

**Rockingham Forest Trust Update Summary
October 2009
The last six months' progress at Stanwick Lakes**

- The social enterprise at Stanwick Lakes (cafe, shop, function room hire etc) has had an extremely busy summer and the income for the first six months' trading was above target.
- The education suite has been completed and a launch/open day was held in early October for both invited guests and the general public. It has been opened up for the public to use at weekends since then.
- The key challenge now is to keep visitor numbers up to reach our targets in the off-peak season. We have developed a programme of community events in the run up to Christmas, plus various other initiatives in relation to the cafe and shop, plus a collaboration with the Frontier centre.
- The visitor building has been shortlisted for a number of awards, and we wait to hear the outcome of these.
- Both our business advisors (Saturn Projects) and Waitrose (advisors on our enterprise board) have visited over the summer and have put forward reports on how we are doing. Overall they are reasonably positive but there are always things we could do better.
- There has been an increase in the number of special needs groups and elderly and disabled visitors to the site. We have an enquiry from a lady wanting to book use of the education suite for yoga for those with disabilities.
- School visits are also up significantly.
- The outdoor facilities continue to be heavily used and loved by both the local community and those from further afield. Winter is a time for a programme of repair and maintenance.
- The bridge replacement is delayed by negotiations with BT and Central Networks, but the work should get underway soon.

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