

REPORT ON WALTHAM ABBEY ROYAL GUNPOWDER MILLS COMPANY MEETING OF THE TRUSTEES

EFDC – External Organisation Representative-Cllr. H Kane

The meeting of the trustees was held in the RGM, Walton House. The Chairman welcomed everyone present and proposed the appointment of three new trustees.

They are: Fiona Baxter, Wendy Newman and Jill Amador.

The Chairman went through the consultation of their strategy and business Plan and the very positive outcome of their meeting with stakeholders like the Waltham Abbey Town Council, Lea Valley Park Authority, and a few District councillors. Their aim is to have an open evening so more District and County Councillors have the opportunity to see their Business plan and put forward any suggestions.

The CEO, Mrs Stella Morris gave a short report regarding the Site Conservation update, as in February there was a visit by the natural England Site of Specific Scientific (SSSI) regional inspector and their teams. This was to follow through their joint intentions for a Scheduled Monument plan to guide built heritage conservation. A feasibility study should be in place by beginning of 2019 and funding up to 80% is anticipated from the Countryside Stewardship grant scheme. A plan should be in place in 2020.

Within the agreed budget is £ 10K towards extra site staffing to provide site and conservation volunteer supervision. This is intended to support new volunteer projects on site for built and natural heritage conservation, as part of long-term strategy for the site.

She also gave a report on Contamination Survey. British Aerospace have finished their contamination survey of East flank and New Hill (outside of the Scheduled Monument) and a report on these areas should be with the Foundation by the 2nd -3rd week in April. This will include recommendations on further survey of buildings within the Scheduled Monument area of new hill. British aerospace was instructed by the RGM to add the Slab 169 to their contamination survey which is an additional report. Dates for their contractors to visit have yet to be agreed.

The visitors' numbers although very high in the beginning of the year they seem to fluctuate. No safeguarding issues were reported.

I wished them all the best for the future; it was my last visit for this year. Their next meeting is scheduled for June and I am not sure I will be the one representing the EFDC.

Cllr Helen Kane