

MINUTES of the **CULTURE DERBYSHIRE BOARD** held at the County Hall, Matlock, on 26 January 2012

PRESENT

Councillor Andrew Lewer (in the Chair)

Stuart Batchelor (South Derbyshire District Council), Pauline Beswick (Peak District National Park Authority), Nigel Caldwell (3D), Wes Downes (DCC-Chief Executives) Denise Edwards (National Trust), Glyn Foley (Buxton Festival), Robert Gent (DCC – Cultural and Community Services) Councillor Carol Hart (Derbyshire Sport), David James (Visit Peak District and Derbyshire), Barry Joyce (DCC, Conservation and Design), David Joy (Derbyshire Sport), Peter Knott (Arts Council England), Councillor Barry Lewis (Creswell Heritage Trust), Robert Mayo (Welbeck Estate), Martin Molloy (DCC - Strategic Director, Cultural and Community Services), David Senior (National Tramway Museum), Councillor Chris Short (Amber Valley Borough Council), Alexandra Sitwell (Renishaw Hall), Paul Slater (Camping & Caravan Club), Councillor Geoff Stevens (Derbyshire Dales District Council), Mark Suggitt (Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site), Councillor Anne Syrett (Bolsover District Council), Allison Thomas (DCC Environmental Services), Ian Wall (Creswell Heritage Trust), Councillor Mike Wallis (Erewash Borough Council), Paul Wilson (Derbyshire Dales District Council), Adrian Woodhouse (Renishaw Hall), Ann Wright (Derbyshire Arts Partnership) and Lucy Yarham (Derbyshire Museums Forum).

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Jim Hewlett (South Derbyshire District Council), Matthew Hirst (Chatsworth House), Keith Logan (Gallery Top), Emma Sayer (Heritage Lottery Fund), and Anthony Streeten (English Heritage)

01/12 **MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting of the Culture Derbyshire Board held on 29 September 2011 were received.

02/12 **MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD** Robert Gent confirmed that since the last meeting of the Board had expressed its desire to involve more organisations from the private and voluntary sector, a number of organisations had nominated board members. Some new members were in attendance, with others would attend future meetings.

A new up to date contact list was now available and would be circulated to all board members.

03/12 **UPDATE REPORTS FROM EXECUTIVE OFFICER GROUP**
Robert Gent reminded members that the terms of reference for the officer group had been outlined at the previous meeting and for the benefit of

the new board members explained that the aim of the group was to support Culture Derbyshire in improving cultural provision across Derbyshire through collaborative working.

The executive group had met twice with a high level of engagement and involvement from across the sectors. The executive group had a clear agenda which covered three main strands:-

Preparing the cultural strategy; the cultural conference in the summer of 2012 and performance management methodology.

The group had received a report on the progress of Creswell Crags' application for World Heritage Site inscription, which was now expected to be submitted in 2016/17.

Any other organisations wishing to seek membership of the officer working group should contact Robert Gent.

04/12 ARTS DEVELOPMENTS Ann Wright, Head of Arts, attended the meeting and gave members an update on the progress of Arts Derbyshire and its current programmes of work.

Ann reminded members that Arts Derbyshire was the new organisation for strategic arts development in the county. It was an amalgamation of the former Derbyshire Arts Development Group and Derbyshire Arts Partnership and final details regarding the merger were currently being finalised. It was hoped that a new Chairman would be elected shortly.

Ann gave details of the aims and ambitions of Arts Derbyshire with its overall vision being to make Derbyshire an important artistic and cultural destination by 2015 and a location of choice for new creative businesses.

Arts Derbyshire currently had 82 members, including everyone involved in the development of the professional arts in Derbyshire, the principal officers of the participatory and developmental arts organisations working within the county; arts and crafts organisations; arts development officers or representatives from the county and district councils; and representatives from education, museums and social care.

Ann highlighted a number of examples of Arts Derbyshire's current programme of work including:-

- www.artsderbyshire.org.uk, the online information hub for everything about the Arts and Derbyshire;
- Arts, Health and Wellbeing – programmes of arts activity to promote mental or physical health and wellbeing;

- Creative Derbyshire – a three year programme of support and development for artists and arts businesses;
- Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Arts – a series of programmes of arts activities in the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site to promote the site and bring its history to life;
- Derbyshire Dance Development Plan, a four year plan to enable more people to take part in all types of dance, as audiences, participants and practitioners;
- Derbyshire Dance Artists’ Network, a support network for dance artists working or living in Derbyshire;
- Derbyshire National Portfolio Organisations Forum, a forum for organisations funded by Arts Council England;
- Festivity – a forum for all arts festivals in Derbyshire;
- Live and Local, touring arts performances to villages halls and community venues; and
- Virtual gallery research – research into the artistic, technological, financial and practical feasibility of an online gallery for Derbyshire.

Reference was made to whether Arts Derbyshire would be involved in any events or activities in relation to the Queen’s Jubilee. It was noted that whilst Arts Derbyshire were not involved in any direct activities relating to the celebrations, many other events were being arranged by various departments of the County Council on an countywide basis.

05/12 **DERBYSHIRE INSTITUTE OF SPORT** David Joy, Chief Executive of Derbyshire Sport attended the meeting and gave a brief presentation to Members on the Derbyshire Institute of Sport.

Prior to the presentation David highlighted to Members that as part of the collective work being undertaken by Derbyshire Sport, indicators were now showing that attempts to increase participation were working with significant increases being seen in both school sport and adult participation across the county.

The Plan for Sport in Derbyshire 2010 – 2015 was launched in 2009 with the aim to make Derbyshire one of the most active and successful sporting counties by 2020. It was hoped to improve the talent pathways to enable more talented performers to fulfil their potential and, as a result, for more performers from Derbyshire to be competing at national and international level by 2015.

The Derbyshire Institute of Sport had been set up with a clear vision to provide high quality support to Derbyshire’s emerging talented sports performers, to enable them to achieve greater success on the national and international stage and to enhance the reputation of Derby and Derbyshire.

David outlined the strategic goals and explained that following a thorough process involving all interested practitioners the sports selected for the project were athletics, basketball, badminton, golf, hockey, swimming and table tennis.

It was hoped that the institute would provide enhanced services that would improve coaching, strengthening and conditioning, physiotherapy and improved access to training facilities.

In relation to the governance and funding for the scheme, the University, City and County Council would provide all of the funding with Derbyshire Sport managing the programme and funds. The Operations Group overseeing the institute would have representatives from other organisations with planning links to NGB's, local authorities, schools and colleges.

David explained that the next steps involved finalising sport plans and athlete selections and appointing lead strength and conditioning coaches and physios. The media launch was to take place very shortly with a full launch at the end of March/early April. It was hoped that this would lead to future developments including links to local programmes, more targeted support to developing talent and better talent identification processes.

In answer to a question regarding those sports that had not been chosen for the list, it was explained that work would continue with high participation sports including bowls and tennis which currently had no real infrastructure in the County to produce performance level players. However, work would continue with other sports to further develop the infrastructure to enable them to be involved in the future.

06/12 **OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY** It was confirmed that the Olympic Torch Relay would now be coming through Derbyshire on 29 June 2012 and would pass through nine towns and villages where the torch would be carried by a torch bearer. Although the towns and villages had now been identified, details of the exact route would not be given until much nearer the time which clearly created a number of difficulties in organising events along the route. It was confirmed that the torch would arrive from Nottingham and would pass through Glapwell, Bolsover, Calow, Chesterfield, Matlock, Darley Dale, Chatsworth, Bakewell, Buxton, Ashbourne, and then on to Derby for a televised evening event at Darley Park.

The aim was to involve as many people across the county as possible in the event and encourage people from the areas who had not got direct access to the torch to attend other venues to see it.

Numerous events were being planned across the county with dance as a main activity along the route.

Other projects included the Lionhearts project which was a piece of art work involving three giant crocheted lions which would be first shown in Chatsworth during May, and BT Storytellers, who included a 90 year old man from Wirksworth who would tell the story of his participation in the Olympic Games.

07/12 **MAPPING THE CULTURAL SECTOR** Robert Gent explained that one of the main priorities in mapping cultural provision was to make it easier for people to find out what was available, with the aim of turning short visits into longer visits or overnight stays. A small group of staff within the Cultural and Community Services Department were currently working on methods of achieving this although it wasn't yet known if this would be provided as a printed document or as a web based resource.

It was intended that any provision would link into the Destination Management Partnership, Arts Derbyshire and the City of Culture project.

David James, Visit Peak District Derbyshire explained that the destination management system database was a comprehensive system that included all tourism information. It was seen as an excellent resource with a whole thematic section on festivals and events, and if any board members were aware of events of interest then these could easily be added to the database to enhance promotion of the area. It was noted that as part of the Visit England Organisation the Peak District was very much seen as a big brand.

Allison Thomas, Environmental Services informed members that the Derbyshire Infrastructure Plan with regard to future housing delivery was currently out for consultation, and the Department was keen to hear about where gaps existed across the County in relation to green spaces and cultural activity. Where major development was planned the authority would be looking for contributions from developers to make sure that gaps in service provision were catered for.

08/12 **EVALUATING IMPACT AND OUTCOMES** Robert Gent reminded Board members that the County Council's Cultural and Community Services Department and the University of Sheffield had been successful in submitting a bid to the Arts and Humanities Research Council for a three year collaborative doctoral project to explore in more detail the impact of and outcomes from provision in Derbyshire, and to devise a methodology for evaluating impact that would meet the Board's own needs and be transferable to the wider cultural sector.

Funding had been awarded and Martin Simmonds had been appointed to carry out the research, following competitive interviews at the University of Sheffield.

Although this was a three year project culminating in a full scale thesis as the basis of the award of the doctorate, it had been recognised that the board would need to receive a regular flow of information and intelligence to help inform its role in guiding cultural strategy for the County and in advocating for the cultural sector. This requirement was being built in to the project plan.

With this in mind, it was suggested that Martin Simmons be invited to the September meeting of the Board to give members an update.

09/12 **PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT** Wesley Downes, Chief Executive's Department, attended the meeting and put forward a discussion document, inviting board members to determine their preferred approach to monitoring and managing performance across the cultural sector.

Culture in Derbyshire covered archives, arts, libraries, museums, heritage, sport, active leisure, and tourism. The primary responsibilities of the Board were to provide strategic direction for cultural services within the Derbyshire sustainable community strategy (SCS) and wider responsibility for championing, co-ordinating and developing cultural provision.

It was envisaged that this would be done by:-

- Ensuring effective co-operation between the public and private sectors;
- Sharing information to enhance the cultural offer;
- Levering in external funding including philanthropic giving;
- Influencing future planning priorities to improve the cultural infrastructure;
- Promoting and engagement with culture throughout life beginning with literacy and learning through to maintaining active minds in old age; and
- Working in partnership to protect and promote Derbyshire's landscape.

It was envisaged that each of the SCS priority areas would be measured in terms of participation, value for money and quality of life.

Culture Derbyshire had already set out some medium term activities where success would be measured including the annual Cultural Conference; the Olympic Games and Olympic Torch 2012 and its legacy; Year of Culture 2015; and mapping to ensure that the tourism offer benefited from clear

understanding of cultural and heritage provision. Following an open discussion it was clear that there was already a lot of participation/performance management information available across all organisations which could be brought together to provide an overall picture of participation/value for money/quality of life across all cultural provision within the County. It was vitally important that all organisations responded in order for the cultural provision in Derbyshire to be benchmarked against other authorities/organisations and to enable the best cultural offer possible to be provided.

Board Members were asked to reflect on the discussion document and comments that had been made at the meeting and respond back to Robert Gent by early April who would then feed these matters into the officer group with an update being provided to Board Members at the May meeting. It was emphasised that if individuals and organisations had got good data, then they should be encouraged to share it.

10/12 **CULTURAL STRATEGY** Robert Gent explained that the Executive Officer Group had now been set up and work was being undertaken to develop a strategy that would reflect the place of Cultural Services in the community strategy and would assist Culture Derbyshire in setting and monitoring performance against its priorities.

11/12 **CULTURAL CONFERENCE** It was noted that a half day Cultural Conference was being arranged for either 21 or 22 June 2012 and it was hoped to involve as many partner organisations as possible. It was hoped to provide a late draft of the cultural strategy at the conference in June prior to its launch, with board members having a sight of the draft at the next meeting of Culture Derbyshire in May.

12/11 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** It was agreed that the next Culture Derbyshire Board meeting would take place as follows:

Friday 25 May 2012, 10am – Committee Room 1, County Hall