

Area Museums Committee

Minutes

Friday, 07 November 2014 at 10:00

PRESENT:

Councillor Robinson-Payne (in the Chair), Councillors Collins, Connell, Cutting, Jeal, Peck and Williamson.

Councillors Parkinson-Hare and Childs (Norfolk County Council).

Mr J Steward (Eastern Area Manager - Norfolk Museums Service) and Mr R Hodds (Cabinet Secretary, GYBC).

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 12 June 2014 were confirmed.

4 EASTERN AREA MANAGER'S REPORT

The Committee considered the Eastern Area Manager's Report on Great Yarmouth Museums for the period June – September 2014.

The Eastern Area Manager reported in detail on the following issues in his report:-

- Visitor Figures
- Heritage Open Days 2014
- Major Partner Museum – Arts Council England
- Museum Development in the Region

- Museum Accreditation
- Great Yarmouth Heritage Voucher Scheme

The Committee discussed the merits of continuing with the Heritage Voucher Scheme and received details of how widely used this scheme had been throughout the Borough. The Eastern Area Manager reported that the Norfolk Museums Service intended to review the operation of this scheme. The Eastern Area Manager recorded his thanks and appreciation to Councillor Jeal for his assistance on this matter. Members also discussed the possibility of including further information in the “What’s On” publication and to also look at the marketing of museums in the Borough which would be the subject of discussion at a meeting to consider the Heritage Strategy for the Borough next Friday.

- Norfolk Museums Service – Visitor Survey

The Eastern Area Manager confirmed that the attendance figures of the Great Yarmouth museums compared favourably with other museums throughout the county.

- Tenth Anniversary
- Great Yarmouth Museums and Social Media
- Youth Engagement
- World War One Commemoration and Appleton Painting Acquisition
- Schools

The Chairman recorded her congratulations to the Great Yarmouth museums on being awarded the prestigious Sandford Award for Museum Education.

- Temporary Exhibitions
- Museum Storage and Rationalisation

The Committee considered a tabled report from the Eastern Area Manager which gave details of the rationalisation programme whose aim was to review the collection storage and documentation needs and to assess their future significance and merit for re-display and general museum usage including suitability for handling collections and learning resources for work with schools. The Eastern Area Manager reported that those that are not suitable for future display or study will need to be found alternative homes whilst the Museum Service improve the documentation of retained collections. A number of artefacts had been identified as suitable for rationalisation from the permanent collection held at Great Yarmouth and Members of the Area Museums Committee were asked to give their consideration for approval of the actions recommended in the Eastern Area Manager’s report.

- Signage

The Committee discussed the merits of improving the current signage for museums in the Borough. Councillor Williamson reported that a heritage trail map was currently being considered for all sites in Great Yarmouth to which the museums’ locations could be included.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Eastern Area Manager's report for the period June – September 2014 be received.
- (ii) That the County Joint Museums Committee be advised that the Great Yarmouth Area Museums Committee approve the proposals for museum storage and rationalisation proposals as detailed in the Eastern Area Manager's report.
- (iii) That the Eastern Area Manager be requested to update the Area Museums Committee at a future meeting on the outcome of the rationalisation proposals.

5 GREAT YARMOUTH PRESERVATION TRUST UPDATE

The Committee received for information the Conservation Officer's report on the Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust Update in respect of the following:-

- 133 King Street
- 135 King Street
- The Cemeteries Project
- Hopton Ruin Church
- Town Wall Towers
- Vauxhall Bridge
- International Collaboration
- St Johns Church

6 HERITAGE STRATEGY UPDATE

Councillor Williamson reported that a Strategy Stakeholders Meeting would be held at the Town Hall on Friday 14 November to consider the following in respect of the Heritage Strategy:-

- To gather feedback on the two documents – Cultural Heritage Strategy and Branding Workshop Report
- Taking the Strategy forward in terms of governance structures and terms of reference.

Members were advised that hard copies of the Cultural Heritage Strategy report were available from the Borough Council's Group Manager (Tourism).

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Date of Next Meeting

The Chairman advised Members that the next meeting of the Committee would be held in mid January 2015, date to be advised to Members.

The meeting ended at: 11:00