



## CLARE CASTLE COUNTRY PARK

### Clare Castle Country Park (CCCP) Newsletter – August 2014

#### Transfer of the Park

By the time you read this newsletter the decision the Town Council made on 13<sup>th</sup> August to take on the Park will be very old news. In the consultation process many people had expressed concern about the level of cash that Suffolk County Council had offered as a 'dowry' (£230,000). This was made very clear to Councillor Mark Bee (the leader of Suffolk County Council) at the well-attended public meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> August. The end result was that, following that meeting, SCC increased their offer by £87,500 (spread over 3 years) and this enabled the Town Council to vote unanimously in favour of the transfer.

Keith Haisman and Derek Blake are to be congratulated for not only the hard work they have put in to reach this conclusion but to achieve a financial result that was far better than many of us ever expected. They proved to be masters at detaching their emotional feelings of the benefits of the Park being in the hands of Clare from their hard-headed negotiating stance; the Town Council's original decision to split the lead of the negotiating responsibilities (by Town Councillors) from the planning of how the Park would be run (by the Trustees-elect) has proved so far to be outstandingly successful. It is now up to the Trustees to show Clare can run the Park successfully.

With most of the 'due diligence' process now completed satisfactorily there are two particularly important legalities that have to be completed before the deal is 'put to bed'; the drawing up of the legal documentation that deals with the transfer from SCC and the establishment of the Charitable Trust that will manage the Park. This will inevitably take time but we hope the park will be in the hands of Clare before the end of the year.

#### An invitation to Volunteers

From **5 - 7pm on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September** we will be holding an event in the Town Hall for the volunteers. Formal invitations to everyone who has completed our volunteer form have been delivered but anyone who has not yet filled in such a form who is thinking about becoming a volunteer will be very welcome. So that we know how many to expect (free wine and 'nibbles' will be provided) please let Richard Smith at The Old Bank House, 18 Market Hill, know if you intend to come. Alternatively, you can respond on [CCPvolunteers@hotmail.com](mailto:CCPvolunteers@hotmail.com)

The purpose of the event is to

- let volunteers know the details of what we plan to do in the coming months, our broader aspirations and how we plan to organise things
- have illustrations of specific projects we will be starting to carry out this Autumn
- give those attending the chance to ask questions and make suggestions
- enable volunteers to meet others they may not yet know.

## **Leaflets and Notices**

Leaflets and notices are circulated in Clare periodically. Some give no indication from whom they have come and the content is not always correct. Any newsletters, notices etc issued by the Park Trust will always make it clear from whom it comes. We will also provide contact details so if people have queries or comments to make they know to whom, and how, they can make them.

Geoffrey Bray – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014

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