

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE

16 JANUARY 2017

At the Meeting of the Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee held on 16 January 2017:

PRESENT:

Dorchester Town Council	Councillors: C. Biggs G. Jones
	Officers: S. Newman E. Scott
West Dorset District Council	Councillors: A. Canning (Chairman) J. Dunseith S. Jones
Dorset County Council	Councillor: T. Jones
Blue Badge Tourist Guides	T. Loasby
Dorchester Association	J. Smith
Dorchester Civic Society	P. Mann
Dorchester Chamber for Business	A. Chisholm
Dorchester Local Nature Reserve	C.M. Hebditch
Shire Hall	A. Bright
The Keep Military Museum	C. Copson

29. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R. Biggs (Dorset County Council).

30. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2016, a copy of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed.

31. **DECLARATIONS OF PRE-DETERMINATION**

There were no declarations of pre-determination.

32. **SHIRE HALL**

Anna Bright, General Manager of Shire Hall gave the Committee a presentation on progress with Shire Hall – A historic courthouse museum. Members were updated on building work progress and informed that hard hat tours were available if any Member wished to visit.

The presentation also included:-

- The Shire Hall Trust's established Core and Other Aims
- Planned areas of activity
- Permanent display aims
- Justice in the balance: key themes
- Storytelling: tools and techniques
- Permanent display: narrative strands
- Learning, events and changing exhibitions

Anna responded to Members detailed questions in respect of Trust membership, project funding, forward business planning robustness, joint working with other museums, admission charges, number of staff and volunteers and whether there might be an opportunity to link somehow with the forthcoming prison development.

The Committee thanked Anna for a very informative presentation.

33. **DORCHESTER COMMUNITY PLAN**

The Town Council's Community Development Officer explained the process being undertaken to produce a new relevant Community Plan for the town. A mind map of ideas, previously identified by the community, related to Culture, Heritage, Tourism and Leisure was circulated and Members were asked individually to identify the eight ideas they felt were the highest priority.

The Community Development Officer then explained the next steps which included producing a draft Community Plan which would be presented to Committee for comment in due course.

34. **HERITAGE TOURISM FORUM**

The Committee considered the notes of the last meeting of the Heritage Tourism Forum held on 3 October 2016. It was noted that no response had been received from Dorset County Council regarding the letter to town centre traders with regard to A Boards and it was agreed that the Chairman write to the County Council seeking a copy of the letter.

The Vision Group had yet to meet but it was hoped that a meeting could be arranged in the near future.

The Chairman responded to Members detailed questions regarding how the Tourism Forum and Vision Group related to the Heritage Committee.

It was reported that the Community Carnival Committee had agreed that the date for this summer's carnival would be 17 June 2017 and the theme chosen was 'A Night at the Movies'. It was noted that the Carnival Committee was seeking volunteers to help with organising the carnival this year. It was felt that an article in the Town Council newsletter would be beneficial.

RESOLVED

That the notes of the Heritage Tourism Forum held on 3 October 2016 be received.

35. FRINKS SCULPTURE – SOUTH WALKS

Members noted that an application had been made to Historic England for the Frinks sculpture to be Listed during the summer of 2016. Notification had very recently been received from Historic England that a consultation regarding the proposed Listing was now being undertaken.

It was reported that a Frinks Festival was taking place in Bruton during the summer and it would be good to link with that in some way. Members were also informed that a 3D scan had been made of the Martyr's statue and that this could be used as a part of its interpretation.

Members also received an update with regard to the new information board and agreed that a quote should be obtained from John Hodgson for him to prepare a historical painting of the gallows. It was noted that a resident from South Walks had been closely involved in the original information board and it was agreed that it would be worthwhile liaising with her regarding the new board.

RESOLVED

- (1) That Listing consultation be noted.
- (2) That the Deputy Town Clerk following consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee be authorised to decide upon whether or not to contract John Hodgson to prepare a historic painting of a set of gallows for use on the information board.

33. A NEW NATIONAL PARK FOR DORSET AND EAST DEVON

Members were informed that the Town Council had now considered whether or not Dorchester should be included within the proposed National Park for Dorset and East Devon

and had resolved that it did not wish to advocate that Dorchester should be in it at the present time.

The Committee felt that it was unlikely that West Dorset District Council or the Dorset County Council would be pursuing this matter until local government reorganisation had been implemented in the County.

RESOLVED

That the position be noted and that no further action be taken at present.

34. **PEDESTRIAN WAYFINDING SIGNS**

The Committee was informed that the application to South Dorset Local Action Group Leader Rural Development Programme for a grant of £81,347 to contribute towards a new pedestrian wayfinding scheme for Dorchester, had been assessed, and had been chosen to go to the next stage of the process – full application. The full application needed to be submitted by 6 April 2017.

A part of the application process was to provide evidence in respect of the need and anticipated outcomes of such a scheme and Members were asked to share any information which they might have in respect of this which could help with the application.

35. **NEW TOWN MAP**

The Committee considered a report by the Deputy Town Clerk on a proposal for a new town map. Members noted that maps were dispensed by a vending machine and some concern was expressed regarding the time needed to keep the machines in good repair, collect money and restock the machines. It was felt that a debit card system would be preferable. It was also noted that any new scheme would need to fit with the proposed new pedestrian wayfinding scheme.

Members felt that it would be useful for a representative of the company to attend a future meeting of the Committee to discuss the matter in further detail.

RESOLVED

That a representative from Cityscape be invited to attend a future meeting of the Committee to discuss the matter in further detail.

36. **INFORMATION SIGNS - UPDATE**

Maumbury Rings

The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that Historic England had issued Scheduled Monument Consent for the new information boards and improvements to the two sets of steps to the top of the Rings. A contractor had been appointed to install the boards and undertake the

work to the steps during February 2017. Members were also updated with regard to the welcome to Maumbury Rings signs. It was felt that once the work had been completed there should be a ribbon cutting ceremony – possibly around Easter time.

It was felt that a welcome board should be located at each entrance to the Rings.

Dorchester South and West Railway Stations

Members were informed that the 'you are here' boards were presently being updated by West Dorset District Council to include such key areas as Brewery Square.

37. **QUESTIONS**

No formal questions had been submitted.

38. **URGENT ITEMS**

The Committee was informed that the Mill Street Exhibition was still on show at Dukes Auction Rooms but that it would be closing shortly. Those Members that had not seen the exhibition were encouraged to attend.

It was noted that Dorchester's first full and half marathon would be taking place on 28 May 2017.

39. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Monday 10 April 2017 commencing at 7.00pm.