

This report will be made
public on 18 July 2023



Report number: **FPPG/23/01**

To: Folkestone Parks and Pleasure Ground Charity – Board of Trustees
Date: 26th July 2023
Responsible officer: 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 Director of Housing & Operations, since January 2023, under his delegated authority to deal with charity assets. This report also covers other matters relating to charity land and proposes that Samuel Aligbe, Chief Officer – Corporate Estate and Development, is given the delegated authority to deal with charity assets.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. To receive and note report number: FPPG/23/01.**
- 2. To agree the proposal to allow Samuel Aligbe, Chief Officer – Corporate Estate and Development, to have delegated authority to make decisions regarding charity assets on behalf of the charity. This will commence from August 2023.**
- 3. To agree the proposed new level of £30,000pa at which the officer with delegated authority to make decisions regarding charity assets, which are not politically sensitive, can operate.**
- 4. To agree that a Licence to Alter is granted to the tenant of the East Cliff Pavilion to consent to the alterations.**

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The council act as trustees on behalf of the Folkestone Parks and Pleasure Grounds (FPPG) Charity in managing all the charity's assets. The council provides an update report to the Charity trustees every six months.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report provides the Board with the 6-monthly update in relation to all those decisions taken by the Director – Housing & Operations since January 2023. This report also covers other matters relating to charity land and proposes that Samuel Aligbe, Chief Officer – Corporate Estate and Development, is given the delegated authority to deal with charity assets.
- 2.2 The current delegated authority enables decisions to be made in relation to charity assets, which are not politically sensitive, with a value of up to £20,000pa. It is now recommended that the trustees agree to a revised level of £30,000pa at which the officer with delegated authority to make decisions regarding charity assets, which are not politically sensitive, can operate.

3. DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE JANUARY 2023

3.1 Lower Sandgate Road Recreation Ground (Coastal Park)

Beach huts, Marine Walk: the leases of the 115 beach huts were reaching expiry between Spring and Summer 2023. Future terms for leasing the beach huts were set out in report FPPG/02/04, presented to Charity Trustees in the December 2022 meeting. Since then, all tenants have been contacted and the council has agreed leases of 100 huts. The remainder are being offered to the next candidates on the waiting list. The current terms and conditions give those on the list three weeks to make a decision which means there has been a delay in agreeing new leases.

3.2 East Cliff and The Warren Pleasure Ground

- a. East Cliff and The Warren: The results of the consultation on a potential new play area have been reported in a separate report to the Trustees in July 2023.
- b. East Cliff Pavilion: The premises are let on a long lease to the tenant. It was found that numerous alterations were made to the building without permission and officers have been following this up with the tenant to regularise the position.

The Board considered report FPPG/22/09 on 19 April 2023 which set out the alterations made to the East Cliff Pavilion by the tenant. It was recommended that a Licence to Alterations be granted to regularise the alterations. However, the trustees noted that they would only support the recommendations should the tenant provide a letter of intent to open the Pavilion. Officers wrote to the tenant setting out this requirement of the trustees. Subsequently the alterations have been granted planning permission by the Local Planning Authority and the tenant has contacted the council (as landlord) confirming the intention to open in August 2023. It is now recommended that a Licence to Alter is granted to the tenant to consent to the alterations.

- c. Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) was granted a licence until 31 October 2025 to enable it to undertake archaeological fieldwork and excavations. The proposed dates for CAT's 'Season 2' works are 14 August to 6 October 2023. The works are to include the excavation of two areas north of the Roman villa site.

3.3 **Radnor Park**

- a. A two-year lease from 4 August 2022 was granted to the EKC Group (EKCG) relating to Radnor Park Tearoom. EKCG has now confirmed its decision to withdraw from the Radnor Park Tearoom but has yet to serve formal notice to break the lease. The lease includes a break clause enabling either party to break the lease any time after the first 12 months on one month's notice. The council is now following up with the tenant in relation to its dilapidations liability. The intention would be to relet the tearoom once EKCG has vacated.
- b. A two-year lease from 6 March 2023 has been granted to the Trustees of Shepway Angling Club relating to the small store adjacent to Radnor Park (Upper) Pond.
- c. Pétanque: Report FPPG/22/10 detailed the proposal for installation of pétanque courts at Radnor Park, to be funded in part by the Radnor Park Community Group (RPCG). Subsequently officers are now progressing the project.

3.4 **Various Charity Lands**

- a. A two-year lease from 1 January 2023 has been granted to Creative Folkestone relating to the siting of nine existing Triennial artworks on charity land (refer to Appendix 1).
- b. A licence has been granted to Folkestone Town Council to install CCTV apparatus at various FHDC-owned and managed sites, some of which is charity land (i.e. Coastal Park/Lower Sandgate Road, Radnor Park, and Canterbury Road).

4. **CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 The next update report will be provided in January 2024.

5. **LEGAL/FINANCIAL AND OTHER CONTROLS/POLICY MATTERS**

- 5.1 **Legal Officer's Comments** All legal related issues are covered within the report.
- 5.2 **Finance Officer's Comments** All finance related considerations are covered within the main body of the report.
- 5.3 **Communication Implications** Communication of the archaeological works at East Cliff will be issued at the time to the public.
- 5.4 **Diversities and Equalities Implications** There are no diversities and equalities implications arising from this report.

6. **CONTACT OFFICERS AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Triennial Artworks

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

None.