



Briefing Note for Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

2 February 2005

COOMBE ABBEY COUNTRY PARK – THE MENAGERIE

At your meeting on 31 March 2004, an item on the disposal of the Menagerie and other buildings within the Coombe estate was discussed and subsequently a decision to market a number of buildings was taken.

I have looked at the minute of that meeting and checked with current employees regarding any action notes resulting from these discussions. However, the officer present at that meeting no longer works for the authority and I have been unable to find any written instruction as to what measures your Committee had requested to be taken to protect the Menagerie building pending its sale.

Vandals have targeted buildings on the Coombe estate during the time that they were vacant. Even though the Menagerie building had two metre high security fencing surrounding it, vandals did manage to set fire to it using the tarpaulin covering a hole in its roof. The fire was not extensive and the tarpaulin was not replaced.

The buildings were marketed and your officers are currently negotiating with the prospective purchasers prior to completion. A verbal update will be given at your meeting on the latest position regarding this matter.

Ces Edwards
Acting City Parks Officer
24 January 2005