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Date: *17 November 2009*

NOTIFICATION OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION

On 17 November 2009, Cllr C Wise, the Finance and Efficiency Portfolio Holder, made the following decision. Any member of the Council, who is not a Portfolio Holder, who considers that this decision should be reviewed should give notice to the Monitoring Officer (Grainne O'Rourke) (in writing or by e-mail) to be received **ON OR BY 5.15PM ON TUESDAY, 24 NOVEMBER 2009.**

Details of the documents the Portfolio Holder considered are attached.

DECISION:

Change of Opening Hours at Eling Tide Mill.

REASON(S):

To make effective use of the Mill, in accordance with officer recommendations and following the involvement of the Town Council.

ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED:

Not to change the opening hours: rejected on the basis that this would not be in the best interests of the building or the development of the Eling Experience.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED:

None.

For Further Information Please Contact:

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FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION: NOVEMBER 2009

CHANGE OF OPENING HOURS AT ELING TIDE MILL

ITEM FOR DECISION

The Council owns Eling Tide Mill. The Council has a management contract with Totton and Eling Town Council to manage Eling Tide Mill, as part of the arrangements for the Eling Experience. The Town Council have been managing the building since January 2009. Since that time usage and flour sales have been increasing, which was the intention behind the management arrangement.

Now having experience in managing the Mill, the Town Council believes that a new arrangement for opening hours would be beneficial. Under the terms of the contract the Council needs to agree any such changes. The proposal is to close the Mill for four weeks from mid December for maintenance and to open on seven days a week in the Easter and summer school holidays for a trial period of a year.

There is much to commend this. Winter is the quiet period in the year and it is a building which requires considerable care and attention. There are clear advantages to opening seven days a week in the peak period.

POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Council has funded the restoration of the Mill and instigated the new management arrangements. The intention is to raise visits to the Mill as part of the "Eling Experience". These proposals support those intentions.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct implications from this Decision. However, indirectly it will assist in the target of improved net financial performance over the period of the contract.

CONSULTATION INPUT

As the Mill is an important district facility, consultation has been undertaken with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Shadow Portfolio Holder of the Leisure, Culture and Youth Matters Panel. All the comments received supported the Decision.

PROPOSED DECISION

That the hours of opening be amended by permitting a four week closure in the winter for maintenance purposes and opening for seven days a week in Easter and summer school holidays. These arrangements to be reviewed by the Head of Communities and Employment at the end of the year trial, with a view to them continuing if successful.

REASONS

To make effective use of the Mill, in accordance with officer recommendations and following the involvement of the Town Council.

