

PRESS RELEASE

PAR BEACH CONSULTATION DAY - FIRST THREE PRIORITIES

Par Beach Working Group met to analyse the results of the public consultation day held in Gott Hall on 5th February. The exhibition with its beach themed displays was visited by 286 people who enjoyed free tea and buns and a chance to discuss issues important to them. Over a thousand pieces of information were collected.

The top three issues that emerged from the day were the need to redevelop the café and have some form of refreshment available for visitors to the beach. The second issue was around the car park, the new ticket prices and the use of the area by cars, and the third most raised issue was about improving access to the beach over the dunes.

The Par Beach Working Group consists of the Friends of Par Beach, Par Community Association, Par and Tywardreath Parish Council, Clay Country Local Action Group, local Cornwall Councillor David Hughes, Cornwall Council, SERCO, Eden and the Sensory Trust.

In response to the call for café facilities Cornwall Council are currently advertising for expressions of interest in running a temporary mobile facility this summer. Cllr David Hughes said that although this is not a permanent solution it will allow people to get cups of tea and other refreshments there this summer. Cornwall Council said it will be calling for expressions of interest in running a permanent café later this year. In the meantime Miles Dewhurst from Park Leisure 2000 Ltd has offered to paint the existing café to tidy it up for the summer.

Mike Freemantle from the Friends of Par beach said "I hope that the work the Friends are currently undertaking with the University of Plymouth's School of Architecture can influence the final design of the cafe. We have seen some brilliant work from the students which would be good to turn into a building of which the area could be proud"

The car park featured in many comments, especially the pricing which means local people have to pay, even for a short visit. Cllr David Hughes said he would be discussing this with Cornwall Council's Car Park Services to see if there could be more local input into the management of the car park.

Gill Butler and Sonia Clyne from Par Community Association said easier access to the beach was important to many people especially those people with wheelchairs or prams, or older people. This was a theme picked up by Groundwork SW's Greenspace Development Worker, Jan Phillips. She said "I am happy to co-ordinate the responses on inclusive access in a smaller working group to develop this section of the management strategy as soon as possible, in order to come up with an action plan for which we can apply for grant funding"

Paul Mason, Countryside Ranger for SERCO was concerned that species such as the rosa rugosa, sea buckthorn and gorse were threatening to overwhelm the dunes and that some management control would be needed in order to control the spread and protect the natural dune habitat. He said that the plants that grow there need a very specific habitat and can easily be pushed out by these species.

The Par Beach Working Group agreed that there was much more information to be drawn from the consultation day and that a summary should be written that pulled together the key points. This would be made widely available on-line and in Par and Fowey Library when it is completed.

Contact details

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