



NORTHWOOD HOUSE CHARITABLE TRUST

PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT

PUBLIC MEETING ON THE FUTURE GOVERNANCE OF THE CHARITABLE TRUST

The Trustees of Northwood House Charitable Trust held a public meeting in the Ballroom at Northwood House on Monday evening, 28 November, in order to explain future plans for the Trust. The event had been well publicised and over 60 people attended.

Chairman of the Trust, Ann Thwaites, outlined the work done by Trustees, supported by advisors as well as practical work from volunteers in the community. All aspects of the Trust's responsibility had benefited from the focus given by all those people and significant progress had been made during the twelve months since the Isle of Wight Council's withdrawal from all interest in Northwood House and Park.

Trustee Liz Mackenzie then explained that change had become necessary because of the Isle of Wight Council's withdrawal as main beneficiary, Custodian Trustee and Nominating Body. The proposed new governance has been designed to safeguard the public park and the buildings owned by the Charitable Trust.

A detailed presentation explaining the proposed governance for the Trust was given by Trustee David Christie, which he had prepared following meetings and discussions with the Charity Commission and other Trustees. The Charity Commission has also separately met Cowes Town Council and the committee of the Friends of Northwood House and Park. There was plenty of time for questions and it was clear that the accessible presentation and explanation of the facts was much appreciated by everyone. Andrew Turner, our Island MP, was present, along with Councillors from the Isle of Wight Council, Cowes Town and Gurnard and Northwood Parish Councils. Particularly welcome were words of support for the Trustees from Councillor Roger Mazillius and from Sylvia Pain, a Gurnard Parish Councillor (who got a round of applause!).

Later that week Roger Mazillius reported to the Cowes Town Council meeting that he had attended the professional, very positive and widely welcomed presentation by the Trustees.

People who attended and signed in may be disappointed to know that a stranger removed those sheets of information during the meeting in spite of the fact that they were secured to the table. This theft of data gives me great concern. I would be delighted if those attending the presentation would please contact trustees@northwoodhouse.org.

The draft paperwork is currently being studied by the Charity Commission. In line with Charity Law, before the new governance is enacted, the details will be publicised. This public meeting was not any part of the formal consultation process but was designed to let the public know the current state of the trustees' thinking so far as future governance of the charity is concerned.

Information is always available on our website, www.northwoodhouse.org

Ann Thwaites
Chairman

NOTE TO EDITOR

A copy of the draft Scheme and presentations made to the meeting are all available on our website, www.northwoodhouse.org.

David Christie is happy to answer any questions you have – email them to chairman@northwoodhouse.org and they will be passed to David to reply.

6 December 2011