

27-September-2012  
For immediate use

## **MEPAL OUTDOOR CENTRE PRESS RELEASE**

### **Mepal Outdoor Centre looks to the future**

Following a meeting of the Management Committee of Mepal Outdoor Centre on Wednesday 26 September, we are pleased to report an exciting step in the work to try to safeguard this much-loved community resource. The Centre remains open and is continuing to take bookings.

The Trustees have entered into a working arrangement with well-known Littleport-based charity, Cambridgeshire ACRE. Cambridgeshire ACRE will bring expertise in the management of community-run organisations and has strong community links which will help the Centre at this critical time.

Kirsten Bennett, Chief Executive of Cambridgeshire ACRE, commented:

“Our plan is to work collaboratively to overcome some of the current difficulties the Centre has been facing and to begin to shape a business plan for taking Mepal Outdoor Centre forward. At the heart of this initiative is our belief that this valuable asset should be safeguarded for the benefit of local people and the wider community.”

Fiona Wynn, a Trustee of the Centre, commented:

“This development signals the start of the new era for Mepal Outdoor Centre. We now have new Trustees committed to a turnaround plan and by working in partnership with Cambridgeshire ACRE we are optimistic that we can tackle the challenges ahead.”

Mepal Outdoor Centre Charitable Trust is registered in England as a charity (no.290429)  
Mepal Outdoor Centre, Chatteris Road, Mepal, Ely, CB6 2AZ

There has been a tremendous supportive response from the public and over the next months the Trust will be promoting its membership scheme to allow people to get more closely involved.

To keep in touch with developments at the Centre, please follow 'Mepal Outdoor Centre' on Facebook.

## **Ends**

### **For more information contact:**

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### **Notes to Editor**

- Mepal Outdoor Centre is run by the trustees of the Mepal Outdoor Centre Charitable Trust. The Centre, which is surrounded by a 20-acre lake, offers activities such as canoeing and archery, and is used by families, businesses and organisations from across the region.
- Cambridgeshire ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) is a rural development charity that works throughout the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area – and occasionally beyond - enabling people to take positive action to enhance their rural communities. Further details can be found at [www.cambsacre.org.uk](http://www.cambsacre.org.uk).