

Portreath Parish Council WAAF Site Working Group

Update to the Parish Council

Progress to date

There have been two meetings of the working group with a pause of activity during the pre-election period. From the discussion during the meetings and written feedback it has been recommended to fully compare each of the following options in the business case:

- option 1 (a)– Retain Ownership, Secure Site with Ongoing Light Touch Nature Friendly Management.
- option 1 (b) Retain Ownership, Secure Site with Ongoing Light Touch Nature Friendly Management by a Trust or Community Interest Group type arrangement;
- option 2. Retain ownership and look for funding to develop an ecological educational facility;
- option 3 – Retain Ownership, Offer the Site for Rent or Lease;
- option 4 – Permanent Disposal of the WAAF Site

Each option is being detailed in terms of description, positives, negatives, risks and costs with good progress being made on options 1a, 3 and 4 with more work needed to progress options 1b and 2.

Evaluation Criteria

To formally compare and evaluate what are quite diverse options, the Parish Council need to agree weighted evaluation criteria against which to assess each option. This will allow each option to be scored against the evaluation criteria and for a preferred option or options to emerge, should there not be a clear leading option.

Draft evaluation criteria for discussion and agreement by the Parish council are as follows:

- financial 45% - overall cost or savings of each option;
- risk 5% - immediate and ongoing risk of each option;
- support to nature 45% - how each option supports nature and biodiversity;
- support to heritage 5% - how each option supports the heritage of the former WAAF site.

The above weightings are very much draft and there may be other criteria that the Parish council may wish to include or to wrap risk into the financial evaluation criteria.

Next Steps and Timescales

The business case options need to be completed within a timescale set by the Parish council and the options evaluated against the evaluation criteria agreed at this meeting.

It is suggested that the next meeting of the working group should take place in early July. The working group will need to agree a new chair, with the outgoing chair willing to continue to be the author of the business case, if this is acceptable to the Parish Council and Working Group.

It is suggested that the business case and recommendations should be completed before the end of September for consideration at the October Parish Council meeting.

Simon Goodwin