

JOINT MEETING OF BURSLEDON WINDMILL AND EASTLEIGH
MUSEUM JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES

Wednesday, 5 February 2014 (10:00 am – 12:45 pm)

PRESENT:

Representing Eastleigh Borough Council: Councillors Bicknell, Broadhurst, Craig, Cross and Mrs Sollitt

Representing Hampshire County Council: Councillors Davidovitz and Kyrle

Representing Bursledon Parish Council: Councillors Mrs Andrewes and McCormick

Representing Hampshire Buildings Preservation Trust: Mr Jackson and Mrs Sutton

Representing One Community: Jean Robert-Jones

Tom de Wit, Tim Kelly, Janet Owen and John Tickle – County Arts & Museum Service

Diccon Bright and Guy Riddoch – Area Co-ordinators, Eastleigh Borough Council

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors House, Irish and Lyon.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED –

That Councillor Kyrle be appointed Chairman of the meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. CURATOR'S REPORTS

Tom De Wit presented his Curator's reports for both Bursledon Windmill and Eastleigh Museum.

In respect of Bursledon Windmill, whilst the current adverse weather conditions meant that the Windmill was not currently operating, a number of well-received events had been held. The Mill by Torchlight event, for example, was part of a national initiative and was conducted in partnership

with Wildern School – the first time that this had happened. Visitor figures were on a par with last year's, and looked set to exceed that. The service had received full accreditation standards, helping to ensure greater restoration of the Mill itself. Flour from the City of Winchester Mill was now being sold at Bursledon Windmill, enabling cross-promotion of the two visitor attractions.

In response to a question, Tom confirmed that he would compile a list of postcodes of who was visiting the Windmill.

As a result of recent auditing, the report also contained an initial risk register and the meeting noted the contents therein. Janet Owen confirmed that this ensured reporting of risk management into the JMC process, and would evolve over time. She stressed though that the risks reported here were more financially driven (as a result of the recent audit) and was just part of wider risk management across the whole service. This would be highlighted in future risk registers. At the next JMC, there would be a further update on the risk management process.

Turning to Eastleigh Museum, Tom reported on the exciting Mount project which explored Eastleigh's heritage in trade, commerce and science. External funding for this had been received from the company now redeveloping the Mount. This was greatly welcomed and enabled work to be carried out on the specimens. The exhibition of 'A Soldier's Journey' had also brought in considerable external funding and again demonstrated the depth of history in the Borough.

Again a risk register for Eastleigh Museum was presented, and Members noted the content therein.

Members welcomed both reports and, in respect of Eastleigh Museum queried whether stepped changes to the front of the Museum and sponsorship of displays could both be explored so as to refresh the venue. Whilst there were exciting and elaborate exhibitions and features toward the rear, the front of the Museum had not changed for some time. Councillor Cross, Mayor of Eastleigh, suggested that this could be linked to the forthcoming 'Mayoral Mile'. Officers agreed to look into the suggestions.

4. HAMPSHIRE SOLENT CULTURAL TRUST

It was noted that Janet Owen had been appointed as Interim Chief Executive of the Trust Board as well as retaining her County position. To that end, John Tickle, Assistant Director of Culture and Heritage, was attending this meeting to represent the County Council.

Janet Owen presented the framework and supporting documents for the creation of the Trust, which was felt would ensure stability for the two sites and take funding (both external and internal) into the future. She confirmed that this was now at the implementation stage with staff and

union consultations now in progress. A Trust Board was being set up, and related legal agreements and budgets being drafted. A decision was likely in the early summer, and it was stressed that partnerships were both crucial and integral to the proposals. John Tickle added that the County Council had guaranteed that funding would be sustained and without such an independent Trust the two venues would be vulnerable. The County, however, would still have responsibility for ensuring/financing maintenance and utilities.

Borough representatives remained concerned with a number of key aspects to the proposals and the required three year commitment on Local Area Committee budgets. It was felt that earlier questions and concerns had not yet been addressed.

To move forward, it was agreed that the two Local Area Committee Chairs needed to meet and discuss the situation further with their respective Members. Guy Riddoch and Diccon Bright would therefore submit detailed questions and specific areas of concern to the County Council within the next couple of days. On receipt of the response from the County Council, the two Local Area Committee team meetings needed to meet and come to a decision on whether / how they wished to proceed. This process, and communication back to the County Council, would need to be done by 21 February 2014 in order to meet required timescales. Alongside this, Bursledon Parish Council would be meeting next week to confirm its position.

5. DRAFT JOINT MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT FOR EASTLEIGH MUSEUM AND BURSLEDON WINDMILL

This item was deferred until the Trust issues were resolved.

6. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meetings of the two Joint Management Committees would be held on a Wednesday morning in June, exact date and venue to be confirmed.
