

EASTLEIGH MUSEUM JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 16 May 2012 (11:30 am – 12:40 pm)

The meeting was held at Bursledon Windmill

PRESENT:

Representing Eastleigh Borough Council - Councillors Bicknell, Irish and Mrs Sollitt

Representing Hampshire County Council – Councillors A Broadhurst and Davidovitz

Tom de Witt	- County Arts and Museums Service
Sue Wright	- County Arts and Museums Service
Len Purchase	- Friends of Eastleigh Museum
Guy Riddoch	- Area Co-ordinator
Jean Roberts-Jones	- One Community

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Keith House and Janet Owen (County Arts and Museum Service)

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED –

That Councillor Irish be appointed Chairman of the Committee for the year 2012-13.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED -

That County Councillor Broadhurst be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the year 2012-13.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2012 were agreed as a correct record.

4. CURATOR'S REPORT

The Area Curator introduced a report detailing the diverse programme of activities and events at the Museum between January and May 2012.

Temporary exhibitions and events included A Game of Two Halves, charting the rivalry between Southampton and Portsmouth Football Clubs. This was extended to 18 March by popular demand. Where's Spot? – celebrating 30

years of fun, was aimed at younger visitors and showed original artwork from Eric Hill's "Spot" books with an accompanying activities trail.

The gallery was to re-open on 29 May with Inspire! – Hampshire's stories of the Olympic Games. Including the story of Tommy Green, Eastleigh's hero from the 1932 Olympics.

A remarkable collection of British birds created by Thomas Atkinson Cotton, who lived at The Mount in Bishopstoke, had been transferred from Norwich Castle Museum to the County Arts and Museums Service. It was hoped that a selection of the 14 cases would be put on display at Eastleigh Museum at some stage. It was acknowledged that, if some of the birds were found to be now extinct, this could be an important collection and it was confirmed that Museums Service staff would look into this. In addition, the suggestion was made that the story of the collection's restoration process could tie in with the development of the Mount.

The Learning and Community Engagement Team had worked with three school groups between January and March 2012, with a total of 87 pupils. Over the whole year, 21 schools had visited, with 542 children. Positive feedback had been received.

Community activities had been attended by 149 people, with the Box of Delights project being particularly popular. The project was inspired by a time capsule found in storage at the Museum, from Rookwood School, which had closed in 2001. Outcomes of the project included a Town Treasure Open Day, offering conservation advice for looking after family treasures and a craft activity and treasure trail for children, the loan of school objects and photographs by a teacher at the school and interviews with participants which were recorded and transcribed for future use.

The Marketing Manager was working closely with the Museum to promote the service and to analyse visitors to feed into marketing plans. Promotional booklets for Museums and Archives continued to be distributed and over 30,000 subscribers now received the monthly e-newsletter, Showcase.

It was AGREED –

That the report be noted.

5. PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS WITH ONE COMMUNITY

The Strategic Manager for Community Engagement and Learning referred to a briefing note, previously circulated to Members, which contained an update on the progress made with the partnership arrangements between Hampshire County Council and One Community for the management of front of house services with volunteers at Eastleigh Museum for 2012/13. The briefing note showed the key milestones already achieved and those to take place in late May and June 2012. These included the completion of access improvements between 8 and 15 May, funded by the Borough

Council. The Museum was closed from 5 to 28 May and would re-open on 29 May with the opening of the Inspire! exhibition and the launch of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee family event programme.

At the previous meeting of the Committee, options had been discussed for the provision of front of house and voluntary arrangements which would provide a benefit to the local community. One Community had been keen to explore the possibility of a partnership where it could engage with the community and provide information and advice regarding voluntary services and it had been agreed that the proposed partnership should be progressed. The Service Level Agreement was to be completed on 15 May and a stakeholders launch would take place on 11 June.

The Strategic Manager for Community Engagement and Learning then introduced Jean Roberts-Jones, Chief Executive of One Community, who confirmed that the arrangement suited both One Community and the Museum Service's needs. One Community would have the opportunity to engage with the local community and provide advice on quality of life, leisure and other social issues. 14 volunteers had signed up, some of whom were interested in One Community's services and some in the Museums Service. It was hoped that a notice board could be provided, giving details of sports clubs, disabled sports and other activities, to encourage more visitors to the Museum. Exhibitions could also be linked to community activities. A Community Development worker from One Community would also visit and provide feedback to the County and Borough Councils.

Mr Purchase, representing the Friends of Eastleigh Museum, expressed concern at the staffing changes taking place at the Museum, which had resulted in a change of location for the meetings of the Friends. The Chief Executive, One Community, confirmed that, once the new arrangements had been finalised, the Friends would be welcome to use the Museum again. It was acknowledged that there was a wealth of knowledge amongst the Friends and those members who were available during the day were also welcome to volunteer at the Museum. It was pointed out that the Friends might also benefit from the changes as some of the volunteers at the Museum might join the organisation.

The Committee thanked the Strategic Manager for Community Engagement and the Chief Executive, One Community for their reports and welcomed the partnership, considering that benefits would accrue to both parties.

It was AGREED

That the verbal report be noted.

6. SERVICE PLAN 2012/2013

The Area Curator introduced the Service Plan 2012-2013 for the Museum. The plan supported both the County and Borough Councils' corporate

priorities and the Arts and Museum Service's objectives.

The Plan comprised the following key areas:

- Providing a welcoming and well maintained museum
- Hosting special temporary exhibitions and related events
- Caring for collections and providing specialist knowledge and advice
- Inspiring learning and community engagement
- Marketing and management.

With regard to community engagement, the Chief Executive, One Community reported that the Museum had been contacted by two community groups which were looking at recording the spoken histories of local people and linking them to the Museum.

In addition, visitor statistics would continue to be maintained as previously, together with statistics for One Community visitors only and those visitors who contacted one Community after visiting the Museum.

Concerning marketing, the Area Co-ordinator confirmed that he would contact the Borough Council's communications team, and let them know the milestones contained in the Strategic Manager for Community Engagement and Learning's briefing note referred to in the previous item on this agenda.

It was AGREED -

That the Service Plan 2012/13 be noted.

7. ARTS AND MUSEUMS STRATEGIC PLAN

The Strategic Manager for Community Engagement and Learning provided a verbal report on the Arts and Museums Service's Strategic Plan.

Phase Two of the Arts and Museums Strategic Review had been implemented with effect from 4 May 2012.

For the Museum, this has meant an intense period of preparation to open under the new community partnership arrangement with One Community, as discussed under Item 5 on this agenda.

An updated Arts and Museums staff structure would be circulated to Borough Council officers in early June.

The option for a Fully Integrated Merger proposal between Southampton, Winchester and Hampshire was being looked at in detail over the next six months, but no decision would be made until late 2012. A business case specialist had been appointed to work with partners to test the proposals with representatives from the public and key external stakeholders. Staff were engaged in this process through a number of workshops and workstreams, such as visitor services, exhibitions and community

engagement and learning. Unions would be engaged as appropriate. Funding partners would be engaged through County Council officer conversations during the summer. A report would be provided at the next meeting of this Committee.

It was AGREED -

That the verbal report be noted.

8. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on 17 October 2012 at 10 am at the Civic Offices.

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