

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE

19 SEPTEMBER 2016

At the Meeting of the Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee held on 19 September 2016:

PRESENT:

Dorchester Town Council	Councillors:	C. Biggs G. Jones T. Loakes
	Officers:	S. Newman E. Scott
West Dorset District Council	Councillors:	A. Canning (Chairman) J. Dunseith S. Jones
Dorset County Council	Councillor:	R.M. Biggs
Dorchester Association		J. Smith
Dorchester Civic Society		P. Mann
Dorchester Chamber for Business		A. Chisholm
Dorchester Local Nature Reserve		C.M. Hebditch
Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society		J. Murden

16. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor T. Jones (Dorset County Council) and A. Bright (Dorchester Shire Hall).

17. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2016, a copy of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed.

18. **DECLARATIONS OF PRE-DETERMINATION**

There were no declarations of pre-determination.

19. **A NEW NATIONAL PARK FOR DORSET AND EAST DEVON**

Members received a presentation from Richard and Sandra Brown from the Dorset and East Devon National Park Team who explained the proposal for a new national park. The representatives responded to Members questions regarding the perceived positives and negatives of being within the new National Park. It was noted that Dorchester was presently not included within the proposed National Park boundary and if it was felt that it should be included it would be necessary to make a case for its inclusion which would be considered by Natural England.

In response to a question regarding a new National Park authority overlapping with existing local authorities and how it would operate in partnership with them, the representatives confirmed that a Partnership Management Plan would be established, a good example of which was the South Downs National Park Partnership Management Plan.

The Committee felt that this was an important issue with many potential opportunities and noted that West Dorset District Council and Dorset County Council were both presently also considering the matter.

Members agreed that a good way forward would be to evaluate the benefits and disadvantages of Dorchester being within or outside of the proposed National Park area with those other local authority bodies that were presently considering the matter.

RESOLVED

That West Dorset District Council, Dorset County Council and Dorchester Town Council be invited to examine the benefits / disadvantages of Dorchester being within the proposed new National Park.

20. **SHIRE HALL**

The Committee was informed that Anna Bright, General Manager of Shire Hall was recuperating from an operation and was therefore unable to attend the meeting. The update on the Shire Hall project would now be given at the next meeting of the Committee.

21. **FRINKS SCULPTURE – SOUTH WALKS**

Members noted that an application had been made to Historic England for the Frinks sculpture to be Listed although it was unlikely that it would be considered by Historic England for some while as it was considered not to be under threat. It was also noted that a new information board had also been commissioned.

22. **WW1 CENTENARY FIELD AND COMMEMORATION TRAIL**

Members received the notes of a meeting with regard to a proposed WW1 commemoration trail in the town to compliment the agreed Centenary Field proposal at Holmead Walk. A proposed budget for the trail was also circulated which included an option for the creation of some ceramic or similar plaques, perhaps made in conjunction with Thomas Hardy School.

It was noted that the Duchy of Cornwall had agreed to fund the plinth for the Centenary Field board and that the Town Council had up to £5,000 to commit to the project.

The Committee supported the proposal for the trail and suggested that it link with the geocaching trail which was already in place. It was also agreed that the Committee would act as the project sponsor for the project and contribute financially to it.

Whilst considering this matter Members agreed that The Keep Military Museum should be invited to become a member of the Committee. It was also proposed that any organisation which had received accreditation from Arts Council England would be welcome to join the Committee.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the WW1 trail be supported and that a contribution of £2,500 be made towards the cost.
- (2) That The Keep Military Museum be invited to become a Member of the Committee.
- (3) That any organisation that had received accreditation from Arts Council England be welcome to join the Committee.

23. **DORCHESTER TIC**

The Committee considered the consultation documents prepared by West Dorset District Council on the future of the Dorchester TIC. The consultation identified two options, a cut down version of the TIC operating from Dorchester Library or an unmanned tourist information point based in an as yet unidentified location.

The Committee felt that the TIC was a valuable service and that a further option was that the TIC should continue in its present form until the outcome of the current local government review was known and the new authority established.

Members generally felt that no decision on the TIC should be made until all possible options had been thoroughly investigated and explained; the options should also include the possibility of securing funding from other organisations within the town and should endeavour to take account of the intangibles provided by the service.

It was noted that the Town Council would be considering the issue at its Policy Committee meeting on 20 September 2016.

Members agreed that the public consultation exercise had been exceedingly poor and unsatisfactory with restricted choices within a loaded framework.

RESOLVED

That the views of the Committee, as set out above, be made known to Dorchester Town Council and West Dorset District Council.

24. **HERITAGE TOURISM FORUM**

The Committee was informed that the application to the LEP in respect of Heritage Tourism had not been successful but that the Town Council was presently working with partners on three separate grant applications to different bodies to fund the components of the LEP bid and more. Members were also informed that WDDC had agreed to update the 'you are here' boards and that the Town Council had appointed a Community Development Officer and part of that posts remit was to develop Heritage tourism in the town.

Members felt that the Heritage Tourism Forum should meet on 3 October as had previously been agreed. The items for the agenda would be:-

- Progress report
- Dorchester TIC consultation
- Heritage Tourism Vision – Jon Murden agreed to draft
- Events calendar
- Structure of the forum

RESOLVED

That the Heritage Tourism Forum meet on 3 October 2016 to discuss those items set out above.

25. **INFORMATION SIGNS - UPDATE**

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.

Maumbury Rings

The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that Historic England had issued Scheduled Monument Consent for the new boards which would now be installed over the winter. Members felt that the Mayor should be invited to unveil the boards once they were installed.

The Committee also considered a draft 'Welcome to Maumbury Rings' board and suggested that the 'rules' element of the board was not suitable for a 'welcome' board and proposed that the two be separate. It was also reported that a request had been made for some information to be provided about wild flowers in the Rings.

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

Kings Road Steam Roller

Members were informed that the information Board had been produced and would be installed as soon as possible.

White Hart Development High East Street

This information board, funded by the developer, was now in place. The Committee thanked Kate Hebditch for writing and working with the developer to produce the board. The Committee felt that the developer should also be congratulated on the development which had significantly improved the gateway into the town.

26. QUESTIONS

No formal questions had been submitted.

27. URGENT ITEMS

It was requested that a copy of the letter, which the County Council had agreed to send to businesses regarding their obligations in respect of A Boards, be provided to the Committee.

It was noted that the river walk bank would receive its annual cut back during the autumn.

Members requested that Dorset Wildlife Trust update the Committee, at a future meeting, on any proposals for replanting the berms along the Millstream, some of which had lost most of their plants.

Emma Scott, Community Development Officer updated the Committee on grant applications being worked on in respect of Heritage Tourism and the possibility of re-establishing a Roman Festival to take place at Maumbury Rings.

Members requested that agenda and minutes of the Committee be available via a website.

28. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Monday 16 January 2017 commencing at 7.00pm.