

MINUTES of the **CULTURE THEME BOARD** held at the B2net Stadium, Chesterfield on 17 February 2011.

PRESENT

Councillor Andrew Lewer (in the Chair)

Stuart Batchelor (South Derbyshire District Council), Pauline Beswick (Peak District National Park Authority), Mike Blythe (North East Derbyshire District Council), Andy Brown (High Peak Borough Council), Sally Curley (High Peak Borough Council), Councillor Stuart Ellis (DCC), Kerrie Fletcher (3D), Mike Hayden (Chesterfield Borough Council), Councillor Jim Hewlett (South Derbyshire District Council), David James (Visit Peak District and Derbyshire), David Joy (Derbyshire Sport), Kirk Monk (Amber Valley Borough Council), Ken Smith (Peak District National Park Authority), Tim Spencer (Erewash Borough Council), Councillor Geoff Stevens (Derbyshire Dales District Council) and Councillor Anne Syrett (Bolsover District Council).

In Attendance: Wesley Downes (DCC, Chief Executives), Robert Gent (DCC, Cultural and Community Services), Barry Joyce (DCC, Environmental Services), Martin Molloy (DCC, Cultural and Community Services), Martin Simmons (DCC, Cultural and Community Services), Ros Westwood (DCC, Museums) and Ann Wright (DCC, Arts)

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Brian Ashley (Museums, Libraries and Archives Council), Steve Battlemuch (GOEM), Steve Pintus (NHS Derbyshire County), Councillor Chris Short (Amber Valley Borough Council), Councillor Emily Thrane (Arts Council, East Midlands), Allison Thomas (DCC, Environmental Services), Julian Townsend (Amber Valley Borough Council) and Lorna Wallace (3D)

01/11 **MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting of the Culture Theme Board held on 17 December 2010 were received subject to Pauline Beswick's name being added to the list of apologies.

02/11 **THE PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY APPROACH TO CULTURE** Ken Smith, Cultural Heritage Manager, Peak District National Park Authority attended the meeting and gave a presentation to Members on the PDNPA approach to culture.

Members were informed that the purpose of the National Park was to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park, and promote opportunities for public understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the park. It also had a duty to seek to foster the social and economic wellbeing of local communities.

This would be implemented through the National Park Management Plan, which was currently under review.

The cultural heritage of the Peak District National Park included all evidence of past human activity as well as the associations that could be seen, understood and felt. It included the aesthetic appreciation as well as the physical evidence of those activities that were all around us, providing the context for our daily lives. It influenced regional, cultural and local identity and was a key element in the social, economic and environmental development of the Peak District.

The strategy had to balance cultural heritage versus culture and addressed issues such as landscapes; buildings; sites; monuments and objects; records; archives and collections; local customs; legends; traditions; and arts.

The strategy also detailed the inter-relationship between cultural heritage, bio-diversity and eco-system services, and the landscape.

It was also explained that the PDNPA would take a strategic approach in the face of austerity measures and aim to protect most of the cultural heritage, bio-diversity, land management and landscape work. Despite budget reductions the authority hoped to retain or improve services by more efficient working practices and contributions by partners, and by securing extra voluntary sector resources where possible.

It was hoped that the implementation of the strategy would contribute to local and cultural identity, quality of life, including access accessibility and social inclusion; knowledge, education, understanding and economy.

A number of examples of projects that had embraced local communities were given and in conclusion, it was hoped that the strategy would provide recreation, employment and places to live and work and also make the Peak District a force in regeneration, tourism and sustainable development.

The Chairman thanked Ken for a most informative and interesting presentation.

03/11 FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE DERBYSHIRE CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP The Chairman explained to Members that the report that had been circulated recommended the creation of a new strategic partnership for cultural services in Derbyshire, together with appropriate operational arrangements.

It was explained that the future of the Derbyshire Partnership Forum itself was under review, following consultation with partner organisations. It

was explained that whilst the report was not intended to pre-empt the outcome of that review, it reflected the need to ensure that the future direction of cultural services was based on a sustainable and manageable partnership approach.

In terms of the new cultural partnership, what was proposed was a rationalisation of arrangements to give a clear strategic lead, with adequate operational support to ensure that priorities were delivered.

It was proposed that the Culture Board would be reconstituted as a strategic lead body, meeting no more than four times per year. It would be member led, but would be able to accommodate key individuals from outside Local Government. The participation of the voluntary and community sector in the work of the Culture Board had made a valuable contribution, and the sector would remain integral to the new arrangements. The Chair of Derbyshire Sport would also have a seat on the new body and the membership of the group could be extended to include other key players from the cultural sector. It was proposed that the name of the new partnership would be Culture Derbyshire.

Culture Derbyshire would be supported by an officer led executive group, bringing together senior managers from the organisations represented. It was suggested that the existing Derbyshire Culture Officers Group take the lead in designing the structure and terms of reference of the group and that their recommendations be presented to the future meeting.

It was also recommended that the opportunity be grasped to sustain the Derbyshire Arts Partnership by incorporating it into Culture Derbyshire. The work of the Derbyshire Arts Development Group would be represented in the new operational arrangements to be devised by the Derbyshire Cultural Officers Group. Consideration would also be given to the role of the Derbyshire Museums Forum. It was noted to a large extent the role of Culture Derbyshire would reflect the existing terms of reference of the Culture Board, which were detailed in the report. Members of the Board raised a number of questions ideas and issues, all of which were noted and would be considered.

A final decision on the recommendations would be taken at the Derbyshire Partnership meeting in April.

It was resolved;

(1) to approve the creation of a new partnership body, to be known as Culture Derbyshire, to replace the Culture Thematic Partnership Board, subject to rectification by the Derbyshire Partnership Forum;

(2) to approve the functions defined in the body of the report;

(3) that the Derbyshire Cultural Officer's Group act as the executive arm of Culture Derbyshire and that the group be requested to draw up an appropriate structure and terms of reference for presentation to a future meeting of Culture Derbyshire; and

(4) that the Chairman of Derbyshire Sport be invited to serve on Culture Derbyshire.

04/11 DERBYSHIRE CULTURE OFFICERS GROUP WORKSHOP

The Derbyshire Cultural Officers Group Efficiency Workshop had recently met with District Councils, to discuss each authority's position with regard to collaboration opportunities with lead partners and the capacity they currently had in order to offer direct support. Details were given of the support available at the current time.

Stuart Batchelor and David Joy were to meet with the consultant next week in order to finalise the report, which would then be taken to the Culture Officers Group meeting prior to final submission to Culture Derbyshire.

Discussion had taken place around a county wide Leisure Trust with the possibility of a number of local trusts beneath this. This may involve shared posts and districts working together to get wider coverage.

It was clear that the group needed to look for collaborative solutions and it was hoped information could be gained from other organisations/areas of work, where such solutions had already been successful and other examples of joint working in Derbyshire were discussed.

05/11 OUTCOMES OF CULTURAL SERVICES AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL PRIORITIES: A REVIEW OF THE EVIDENCE

Robert Gent informed Members of a three month research project, funded by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, which investigated the outcomes of cultural services in Derbyshire.

The first element had been to pilot LGID's new national outcomes framework for cultural services. Derbyshire's comments had been reflected in the new release of the framework.

The second element of the project was a bid to the AHRC for a collaborative doctoral project with the University of Sheffield, which would produce an outcomes framework for the Countywide Partnership. It was hoped a response would be received from AHRC by the end of April.

The third element of the project was the production of a report which mapped the contribution of cultural services to wider Derbyshire partnership priorities.

This work had been undertaken by Martin Simmons, who had just gained a Masters Degree at Sheffield University. Robert thanked Martin for his work in producing such an excellent and informative document.

Drawing on different types of local, national and international evidence available, it had been shown that cultural services did play an important and meaningful role in achieving Council priorities.

It was felt that a pragmatic approach was appropriate for the local county wide partnership, one which encouraged cultural providers to be clear about the purpose and desired outcomes of the activities they undertook, and to put into place effective mechanisms for monitoring, which were not so onerous that they diverted resources away from service delivery.

This short project suggested a number of recommendations for future development, with the main focus being on how to evidence outcomes of Derbyshire Cultural Services in a way that was convincing and unambiguous, moving away from the mechanistic national indicators.

The Chairman once again thanked Martin for his hard work in undertaking the research project which would now form the basis for Culture Derbyshire in moving forward in evidencing outcomes.

06/11 **WORLD HERITAGE SITE UPDATE** Martin Molloy informed Members that the first meeting of the board had taken place recently at Derby University and had been a very constructive meeting.

Board members had taken thematic responsibilities for areas of work within the World Heritage site, which they would champion and deliver.

Mark Suggitt had recently been appointed as World Heritage Site Director and he came with a great experience from the heritage sector.

The three other posts within the team to work under the Director had been evaluated and Cabinet approval would be sought to recruit to them.

The Administrator had already been appointed and would commence duties on 28 February 2011.

Barry Joyce informed the meeting that as part of the Cultural Olympiad, an opportunity had arisen to produce a promotional film about the World Heritage Sites to be shown on big screens throughout England.

An outstanding promotional film had been produced for the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, with the aid of funding from the Regional

Improvement and Efficiency Partnership; it was hoped that Culture Board members would have an opportunity to view the film in due course.

07/11 **DERBYSHIRE SPORT UPDATE** David Joy, Derbyshire Sport, informed Members that the Schools Sports Partnerships, had been very successful in achieving their goals of getting young people to undertake meaningful physical activity and figures showed that participation of young people in school sport had increased significantly over the last 5 years.

Following the withdrawal of funding a lot of positive work was undertaken to re-think and revitalise the provision of sport in schools, this being emphasised by a Schools Sports Co-ordinator being provided in all schools, at least one day a week.

The Schools Sports Partnership Managers Network was confident of gaining funding to sustain their work for the next two years with a final decision being taken shortly.

In relation to the Sportivate programme, it was confirmed that lottery funding of £500,000 had been put into the County to support 14 - 25 year olds participating in sport, with both local authorities and third sector involvement instrumental in the scheme.

08/11 **OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY** Members were informed that the organising committee had recently announced details regarding the countdown to the Olympics including ticket sales and it had emerged that the torch relay route would be announced on 18 May 2011.

In advance of this, the East Midlands Development Agency were holding a workshop on 30 March to discuss the torch relay, but rather than wait for the decision, the Championing Derbyshire Group had arranged a meeting at the Derbyshire County Cricket Club on 1 March, as they were keen to formulate ideas as to how to engage communities and key stakeholders in the event of the route travelling through the County.

09/11 **REGENERATION IN CHESTERFIELD AND THE CHESTERFIELD FOOTBALL CLUB** Mike Hayden provided Members with a summary of regeneration sites and projects in Chesterfield as of February 2011. Mike explained that part of his role was a responsibility for culture within Chesterfield and he believed that the quality of culture now available was widely regarded and that the B2net Stadium was proof of how sport and culture could lead to regeneration.

Mike explained how the old Dema Glass site had been transformed into the new football stadium, which led to major regeneration in the area and how the project and the football club had engaged with the local community.

Details were given of other projects such as the Chesterfield Town Centre and Market Hall refurbishment and Casa Hotel, which would enhance and promote what Chesterfield had to offer in terms of tourism and encouraging visitors to the town centre. Mention was also made of the Chesterfield Waterside project and the proposed Peak Resort, as Birchall, which would also further regenerate the area.

Barry Hubbard, Chairman of Chesterfield Town Football Club made a brief presentation to Members with regards to the new stadium and the strong community links that the club had forged.

Members undertook a tour of the stadium with the Chairman, which highlighted what an excellent community provision had been established through regeneration.

The Chairman thanked Barry for his presentation and the opportunity for the stadium.

10/11 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** Dates of meetings for the forthcoming year would be confirmed at a later date.