

# ***Report to the Council***

**Organisation:** Waltham Abbey Royal Gunpowder Mills      **Date:** 1 November 2011

**Representative:** Councillor Bill Pryor

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## **Recommending:**

**That the report of the Council's representative be noted.**

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Following a decision made by the Management Committee and endorsed by the Trustees the Royal Gunpowder Mills appointed a Chief Executive Officer, Mr.A.Coates.

After some 6 weeks the CEO presented the Management Committee with a Development/ Improvement Strategy. This was finally presented, with a financial and personnel forecast, to the trustees to gain their support in the financing of the improvements highlighted. The trustees gave their endorsement and the personnel team, including the Friends of The RGPM, started working on the Improvement Plan

This included:-

- A re-branding/image campaign
- Re-development of the Entry Area
- Re-Location of the main exhibits
- Refurbishment of the Restaurant Area
- Extension to the Restaurant Area
- Improvements to the Young Person Facilities
- Re-Instatement of a working Railway.

The re-branding included focusing the activities to a more family friendly day out and by the important new brand name "*The Secret Island*". All of the above has required a major input of capital but has, during this current event season, started to show dividends especially the focus on a Family Day Out.

The RGPM still places much importance to its Educational Links and the Special arranged events such as the VE Day celebrations, Medieval Jousts and Guy Fawkes Weekends. "To name a few".

Finally the "Friends" of the site still undertake much of the routine maintenance and exhibit refurbishment works themselves, this effort being very much appreciated by all the Management Team and Trustees.

Further information will be provided for future Council Meetings with detailed information on elements which make up this special historic place.