

THE COTSWOLDS DISCOVERY CENTRE, NORTHLEACH

Summary: To provide an update on the Cotswolds Discovery Centre.

Recommendation: That the latest progress report be noted.

Office Ref: Martin Lane, Director (01451 862000)

General Update

1. A sub group of the Partnership Board (Conservation Board and Friends of the Cotswolds) met in August to review and progress the outcomes of the July workshop on the operational and funding challenges facing the Cotswolds Discovery Centre.
2. A meeting of the full Partnership Board is pending. Board representatives on the Partnership Board (Liz Eyre, Nick Holliday, Mike Dean and Martin Lane) are aiming to meet in January 2018 to review operational progress.
3. From the end of October the Café and Discovery Centre have operated reduced winter hours and are closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.
4. During the summer the Friends had been invited by Gloucestershire LEP and the Rural Payments Agency, RPA to develop a Growth Bid for various building, facility and interpretation investments aspired for the site (the same funding stream as the Board's Gateways project submission).
5. The Friends decided not to support the LEADER application for children's playground equipment on site as they wished to invest money in other initiatives.
6. The two theatre productions (Alice in Wonderland and Three Men in a Boat) and the camping weekend in August had all been successful.

Supporting papers: None