

Emberton Country Park PLUG Minutes 15 August 2024

Emberton Park Cafe

Attendees:

Chair & Olney Ward Councillor

MKCC, Projects and Development Manager Country Parks

MKCC, Emberton Country Park Manager

Olney Town Council

Olney Town Council

Friends of Emberton Country Park

Emberton Parish Council

Park user

Static Caravan representative

Emberton Park Sailing Club

Emberton Park Sailing Club

Apologies:

Portfolio Holder – Public Realm

Olney Ward Councillor

Olney Ward Councillor

Emberton Parish Council

Meadow Brown/Emberton Café

Sea Cadets

1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made and apologies noted.
2. Notes and actions from previous meetings were discussed. Emberton Parish Council has not kept a record of the parking by park users in Emberton as requested at the last meeting. Emberton Parish Council said that there have not been many Parking Enforcement Officers seen recently. Olney Ward Councillor asked that MKCC Project and Development Manager report this to parking enforcement.

Action: MKCC Project and Development Manager reported to a colleague in Highways. In future this should be done by Emberton Parish Council as parking does not come under Environment.

Results Base event had been successful.

The Corporate Leadership Team awards to the Rangers had happened.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

3. **PSPO**

Emberton Parish Council had requested this be added to the agenda. The details of a Public Space Protection Order were discussed. It does not prevent alcohol consumption, but gives Thames Valley Police greater enforcement powers in the event of anti-social behaviour. It would require additional signage at every entrance to the park. There is not a regular issue with anti-social behaviour associated with alcohol at Emberton Country Park presently. When BBQs were stopped in 2020 it made a positive improvement. There are other powers that Thames Valley Police can use, if required, such as a Community Protection Warning to deal with anti-social behaviour. If that is breached, it leads to a Community Protection Notice.

Olney Ward Councillor said that we should keep a watching brief.

4. **Development Update**

MKCC Project and Development Manager explained no new information on parking at present. Contact has been made with our barrier providers and waiting for MKCC colleagues to be available for further exploration. As it is not on the Council Plan, it is not a high priority. It is understood that there is a desire to explore options further.

Action: MKCC Project and Development Manager to report back on potential solutions, including high level indicative costs.

A mobility scooter has been offered to Emberton Country Park for people visiting with mobility issues. The café has agreed to store it, and a booking system is being looked into. The idea is that it will be on a donation basis.

The Scooter Hub that was used in Station Square during the Women's Euros may come to ECP to go into a rally field. Looking at the cost to transport and erect.

5. **Operation Update**

Emberton Park Manager said the next moth walk is this Sunday 19 August and there will be further bat walks on 24th August and 7th September.

The triathlon went well, and the parking issues experienced in previous years were resolved and there were no incidents at the park.

Adventure Cycles have a new nature trail.

Volunteers have made bee hotels, which will be installed soon.

The hard standing for the bin areas will go in after the school holidays, as will the improvements around the gates.

Friends of Emberton Country Park were thanked for the use of funds they hold for ECP that are buying a new water bowser to support the Rangers caring for all the new trees that have been planted this year. Emberton Country Park Manager and the team are all delighted to have this and acknowledge the generosity of the Friends of Emberton Country Park for this worthwhile addition to their resources.

Two Relief Rangers have been added to the team, to make for more resilience during busy periods, or if current Rangers fall sick.

5. **Stakeholder Update**

Emberton Parish Council raised a request for dog poo bins, as some residents struggle to lift the lid of the large Eurobins in the park. This could present several issues, so it was agreed to trial tying on black sacks to the hinges with a sign so that there is an easier option.

Action: Rangers to tie on black sacks to some of the Eurobins.

Olney Town Council nothing to report.

6. **AOB**

There was nothing to add. PLUG walked around the park to see the new planting and discuss the play areas and what equipment is being priced.

Future meetings:

Thursday 17 October 2024