



How the walled garden outside Carew Castle currently looks. WT 04/10/17

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Café plan approved for Carew Castle site

CAREW Castle's walled garden will see major improvements to the tune of £231,000 after receiving funding from Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and Visit Wales.

Plans to spend £84,175 to build a café within the castle's walled garden were unanimously approved at the national park authority meeting on Wednesday, September 27.

The authority also approved a further £146,950 towards renovating the walled

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garden to include a vegetable patch, an education area for schools, and a tented area for craft and food fayres, on the condition that a grant from Visit Wales was not available for this.

A decision on the Visit Wales grant was still pending at the time the *Western Telegraph* went to press.

Chairman Gwyneth Hayward asking whether consideration was given to putting the café out to franchise instead of the park authority running it.

Daisy Hughes, the national park's visitor manager for South Pembrokeshire, said the team had looked at franchising, but thought that her team had the skills needed to run it.

"With a lot of effort I really think we could make it work at least for a year and then look at and make a conclu-

sion," she said.

There was also some criticism of projected food prices, with Mrs Julie James saying: "I think you have been a little over-optimistic in the prices - I happen to be on the board of the National Botanic Garden and the prices for food are substantially lower."

But Mrs Hughes said the prices were only estimates.

Work on the garden is set to begin either over this winter or the winter of 2018-19.