

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

20th January 2017

Report of the Head of Transformation Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning

SECTION A – MATTER FOR MONITORING

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

Margam Country Park Report Card

Purpose of the Report

1. To present for Scrutiny the Report Card for Margam Country Park Centre.

Executive Summary

2. Margam Country Park is a Grade 1 listed park of approximately 900 acres which includes several Scheduled Ancient Monuments as well as a number of Grade 1 and Grade 2 listed buildings and structures. It is a visitor attraction which provides a range of leisure opportunities for a large number of local people as well as tourists. The Country Park also works in partnership with the Field Studies Council at the Margam Discovery Centre in order to deliver environmental education to schools and colleges within Neath Port Talbot and further afield.

The Report Card, set out in Appendix A, summarises the service priorities, key measures and key actions for Margam Country Park

Background

3. In recent years the park has attracted significant grant funding in order to restore some of our most important listed buildings and to restore the gardens. Funding was also obtained in order to develop a volunteering programme within the gardens and we now have a core team of enthusiastic volunteers who work alongside the gardening team. We have also had funding to construct a new mountain bike events course and to increase our capacity for events parking. We continue to seek out further grant opportunities.

Within the last two years the park management has also taken over responsibility for managing The Orangery as well as Charlotte's Pantry (which is the café in the visitor courtyard).

Following the restoration of Ivy Cottage, it has now been converted into a successful holiday cottage which has added a new income stream.

The park has also been successful in the last few years in attracting several high profile filming projects to the park which have proved financially beneficial. This is however income that cannot be guaranteed as it is obviously dependant on demand.

Margam was tasked with achieving additional income of £135,000 during 2016/7 as part of the FFP savings, this will not be achieved. Clarification on the budget position is shown as Point 6 in section 5 of the attached report card.

The service is non statutory and employs 18 full time staff, 7 part time staff, 4 seasonal staff and a number of casual staff as and when required for Orangery functions and other catering purposes.

Financial Impact

4. The Report Card sets out the FFP savings achieved for 2015-16 and identifies the targets for 2016-17.

Equality Impact Assessment

5. There are no equality impacts associated with this report.

Workforce Impacts

6. There are no workforce impacts associated with this report.

Legal Impacts

7. There are no legal impacts associated with this report.

Risk Management

8. There are no risk management issues associated with this report.

Consultation

9. There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

Appendices

10. Report Card

List of Background Papers

11. None

Officer Contact

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