

Lydiard Park Heritage Trust



Lydiard Park Heritage Trust and Swindon Borough Council

Joint Press Release

14 March 2018

For Immediate Release

Following the Council's decision, based on legal advice, to abandon the Lydiard Park outsourcing process, Cllr Keith Williams has been appointed as the new Cabinet Member responsible for the House and Park.

Cllr Williams commented:

"But for the legal advice, the Council had intended to complete an arrangement with the Lydiard Park Heritage Trust as the preferred bidder. I'm pleased to say that, after a difficult few days, the Trust and I are working together on a professional and constructive basis to address both the short and long-term issues at Lydiard".

Mike Bowden, Chairman of the Trust, said:

"The Trust's primary focus has been and remains the safeguarding of Lydiard for the people of Swindon and future generations. Despite recent events we remain keen to work with SBC and we welcome Cllr Williams' appointment. We are optimistic that working sensibly together we can find an appropriate structure or arrangement which will provide a long-term sustainable future for the house and park".

Cllr Williams and Mr Bowden added: "We are pleased to say that agreement has been reached under which:

1. Swindon Borough Council will use their very best endeavours to ensure the Lydiard Conference Centre remains fully operational under the management of Swindon Borough Council from the day the current tenants Chartridge leave
2. The Council will work within the set of red lines attached to this joint press release
3. The maintenance and repair works agreed by our respective surveyors will be undertaken by the Council within two years, with the first phase of works being completed this year
4. All revenue generated within the Lydiard Park estate (which includes the House, museum, Conference Centre, park, retail outlets etc.) will be ring-fenced and any surplus re-invested back into the estate

