

**MINUTES** of the **CULTURE DERBYSHIRE BOARD** held at County Hall, Matlock on 25 May 2012

**PRESENT**

Councillor Andrew Lewer (in the Chair)

Nigel Caldwell (3D), Huw Davies (University of Derby), Wes Downes (DCC - Chief Executives), Denise Edwards (National Trust), Robert Gent (DCC – Cultural & Community Services), Matthew Hirst (Chatsworth), Peter Knott (Arts Council, England), Adam Lathbury (DCC – Conservation & Design), Martin Molloy (DCC – Strategic Director Cultural & Community Services), Steve Pintus (Public Health – DCC PCT), David Senior (National Tramway Museum), Peter Shelton (Arts Derbyshire), Rory Slater (Derbyshire 2012 Olympic Legacy Coordinator), Councillor Geoff Stevens (Derbyshire Dales District Council), Anthony Streeten (English Heritage) Mark Suggitt (Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site), Ros Westwood (DCC – Derbyshire Museums Manager) Lucy Yarham (Derbyshire Museums Forum)

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Glynn Foley (Buxton Festival), Councillor Carol Hart (Derbyshire Sport), David James (Visit Peak District & Derbyshire), Councillor Barry Lewis (Creswell Heritage Trust), Robert Mayo (Wellbeck Estate), Emma Sayer (Heritage Lottery Fund), Councillor Ann Syrett (Bolsover District Council), Allison Thomas (DCC – Environmental Services)

Councillor Lewer welcomed Huw Davis, Matthew Hirst, Peter Shelton, Adam Lathbury and Anthony Streeten to their first meeting of the Board.

**13/12**        **MINUTES** The Minutes of the meeting of the Culture Derbyshire Board held on 26 January 2012 were received.

**14/12**        **MATTERS ARISING** (a) Mapping of the Cultural Sector (Minute 07/12 refers) Martin Molloy explained that a small group of staff within the Cultural & Community Services Department had been carrying out significant work in relation to mapping the cultural sector and would be invited along to the next meeting to provide a presentation for members.

**15/12**        **DERWENT VALLEY MILLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE** Mark Suggitt, Director of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site attended the meeting and gave a brief presentation to members on the “Derwent Valley, The Valley that changed the World”.

Mark explained that the Derwent Valley had gained World Heritage Status in 2001 and was one of 28 sites within the UK of outstanding universal value and the only one in the East Midlands. The justification for inscription was that “the Derwent Valley saw the birth of the factory system, when new

types of buildings were erected to house the new technology for spinning cotton developed by Richard Arkwright” and “in the Derwent Valley for the first time there was large scale industrial production in a hitherto rural landscape. The need to provide housing for workers and managers resulted in the creation of the first modern industrial town”.

Examples of sites and on-going projects within the Derwent Valley were given in the presentation.

The new management team was now in place and based at County Hall with a mission of maintaining the outstanding universal value of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site by protecting, conserving, presenting, enhancing and transmitting its unique culture, heritage, economy and landscape in a sustainable manner. Details were given of the World Heritage Site vision and key aims for the future, which were managed by a Board comprising Local Authority and individual members from commerce and industry. Details were given of the funding sources available and the services offered, including advocacy and representation, marketing and tourism.

Work was currently being undertaken to review the Management Plan which was essential to retain World Heritage status with UNESCO. The new version would be completed by December 2012.

Mark set out the challenges that lay ahead and explained the aim was within the next five years that:

- There would be a gateway attraction at Cromford and a range of business tenants
- A thriving museum trust in Derby and a re-visioned Silk Mill
- A dredged Cromford Canal
- A higher marketing profile, equating to more visitors
- A thriving Business Centre at Darley Abbey
- A plan for developing the Belper Mills; and
- Sensitive development within the site.

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

**16/12      REMEMBERING WORLD WAR ONE** Ros Westwood, Derbyshire Museums Manager, attended the meeting and sought members’ opinions and thoughts in relation to ideas to commemorate the Centenary of World War One.

Ros explained that planning nationally was well in hand for the commemoration of the Centenary of the outbreak of the First World War, being led by the Imperial War Museum. The Heritage Lottery Fund had also recognised that there would be need for support funding.

It was felt appropriate that there should be a Derbyshire response and the Authority was suggesting a full programme from January 2014 to December 2018 realising there would be periods of high activity and quieter periods.

It was proposed that the response should be county and city wide, inclusive, respectful, cross-generational and include the regiments. It should also have a local flavour and character but be affordable and engaging.

Details were given of a number of initial ideas and thoughts for projects/events and it was felt that many people would have memories and stories to tell. The emphasis at this stage was on finding ways to get people to research these and share them with others. It was felt that obvious routes included a web-site and blog, publications and audio recordings. Another potential idea was the creation of a series of pull up banners to go anywhere including libraries, museums, Post Offices, care homes and schools and the use of QR codes to build a trail across Derbyshire so everyone could see them all. An event programme would be published and distributed and anyone who was having an event could include it in the marketing. Ros explained that the Heritage Lottery Fund had suggested that having an individual who could help coordinate bids to them would be appreciated.

A general discussion took place amongst members with a number of ideas being raised, which were duly noted.

Ros would continue to progress the project and report back to a future meeting on progress made.

**17/12      OLYMPIC GAMES UPDATE** Rory Slater, Derbyshire 2012 Legacy Coordinator attended the meeting and up-dated members with reference to Derbyshire and the London 2012 Games. Rory explained how his role had been to coordinate with partners to maximise the event both in the lead-up, during and after the games. Derbyshire had already been highly successful in two areas of the project by inspiring young people and developing talented sports people within the county. More schools were involved in the National Sports Week programme than any other county in the country. There were 263 Inspire Mark projects in the East Midlands, with 127 of these being sport based and many being in Derbyshire.

Derbyshire had also been successful in securing a considerable number of business contracts in relation to the games with 560 plus contracts coming into the East Midlands at a value of £460 million.

Derbyshire has also been promoted as a place to visit and was being used as a base for 2 countries' badminton teams prior to the games.

Reference was made to the successful continuation of the Cultural Olympiad project, which was a combination of art and sport linking history,

heritage, diversity and the arts, with large numbers of local artists playing a part.

As all members were aware the Olympic Torch Relay was coming through Derbyshire on 29 June 2012 with numerous events along the route. This is very much seen as a chance for Derbyshire to promote itself in front of a huge world-wide audience culminating in the event in Darley Park in Derby on the evening of 29 June 2012, which was one of only five events within the country to receive extended media coverage.

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

#### **18/12      A CULTURAL STRATEGY FOR DERBYSHIRE 2012 TO 2016**

Robert Gent circulated an initial draft copy of the Cultural Strategy seeking comments from members prior to the document being finalised at the Cultural Conference on 22 June 2012, prior to its publication.

Robert took members through the document incorporating comments, amendments and ideas. Members were also invited to provide Robert with any further comments in relation to the Cultural Strategy and Action Plan once they had given it further consideration. Members were also invited to submit any images that captured the spirit and feeling of the strategy for possible inclusion in the final document.

**19/12      CULTURE DERBYSHIRE CONFERENCE 2012** Robert reminded members of the Culture Derbyshire Conference 2012 - "A changing landscape, the future of culture in Derbyshire" which would be held at the Winding Wheel, Chesterfield on Friday 22 June 2012.

It was noted that 65 people had already registered for the conference.

The conference would address "In a changing financial and political landscape what the implications were for culture in Derbyshire? What was the vision for culture post the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games and how would we use the Cultural Strategy for Derbyshire to enhance the cultural offer? What was the vision of the Derbyshire Culture Board for 2013 and beyond and how would it deliver? What was the future challenges and opportunities and how sustainable was funding, partnerships and innovation in culture?"

This was by no means an exhaustive list and these were just some of the issues that the dedicated cultural conference would seek to explore. It would also provide an opportunity for consultation on the final draft of the Cultural Strategy for Derbyshire.

**20/12      DATE OF NEXT MEETING** It was agreed that the next Culture Derbyshire Board meeting would take place on Wednesday 26 September 2012 at 2.00pm in Committee Room 1, County Hall.