



Community Services

Cogges Manor Farm Museum

Cogges Bulletin – December 2009

The Shadow Board for the planned Cogges Trust continues to make good progress. The Board has been focusing on their vision for the future of Cogges and on the necessary legal processes to establish the Trust and complete the transfer of the site from the County Council to the Trust by 1 April 2010.

A number of Task Groups have been set up, each chaired by a Shadow Board member. The Task Groups report back to each Shadow Board meeting:

Business planning – Jim Bradshaw: business consultants have been commissioned to review the business plan for Cogges – to ensure that the plans are viable and sustainable. The consultants report is due at the end of January. The Group has scrutinised the Cogges Museum budgets and spending for the last three years in order to prepare for the handover.

Communications and fund raising – Judy Niner: following the business consultants' report and more stakeholder consultation, the Shadow Board will announce its plans for Cogges in the spring; at the same time the new 'vision' for Cogges will be launched and a fund raising campaign initiated.

Legal matters – John Harwood: the Shadow Board is taking legal advice on the Trust Deeds, constitution, the lease and charitable status. Negotiations are taking place with the County Council's Legal Services.

Programming – Graeme Merifield: this Task Group is considering the nature, scale and number of events that may take place at Cogges in 2010. Many ideas have been suggested and the Group is weighing up the practicalities and implications.

Learning – Janine Charles: two very successful pilot projects led by Forest Schools have been held at Cogges during the Autumn term and it is hoped that these will continue in 2010. A 'Think Tank' has been formed to plan future learning. 2010 will be used to consult schools and community groups on their interests and needs for learning at Cogges – letters have been sent out to

schools throughout Oxfordshire seeking their engagement with this consultation process.

Staffing and volunteers – Mark Crosby: future staffing needs are being considered carefully, together with the role of volunteers. The precise nature and timetable for recruitment will depend on the outcomes of the other work listed above.

The Shadow Board is chaired by Julia Holberry; other members are Anthony Pettorino, David Cryer, Gordon Wilkins, Richard Munro and Simon Kearey.

Meanwhile.....

At Cogges Rosemary Rigby and Chris Munday continue to look after the site until 31 March 2010. All the animals and poultry have been sent to new homes. The shelter sheds are being re-thatched – essential repair and maintenance work funded by Oxfordshire County Council. County Museum Service staff have packed the collections away for the winter pending decisions about future displays.

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