



## CLARE TOWN COUNCIL

### To all volunteers and potential trustees

### Update on Clare Castle Country Park

5 December 2012

I am sorry that there has not been an update from the Town Council for the last couple of months but it is only now that we have some progress to report.

During October and early November it took time to reach agreement with SCC on the Terms of Reference for a review of the remedial and improvement work needed on the Country Park buildings. It was proposed to review the detail of the Savills' report undertaken earlier this year and each party agreed to provide a surveyor to undertake the work. The review was divided into 6 categories of expenditure. In broad terms these were:

- Category 1 - Essential Maintenance
- Category 2 - Additional works needed to support the CTC Business Plan
- Category 3 - Works required to meet future CTC plans
- Category 4 - Works deemed unnecessary for the CTC Business Plan
- Category 5 - SCC works completed/planned
- Category 6 - Savills' reported works not required

The review was undertaken in early November and we now have the report before us. This report shows that there is necessary expenditure well in excess of £100,000 to bring the buildings into a state of repair which will enable income generation and safe community use. We have asked SCC for a meeting before Christmas to move discussions forward.

Looking wider afield, we are aware that another Town Council with a country park has walked away from negotiations with SCC because there was insufficient funding from SCC to make the park viable. We are also aware of a Parish Council which has already taken over an open space from SCC with a small one-off dowry. They are now finding that the running costs and liabilities they have inherited exceed their income.

Clare Town Council has always insisted that Clare Country Park must be sustainably self-financing and we will continue to negotiate hard to achieve the best possible financial arrangement for our community. We have also committed to bring to a Public Meeting, or even to a referendum, the details of any financial arrangement that we agree in principle with SCC.

We hope to be able to advise you of further developments by mid January.

Keith Haisman  
Chair  
Clare Town Council