

North Hertfordshire District Council

Minutes of the Heritage & Culture/Museums & Galleries Project Board Meeting held on 7th March 2007 (Sixth meeting)

1. Present:

Members

Councillor Paul Clark (PC)
Councillor Ian Knighton (IK)

NHDC

Patrick Candler (Pca)
Lynn Saville (LS)
Ros Allwood (RA)
Lorrae Hunter (LH) - minutes

Apologies:

Councillor Tricia Gibbs (TG)
Councillor Gary Grindal (GG)
Councillor Terry Hone (TH)

John Robinson (JR)
Annie Hawkins (HCC)

PCa welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to go through the Arts Strategy prior to it being presented to Cabinet. Although the meeting was technically inquorate, it was agreed that the meeting would go ahead and any issues would be referred back to JR as Project Executive.

Action

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 6th September 2006

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

PC questioned whether schools had been consulted. RA replied that all schools had been invited, and though several had accepted the invitation. Only one school representative attended the consultation meeting. Schools are being kept informed. However, they are more likely to become more involved once the schools loans service project group begins to meet. The Education Officer visits schools in North Herts and leaves a feedback form for them to complete. It is important to engage with schools in the long term. PCa advised that he is meeting with Primary School Heads in May to discuss the Every Child Matters agenda in relation to the strategy.

IK re-inforced the view that it is important to obtain the views of the wider community. PCa explained that we have tried to go much broader with Maria Iredale of Letchworth Arts Centre recently visiting Knights Templar to give a talk to Sixth Formers on the Arts & Cultural Strategy.

PCa/VW/LS are currently working on updating the Leisure & Cultural Strategy and this will give a more balanced view across the whole Leisure and Cultural Spectrum.

IK stated that although any capital bids are some way off it is important to take both the Council and the public along with us.

4. Highlight Report

The Highlight Report gave details of exception reporting only, with the following comments noted.

4.1 Tasks Outstanding

The Museum Resource Centre storage facility is on hold, until the work on the strategy has been completed.

A public friendly brochure will be produced once the strategy has been agreed.

The capital works for the museums will be included within the NHDC Capital Programme as part of the Service & Financial Planning process.

5.2 Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation Investment Plans

Currently the preference is for any storage resource centre to be located in Letchworth, if the NHDC museum is to be located in Hitchin.

5.3 Baldock Town Feasibility Study

This was considered by the Baldock Area Committee in September 2006. Consultants, in conjunction with the local community, including the Baldock Museum, are assessing future use options.

6.0 Products due next stage

PCa expressed concerns about the further publication and promotion of AMH Strategy, as things change once it has been published.

However, it was noted that the Strategy would provide a baseline, from which the Action Plans would be regularly updated.

5. Project Documentation

Review of final Arts, Museums and Heritage Strategy.

The Board reviewed the Strategy with key comments set out below.

RA explained that the strategy is a lot shorter than the first draft but the points are still very much the same.

Para. 1.1 – add ‘within the District’ at the end of sentence 1

Para 1.2 - add ‘and which link directly to the District Council’s own Strategic Objectives’ at the end of sentence 1

Para 2.2 – add ‘throughout or across’ the District in place of ‘in each of our five...’

Para 4.2 – RA stated that this had come from the Museums FSR. PC stated that the Board cannot change FSR

recommendations.

Include "augment" as this was included in the report to PARC.

IK stated that NHDC will only be able to provide one museum, though sites are still to be identified.

PC stated that NHDC need to be crystal clear that the Strategy accurately reflects the PARC resolution.

PCa explained that we are not inviting any further comments from the public as the consultation has now been included. We have carried out more consultation for this Strategy than probably any other. The draft has been on the website since January 07.

IK suggested that 4.4. should be more specific, mentioning more of those who were consulted., eg. staff and volunteers of the museums.

The Strategy touches on all the strategic priorities.

Para 8 Replace 'main highlights' with 'current highlights'

Para 9.3 Add the words 'efficiently meeting the needs of'

Para 9.6 Use words like 'enabling' here if possible

Add in section on 2012 Olympics.

The inventory will help us identify provision.

Appendix 2

Include those groups that were represented, e.g. schools, museum staff, town centre managers.

Action Plans

RA reported that there had not been many comments made about the actions plans.

Amendments were made to the action plans, as attached.

6. Date of Next Meeting

6th June 2007 at 5pm to be held in Committee Room 2, Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth.

7. 2007 Meetings

The following dates were agreed: 5th September, 5th December. All to start 5pm and finish at 6pm.