants took place. Once deemed safe, the beach was re-opened and continues to be monitored by officers. A temporary revetment was built in front of the exposed area to protect it from erosion whilst further exploratory work is undertaken. It is anticipated that further work will need to be undertaken to protect the area more permanently from future erosion and exposure of contaminated material.
- h. Southern Water's pumping station, Coronation Parade: the transfer of land (i.e. the site of the pumping station) to Southern Water and the leaseback of parts including public toilets is ongoing.

4.4 Radnor Park

- a. Trustees of Shepway Angling Club (report no. FPPG/18/02): the lease for the store (for a term of two years from 6 March 2019 paying a rent of £1 per annum if demanded) and the licence to fish at Radnor Park Pond (for a period of seven years from 6 March 2019 paying an initial licence fee of £250 per annum) both completed 6 March 2019.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 It is considered appropriate that:

- the next update report shall relate to the period up to and including the 2021/2022 financial year;
- all subsequent annual reports shall relate to their respective preceding financial year.

6. LEGAL/FINANCIAL AND OTHER CONTROLS/POLICY MATTERS

- 6.1 **Legal Officer's Comments (NM)** There are no legal implications arising from this report.
- 6.2 **Finance Officer's Comments (RH)** All rent/lease increases are included in the Charity budgets. There are no further finance implications arising from this report.
- 6.3 **Diversities and Equalities Implications** There are no diversities and equalities implications arising from this report.

7. CONTACT OFFICER AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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The following background documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report:

None.

Appendices:

None.