

## **DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL**

### **DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

**18 OCTOBER 2022**

At a Meeting of the Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee held on 18 October 2022:

#### **PRESENT:**

Dorchester Town Council

Councillors: S. Biles  
A. Chisholm  
F. Hogwood  
G. Jones (Chairman)  
D. Taylor

Officers: S. Newman  
M. Manley

Dorset Council

Councillors: R. Biggs  
S. Jones  
R. Tarr

Dorchester Association  
Dorchester Civic Society  
Dorchester Heritage Magazine  
Thomas Hardy Society  
The Keep Military Museum  
Dorchester Local Nature Reserve  
Shire Hall Historic Courthouse Museum

M. Rice  
I. Gosling  
M. Woodgate  
M. Chutter  
F. Scott  
L. Poulson  
T. Little

#### **12. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. Canning and L. Fry (Dorset Council), E. Selby (Dorset Museum) J. Wallis (Blue Badge Tourist Guides), M. Gayton (Dorset History Centre) and R. Raine (National Trust).

#### **13. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2022, a copy of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed.

In respect of Minute No. 9 it was noted that this Minute was a snapshot as at the date of the meeting. It was accepted that both Shire Hall and the Keep Military Museum had been included in the final programme.

Members also felt that the traffic situation in the town on Heritage Open Day would have been better if the road closure applied for had been authorised.

14. **HERITAGE TOURISM STRATEGY**

(a) **Heritage Tourism Strategy – Progress**

The Committee received a progress report from the Tourism Development Officer which updated it on the work undertaken against the agreed Tourism Strategy Action Plan.

Members thanked the Tourism Development Officer for all the work being undertaken.

**RESOLVED**

That the progress update on the Heritage Tourism Action Plan be noted.

(b) **Tourism Partnership**

The Committee received the notes of the meeting of the Tourism Partnership held on 4 October 2022.

It was noted that a new Partnership Chair had been appointed, that the results of the two 2022 summer campaigns were available to download, that the 'Summer of Sunflowers' and 'Day out in Dorchester' campaigns would be run again in 2023.

The Partnership had also agreed to support and work collaboratively with the 'Totally Locally' initiative to promote local shopping in the run up to Christmas.

The Committee was reminded of the advertising opportunities available through the Keep 106 community radio.

The tourism opportunity in respect of the new cycle ways which stretched as far as Bristol was also noted.

**RESOLVED**

That the notes of the well-attended meeting of the Dorchester Tourism Partnership held on 4 October 2022 be received.

(c) **Heritage Tourism Strategy - Review**

Volunteers were sought to review the Heritage Tourism Strategy which had been identified by Red Kite some years ago.

**RESOLVED**

That Councillors G. Jones and D. Taylor together with M. Woodgate and A. Worth review the Heritage Tourism Strategy and report back to a future meeting of the Committee.

15. **REVIEW OF EVENTS**

(a) **Heritage Open Day**

Members of the Committee reported back on the Heritage Open day held on 17 September, 2023 which, despite there not being a road closure and the death and mourning period for HM The Queen, had been very successful. The Committee was also pleased that Fordington had been included in the events.

The Committee thanked the Project Co-ordinator for all her hard work in organising the event.

It was noted that road closures should be requested for the 2023 Thomas Hardy Victorian Fair and Heritage Open Day as soon as possible.

**RESOLVED**

That the update be noted and that next year's Heritage Open Day be held on Sunday 10 September 2023.

(b) **General review of the Season**

The Committee felt that it would be useful to have a forward plan of events to be organised by the Committee and the Tourism Partnership.

It was noted that the events diary on the Discover Dorchester website was very good and that the regular emails sent out by Fran Leaper in respect of events at Poundbury was another excellent resource.

The Museum representatives reported on their summer seasons which had been mixed.

It was felt that peoples behaviour had changed as a result of Covid which meant that there was a lot more last minute bookings for events and activities.

16. **MILL STREAM PATH – SECTION FROM LONDON ROAD TO MILL STREET**

M. Chutter and M. Woodgate updated the Committee in respect of the proposed information boards to be located along the Millstream from London Road to Mill Street. It was hoped to have fully drafted and designed boards available for the next meeting of the Committee.

**RESOLVED**

That the update be noted and the draft designs be presented at the next meeting of the Committee.

17. **ROMAN MOSAIC PROJECT – THE WALKS**

Members noted that there was nothing further to report at the present time.

18. **SPECIALIST HERITAGE PROJECTS**

The Chairman asked the Committee to give consideration as to whether there was specialist heritage within the town which were in need of promotion, interpretation or conservation.

Members reported the following matters:-

- That the graffiti under the railway bridge had been painted out. Some Members felt that any new artwork might reference Brunel.
- That the town had some amazing pre Roman history which could be exploited – Mount Pleasant, Maumbury Rings, Maiden Castle etc
- Protecting the Water Meadows – an application for Listing had been submitted plus a second one for Blue Bridge. It was noted that the local farmer who had worked the land for many years had a significant amount of local knowledge about this area and some oral history would be very worthwhile.
- The Linneys at Fairfield Market site had a great deal of interesting history and could be refurbished for many different uses.
- It was noted that the WW1 POW camp hut at Northernhay looked as though it was no longer in use and could usefully be Listed.

**RESOLVED**

That the ideas set out above be noted for possible future actions.

19. **BENCH AT SALISBURY FIELDS AND MOULE BLUE PLAQUE**

M. Chutter requested that the bench next to the information board at Salisbury Fields could do with refurbishing and that the wording on the Moule plaque was incorrect.

**RESOLVED**

That the bench be added to the list for refurbishment and that M. Chutter supply revised wording so as to enable a new blue plaque to be fabricated.

20. **QUESTIONS**

No questions had been received.

The representatives from the Keep Military Museum and Shire Hall reported that they would welcome members of the Committee to attend their venues for a tour.

21. **URGENT ITEMS**

No urgent items.

Chairman.....