

Pheasey & Paddock Local Neighbourhood Partnership 11 July 2005

Barr Beacon

Purpose of the report

At the last meeting, the partnership supported an initiative to showcase Barr Beacon by promoting it for the community and as a tourist event site.

The purpose of the report is to inform the LNP of the outcome of a meeting between the Chair of the LNP, officers and partners on considering options for Barr beacon.

Recommendation

1. That the partnership endorse the suggested actions in the report.
2. That a progress report be submitted to the next meeting.

Background

Barr Beacon is currently owned by the Barr Beacon Trust of which Walsall Council is the trustee. Currently the area is subject to vandalism, anti-social behaviour and graffiti. There is a desire amongst the local community and within the officers present at the meeting to begin to tackle some of the problems at Barr Beacon.

However, the current Trust arrangements are cumbersome and consequently present difficulties in attempting to achieve any improvements on the site. This needs to be reviewed to enable greater flexibility and efficiency.

Options for improvements

Barr Beacon is primarily a nature reserve and given its wide expanse of land and location is often used as a place to walk. However, due to anti social behaviour the area has been closed off to car access, at dusk, to prevent unsociable activity.

To re-instate Barr Beacon as a visitor site which local residents and the wider community can enjoy a number of suggestions were made

- Repair and clean the monument at Barr Beacon
- In order for the monument to enhance its potential to attract funding it needs to be listed as a war monument and this is currently being pursued.
- That a Barr Beacon Restoration Group be established

- Draw together a realistic series of short, medium and long term measures which could be incorporated into an action plan. This would be 'owned' by the Pheasey paddock LNP as actions within the partnership plan
- To review the trust deed with a view to re-constituting it in a more manageable format that benefits the quality of outputs and standards at the site
- Investigate potential funding streams to support restoration and other works at Barr Beacon.

Future Meetings

There is a strong desire to improve Barr Beacon and its tourism offer. Once the initial scoping of measures has taken place future meetings will be held to ensure that ideas are translated into action and progress reports submitted to the partnership.

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