

LARGER PRINT COPY AVAILABLE PLEASE TELEPHONE: 01493 846325

GREAT YARMOUTH AREA MUSEUMS COMMITTEE

16 May 2013 – 2.30pm

PRESENT:

Councillor Robinson-Payne (in the Chair), Councillors Collins, Cunniffe, Fairhead and Jeal.

Mr J Steward (Eastern Area Museums Manager), Mr A Carr (Group Manager Tourism & Events), Mr D Barker (Principal Conservation Officer) and Miss S Davis (Senior Member Services Officer).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B Coleman and Williamson.

2. REPORT ON GREAT YARMOUTH MUSEUMS FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY-MARCH 2013 (QTR 4)

The Committee received the Eastern Area Manager's report detailing changes to Museums Service staffing; 2012-2013 Visitor Figures for Time and Tide, Elizabethan House Museum and the Tolhouse; Museum Learning Projects; Youth Engagement in Museums; Exhibitions; and a Curatorial Report giving a summary of activity relating to collections.

A discussion ensued around school visits and youth engagement and it was agreed that the Schools Project Co-ordinator would be invited to attend the next meeting. Reference was also made to the Curatorial Report and it was agreed that this should include future exhibitions.

RESOLVED:

That the Eastern Area Manager's report be noted and the Schools Project Co-ordinator be invited to the next meeting.

3. HERITAGE PASS SCHEME

The Committee received details of the new Heritage Pass Scheme and concern was expressed that presently it was only sold at Maritime House rather than at the Museums themselves. The Eastern Area Manager reported that this was because of VAT issues but it would be reviewed at the end of the season together with the Pass price. Clarification was sought as to whether a Residents Pass valid for the season rather than just 8 days could be introduced, however, Members noted that, despite the Norfolk Museums Pass being less than £20 per year, take up in Great Yarmouth was very low at only 4%. The Eastern Area Manager added that, unfortunately, the Heritage Pass was quite complex bearing in mind it involved five organisations that all had different accounting systems and it was difficult to get

a proportionate income from Pass sales for each Museum. A suggestion was made that, as Officers were already looking at ways to make the Pass better, the Commercial Manager be invited to attend the next meeting and the Heritage Partnership be asked to look into the provision of a Borough Pass for residents.

RESOLVED:

That the Commercial Manager be invited to attend the next meeting to give an update on the Pass.

4. NMAS SERVICE PLAN 2013/16

The Committee considered the draft Service Plan and the Eastern Area Manager confirmed that Great Yarmouth Museums benefitted from being part of a County-wide Service.

RESOLVED:

That the draft Service Plan be noted.

5. MUSEUM SIGNAGE - UPDATE

The Conservation Officer gave an update in relation to the above and it was noted that this would feed into a Working Group set up to produce a Heritage Strategy which would link the whole town together not just Museums by bringing together heritage, culture and the arts. The Group was also looking at different ways to promote heritage eg heritage guide booklets, schematic town maps, interactive apps, blue plaques and signage etc.

Concern was expressed that the existing noticeboard signs were not kept up to date and the plastic needed replacing. It was clarified that there were five, one outside the Town Hall, two on South Quay, one on North Quay and one in King Street. The Eastern Area Manager stated that he had all the keys except for the King Street one which it was thought Peter Fitzgerald had. He added that it was not clear who owned these noticeboards as they had been paid for by inteGREAT, although the existing graphic panels had been purchased by NMAS. The Committee noted that the Borough Council had recently been provided with the costs for replacing the Perspex and providing new graphics that could be changed on a seasonal basis and could, therefore, promote museums open during the winter. It was agreed that the Eastern Area Manager would be asked to ascertain if the graphics were up to date and between now and the next season agree to replacements that would be changed seasonally.

RESOLVED:

That the Eastern Area Manager liaise with Councillor Jeal in relation to the noticeboards.

6. CIVIC COLLECTION

The Chairman suggested that the Civic Collection should be catalogued and more items put on public display. It was agreed, therefore, that Committee Members should look at what was included in the Collection.

RESOLVED:

That Officers make arrangements for Committee Members to view the Collection in order to decide what could be put on display.

7. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE

The Eastern Area Manager suggested that, if Members were minded to reconvene this Committee on a regular basis, County Councillors for the area should also be invited to attend as in the past bearing in mind that the Committee's function was to oversee Museums that were part of the Norfolk Joint Museums Agreement.

RESOLVED:

That Great Yarmouth County Councillors be invited to attend.

8. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 3.35pm.