

COTSWOLDS DISCOVERY CENTRE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Summary: An update on the Cotswolds Discovery Centre Partnership Board.

Recommendation: That the latest progress report be noted.

Office Ref: Martin Lane, Director

General Update

1. The Partnership Board met on 13th May 2019.
2. The refurbishment works being overseen by the Friends were largely completed by 24th May 2019.
3. The Friends of the Cotswolds' have accepted the Board's notice on the Agency Area Agreement. The Friends wish to sublet the café to a third party and employ a visitor/ events manager. In addition the Friends signalled that access to the former Agency Agreement area may be charged for in future. The Friends are to draft an Exit Agreement to reflect the termination of the Agency Agreement for consideration.
4. The Partnership Board agreed that the Agency Area would revert to the Friends with effect from 13th May 2019. However, it was recognised that a transition period was necessary e.g. to allow for any installation of separate meters for utilities. Ideally new meters would be installed by the end of May, and if that is not possible by the end of June at the latest. Similarly all rural skills activity on site would conclude by the end of May and the removal of associated equipment would be completed by the end of June.
5. As reported previously the Board will have to write off its accumulated debt on the Discovery Centre, which is already accounted for in the Board's finances, as shown in the Board's Statement of Accounts.
6. Board members have advised the Friends that from the end of May the Board would:
 - rent alternative meeting space off site;
 - relocate the Northleach based rural skills training and corporate training days;
 - not allow the Friends to use the AONB interpretation material previously displayed in the north gallery.
7. The timetable for the re-opening of the café is to be confirmed.
8. The Partnership Board is due to meet next on 8th July 2019, to agree final arrangements and the Exit Agreement.
9. The potential sub tenant withdrew from the tenancy of the Old Police Station when papers were due to be completed on 25th April 2019. Thomson and Partners are remarketing the property.

Supporting Paper(s):

None.