

Emberton Country Park PLUG Minutes 11 April 2024

Emberton Park Cafe

Attendees:

Chair & Olney Ward Councillor

MKCC, Emberton Country Park Manager

Friends of Emberton Country Park

Park user

Emberton Café, Meadow Brown Restaurants

Emberton Parish Council

Static Caravan representative

Olney Town Council

MKAA

MKCC, Projects and Development Manager Country Parks

Apologies:

Emberton Park Sailing Club

Emberton Café, Meadow Brown Restaurants

Emberton Café, Meadow Brown Restaurants

1. The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made and apologies noted.
2. Notes and actions from previous meetings were accepted and actions complete. Olney Ward Councillor had reported litter on A509 to the Head of Environment and Waste Services but would require lane closure for litter picking. Those using park and ride for Dickens of a Christmas will now pay to use the car park at Emberton Country Park. The repairs have been done to the fence of Field 13. Olney Ward Councillor reported that the Willen Hospice Christmas tree work had contributed to a £30,000 income.

3. Development Update

Emberton Parish Council raised concern regarding the upcoming Lithuanian event in the rally fields. Olney Ward Councillor stated that there had not been any issues over the previous two years when this event was held under a Temporary Event Notice. That the application has gone in for a Licence means the event can happen each year and any issues will be raised with the licensee. Static Caravan Representative confirmed that the music had not caused disturbance in the static area previously and ended at 10.30pm promptly.

MKCC Projects and Development Manager updated the Changing Places unit is complete with minor snags to be done. A Mayoral opening is booked for Thursday 16 May 2024 at 11am.

The bid for funds was put into the Angling Trust for a dissolved oxygen meter and two fishing swims, as MKCC will contribute the £2 for every £1 as required.

Update: The bid was successful.

MKCC Projects and Development Manager explained there is a plan with the café to put on some music events during the summer on Sunday afternoons. This will be free to access. As part of the Temporary Event Notice (TEN) the café can apply to sell alcohol during those times. This has been mentioned previously and if it is successful, they may apply for an alcohol licence in the future.

Currently Crossroots MK are booked for Sunday 16 June in the afternoon and there are other bands in discussion.

Action: MKCC Projects and Development Manager and Emberton Country Park Manager to check power supply and once confirmed, promote this with Emberton Park Café.

MKCC Projects and Development Manager confirmed once the Changing Places project is completed and paid for, the remaining S106 funds will be used for play equipment.

4. Operation Update

Emberton Country Park Manager announced that the temporary Ranger from last year, has now returned.

The volunteering events have been hugely successful and a natural hedge has been put around the black poplars to protect them. Apart from the 100 black poplars planted in January, there have been a further 650 hedgerow mix planted along the western boundary of the park before the static caravan area in February thanks to Community Trees: MK and this week there were 30 fruit trees planted as a community orchard near the timeline wall.

Friends of Emberton Country Park asked if there would be a plaque in memory of Alan Holmes for the black poplars. Emberton Park Manager confirmed that there will be.

Action: Emberton Park Manager to liaise with Alan Holmes' friends regarding a suitable sign to acknowledge his legacy.

There will be further wildlife walks this year, such as; dawn chorus, bat walks, dragonfly walks and a moth event.

Action: Emberton Park Manager to publish dates of these events via Facebook and posters in the park.

The mink traps have caught 10 mink so far. The consensus is that every mink capture saves approximately 100 native species from predation.

5. Stakeholder Update

MKAA are looking to get some pumps so that they can respond quickly to a need for oxygen. Currently looking at storage options and depending on size, possibly at ECP, but will need quick access.

Static caravans that are leaving ECP are struggling to find people to remove their vans.

Update: Static Caravan Representative has found a company that will remove them.

The cafe update was that they now have ice cream. The trike has not been out yet, but will do when weather is warmer.

Park User said that previously there had been more reed beds at the edge of the river and lakes. A lot have gone to open up views, but could there be anything done? Emberton Park Manager confirmed that there has been coppicing of willow, but there is an intention for reed beds to expand.

Olney Ward Councillor requested a review of current parking arrangements and alternatives.

Future meetings:

Thursday 13 June 2024

Thursday 15 August 2024

Thursday 17 October 2024