

ITEM NO: 2

HERITAGE CONSULTATION GROUP

7 September 2015

Commenced: 2.00 pm

Terminated: 3.20 pm

Present : Councillor J Lane (Chair)

Advisory Group Members: Mrs Allen, Mrs Blain, Mrs Clough, Mrs Cronin, Mrs Fisher and Mr Lever

Also in attendance: Emma Varnam – Head of Stronger Communities
Larysa Bolton – Local Studies and Archives Manager
Nicola Marshall – Greenspace Development Manager
Rachel Cornes – Museums Manager
Ben Irwin – Arts and Events Officer

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Reynolds and Mrs Whitehead

1. MINUTES

The proceedings of the meeting of the Heritage Consultation Group held on 22 June 2015 were approved as a correct record.

2. LOCAL UPDATE

Hyde

Harry Lever was pleased to report that funding had been identified to continue the Lunch Time Concerts in Hyde Town Hall which were extremely popular and well attended events. He also provided background details of the ladies on the Mill Girls painting by Harry Rutherford.

Ashton

Caroline Blain advised that approximately 15 months ago outline planning consent had been granted for the last remaining industrial site at Park Bridge. There was a likelihood that in the near future a detailed application would be received and that it would need to be given careful consideration in light of the existing environment.

Barbara Allen advised that the Civic Society had recently received a talk from Keith Dalby-Oldham on Tameside Hippodrome and at the next meet arrangements had been made for a talk on Elizabeth Gaskell's house.

Denton

Jill Cronin advised on the arrangements for the forthcoming Heritage Open Days and that three churches in Denton would be open for visitors – St Lawrence, St Anne's and Christ Church. Plans were progressing for the Denton Local History Society Annual Exhibition 2015 running from 13 October to 18 October 2015. The theme of the exhibition was to mark the end of the Second World War, looking at the effect of the War on Denton and its people.

Audenshaw

Julie Fisher was pleased to advise that the Audenshaw Local History Society display cabinet was now in situ at Ryecroft Hall. Themes for forthcoming displays were currently being worked on. The Society's next meeting would be held on 28 September 2015 at Ryecroft Hall. She also outlined arrangements for the forthcoming Heritage Open Days.

Tameside Local History Forum

Christine Clough advised that the plans for Heritage Open Days event from 10 to 13 September 2015 were progressing well and was pleased with the number of churches who had agreed to be involved offering visitors the opportunity to view stained glass.

4. CULTURAL SERVICES

(a) Museums and Galleries

Rachel Cornes, Museums Manager advised of events / activities as follows:

- Jolly Holidays sessions at Portland Basin Museum attracting 1,700 visitors;
- Open Art Exhibition at Tameside Central Gallery;
- Musical Chairs – family friendly and interactive exhibition funded by the Arts Council at Central Gallery from 3 October 2015 to 9 January 2016;
- Once Upon a Time – new exhibition using paintings from the Astley Cheetham collection to explore the world of fairy tales from October 2015 to April 2016;
- Work with Public Health for an older people's day on 1 October 2015 at Portland Basin Museum; and
- Little Hands – storytelling, craft and fun for pre-schools starting on 1 October 2015.

(b) Arts and Events

Ben Irwin, Arts and Events Officer, advised on the following events / activities:

- Armed Forces Day 2015 – there were approximately 5,500 people visitors to Victoria Park celebrating the excellent work done by our services past and present;
- Summer Theatre – 3,500 visitors enjoyed a programme of productions at 8 different parks across the Borough;
- Unveiling of the plaque for the Mechanics Institute;
- Heritage Open Days from 10 to 13 September 2015;
- National Big Draw on 10 October 2015 at Portland Basin;
- Ashton Brass Band in Concert at Hyde Festival Theatre on 30 October 2015;
- Indigo Moon Theatre Company production of Aladdin at Hyde Festival Theatre on 31 October 2015;
- Ballet Theatre UK The Snow Queen on Saturday 21 November 2015 at Hyde Festival Theatre;
- Christmas Carol Concert on 11 December 2015 at Hyde Festival Theatre;
- AGMA Strategic Arts Funding;
- Ashton Old Baths – progress with the project to redevelop the baths as an incubator hub for small businesses and an artistic brief / opportunity incorporating elements of the history and heritage of the baths.

(c) Local Studies and Archives Service

Larysa Bolton provided an update on events / work in progress for the Local Studies and Archives Service as follows:

- AGMA Strategic Arts funded research project on Cockbrook would continue over the next few months and also producing an exhibition which would be on display at the Astley Cheetham Art Gallery in March 2016.
- Visit by the North West Liaison Officer from the National Archives who was very impressed with the Archives Service and the facilities available.
- Four items which had recently been deposited with the Service.

5. OPERATIONS AND GREENSPACE

Nicola Marshall, Greenspace Development Manager, advised that the annual survey of war memorials was continuing highlighting work to be undertaken before Remembrance Sunday. In addition, a conservation architect would be appointed to assist with the funding applications for significant repairs to two war memorials. She also advised on the following:

- Winter Events Programme – including country walks of varying difficulty, designed to appeal to people of differing ages and ability and events tied to the seasons and festivities.
- Conservation Programme – conservation days held on a range of sites around the borough encouraging people to take a more active role in helping to conserve their countryside. Tasks could include hedge laying, coppicing, fencing and general maintenance.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the Heritage Consultation Group would meet on Monday 9 November commencing at 2.00pm.