

HERITAGE CONSULTATION GROUP

Tuesday, 30 August 2016

Commenced: 3.30 pm

Terminated: 4.30 pm

Present: Councillor J Lane (Chair), Mrs Allen, Mrs Clough and Mrs Cronin

Apologies for Absence: Mrs Fisher

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Heritage Consultation Group held on 21 March 2016 were approved as a correct record.

2. LOCAL UPDATE

Christine Clough advised that Tameside Local History Forum were exploring venues to hold their quarterly meetings. It was discussed that meeting dates should be sent to Marie Holland with a view for the meetings to be held at Central Art Gallery. Their stall at the History Festival at Manchester Town Hall in June and the Beatrix Potter event in July had both proved very successful.

Barbara Allen voiced concern over the current library consultation which would be fed back to the service.

Jill Cronin informed the Group that a successful quiz and supper had recently been held and membership was growing. An exhibition based on youth would be held at St Lawrence's Church, Denton from 10 October until 16 October. With regards to the bronze map of Denton, a site visit to discuss possible locations was due to take place.

3. CULTURAL SERVICES

(a) Arts and Engagement

Marie Holland, Acting Arts and Engagement Manager, notified the Group that the Ashton Markets redevelopment would be celebrated on 10 September 2016. David and Philip Williams would give a talk on Thursday 8 September 2016 at 2:00pm in the indoor market hall. Mini market stalls had been created by 500 Tameside school children which would be on display at the event.

A lantern parade would take place on 12 November 2016 and local artists from each town in the borough had been asked to make a large lantern for the procession.

With regards to blue and brown plaques in the borough, a draft copy of revised criteria was circulated, which would also be sent via email, and the group was asked to provide feedback.

(b) Local Studies and Archives

Larysa Bolton, Local Studies and Archives Manager, informed the Group that the Cockbrook exhibition at Astley Cheetham Art Gallery would be on display until October. The exhibition had been dedicated to Alan Rose and had been well attended. Thanks were extended to members of the 'History on Your Doorstep' group for being there regularly to welcome visitors. A talk about

Cockbrook, as part of Tameside History Club, would be delivered by 'History on Your Doorstep' on 21 September at 2:00pm in Central Art Gallery.

The Heritage Lottery funded 'Made in Greater Manchester' project had begun with 50 oral history tapes relating to the cotton industry having been digitised. Volunteers were being recruited for the project and one of the partnership's work streams for the coming year was to look at the digitisation of rate books held in archive services in the city region. After a procurement exercise, 'FindMyPast' had emerged as the preferred supplier and digitisation would begin in the autumn. A five year subscription to 'FindMyPast' would be available for free in all Tameside libraries for the next five years.

With regards to the Heritage Open Day, planning was progressing well and Christine Clough was thanked for securing a grant which had paid for the printing of 3000 leaflets. Thanks were also extended to Anne Dickinson for all her hard work compiling the leaflet. An event would be held at Portland Basin Museum on Saturday 10 September from 11:00am until 3:00pm, where narrow boat trips would be available along with stalls from various groups and societies.

(c) Museums and Galleries

Marie Holland, Acting Arts and Engagement Manager, advised the Group that a variety of material had been retrieved following the planned closure of Ardwick Green TA Centre in September 2016 including photographs, a diary and scrapbook dating from World War One. Six medals had been returned and three acquired in addition to 15 other objects.

4. OPERATIONS AND GREENSPACE

Nicola Marshall, Greenspace Development Manager, reported that funding had been secured for repairs to War Memorials throughout the Borough. Engineers had been commissioned to carry out a condition survey of all Council owned monuments after which a programme of repairs would commence. The team were working with the Armoury Trust who were keen for volunteers to look after War Memorials and Historic England were reviewing the status of War Memorials with a view to listing some of them if they met their criteria.

The Group heard that a celebration commemorating 40 years of Countryside Volunteers in Tameside had been held in June and volunteers were leading walks with a water theme for this year's Heritage Open Days. Wildflower meadows were currently being cut to ensure that they flourished again next year and there would be an extensive tree planting programme for the autumn/winter.

The Group were informed that Gorse Hall had been successful in achieving a SITA grant through the Access to Nature fund, which would enable the team to work with the Friends group to ensure that more people could access this important local heritage site. A grant for Silver Springs had also been achieved through the same scheme and work was progressing to improve pathways and connect the Ridge Hill Estate and Hospital into the area.

5. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

It was noted that the Heritage Consultation Group would next meet on Monday 23 January 2017 commencing at 2:00pm.

CHAIR