Milton Creek Country Park Trust Meeting Monday 10 Jan 2021 5 pm on Zoom Chairman's Report

Happy New Year to Everyone! Let's hope for a happier 2022.

I have had a very bad cold for the last few weeks and lost my voice. Hopefully, by the time of the meeting I will be able to at least "croak" but I thought a quick note might save my voice a bit.

I think we are all keeping our fingers crossed for a better 2022, and control gained, finally, of this awful Covid-19 virus. We will never be rid of it completely but hopefully, like flu, it will become endemic this year rather than a pandemic, with annual vaccinations or medications available to those that are most vulnerable. There is no doubt in my mind that the way forward is to ensure as many people as possible get vaccinated, especially with booster vaccinations. At Kemsley Community Centre, we have played a small part in using the hall as a walk-in vaccination centre for a few days before and after Christmas, and we may arrange some more days in the months to come.

I am sure you will all join me in thanking Kris and the Swale team for all their hard work in keeping the Country Park going last year, despite the Pandemic, and of course, the same thanks go out to all the splendid volunteers, organisations, and donators that have helped.

I would also like to thank Lynda, David, and Jan for their help in the last year – Lynda for her ongoing excellent work in fundraising, website, and arranging meetings, David for his comprehensive financial reporting, and Jan for filling the gap in doing the Minutes.

Not wanting to steal Kris's thunder, but some highlights from 2021 are:-

- New toilet block
- Defibrillator
- Planning for Storage Container
- Planning for CCTV
- Public events such as Reindeer making, Frisbee Golf, art exhibitions, boot box making
- And, of course, maintenance and environmental tasks tree planting, bird surveys etc.

Looking forward, we will be planning for bigger events, better buildings (restart The Barn project?), working within Creative Estuary project (including stone sculptures), possibly absorbing the ground on other side of Swale Way (including ancient monument), and looking at our role/psotition in the overall "Creekside" area.

I look forward to working with you all in 2022.

Mike

Cllr Mike Dendor Chairman