

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE **COMMUNITY & HERITAGE COMMITTEE** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 28th MARCH 2018** AT 7.00 P.M. AT THE TOWN HALL, 9 DEVON SQUARE, NEWTON ABBOT

PRESENT Councillors Mrs L Sheffield (Chairman) Presiding

Councillors	Mrs C Bunday	R Jenks
	D Corney-Walker	C N Parker
	R Hayes	M Pilkington
	M Hocking	M E Ryan
	D Howe	T Ward

Member of the Public: Mr Eric Collar

In attendance: Mrs Kate Green, Community Engagement Consultant

Officers in attendance: Natalie Hicks – Events Co-ordinator
Felicity Cole – Museum Curator
Alexandra Robinson – Committee Administrator

409. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors, Mrs J Cleave (Chairman), C Coyle-Moore, Mrs A Jones (Mayor), M Joyce, Mrs S Kingdom, K Purchase and Ms L Roberts and Mrs Sally Henley, Town Development Manager.

410. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Community and Heritage Committee held on 7th February 2018 were received and signed as a correct record.

411. **INTERESTS**

None declared.

412. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

413. **PRESENTATION UPDATE – NEWTON’S PLACE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Kate Green, Community Engagement Consultant for the Newton’s Place Project and invited her to update Members on the community engagement in the town and the draft Museum Designs as submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund as part of the Round Two Application.

Mrs Green noted that Members had received regular updates on the Newton’s Place Project from the Chairman of the Project Board but she explained that she would update the Committee on the programme of planned activities leading up to July 2018 and provide information on the latest Museum Designs with the aid of presentation slides and that these designs would be on display to the public at the Annual Town Meeting on 7th April 2018.

Mrs Green raised the following key points:

- A wide range of groups in the wider community have continued to be involved in the consultation;
- A sample of the collection had been taken out to groups which encouraged engagement and invited local discussion and stories;
- The Pop-Up Museum had been very successful used at locations ranging from the Passmore Edwards Centre and ASDA Supermarket; and
- Throughout the visits and engagement the wider community have been involved in contributing to the Museum Design and suggestions for facilities at Newton's Place.

Mrs Green reported that Leach Studio were appointed as Museum Designers and they had produced a draft design which provided concepts for the new Museum layout and exhibition space for the collection. Mrs Cole, Museum Curator explained that this stage of the design was based upon the culmination of six weeks work and that there would be the opportunity to develop the designs in much greater detail during the Delivery Phase. Mrs Green and Mrs Cole explained the key points of the current designs:

- The entrance area included an Orlando Hutchinson style design on the staircase to the first floor;
- A cabinet dedicated to 'Your Space' would hold personal collections from the community or community curation selected by the community from the Collection as part of the 'People's Museum';
- The design included modular based show cases that could be used in a variety of combinations to change the presentation of the collection and could be moved from the centre of the exhibition space to the sides of the room to enable larger gatherings to use the space for other events such as concerts, for example;
- The intention of the design was to facilitate flexibility to encourage change and the ability to refresh the collection on display and promote re-visits;
- The designs incorporated images on all available panels and the Museum would be 'present' throughout the building including staircases and the refreshment area;
- A railway track would transport a miniature train and camera around the museum, the film footage would be able to be viewed from the refreshment area; and
- Following the enormous support for the inclusion of some reference to the former Madge Mellor's café, Mrs Cole reported that the designs incorporated an 'echo' of the café in the refreshment area and would include a cabinet of items from the collection.

Mrs Green then outlined her Forward Plan for activities planned for the Spring-Summer season:

- ❖ **Stained Glass Workshops**, recruitment is underway to commission an experienced artist to lead 8 fully funded workshops involving community groups and members of the public to make something for themselves and a combined stained-glass project to be included in the museum collection. The workshops provide an ideal opportunity for the community to be involved in making something for the museum, engage with them and discuss the draft designs.
- ❖ **Banner Design Workshops**, Mrs Green will lead the banner workshops, which intended to design bright, colourful and appealing banners, to attach to the outside of Newton's Place to identify the building and welcome visitors. The workshops would facilitate another opportunity to engage with the community while the current Museum remained shut.

The Chairman thanked both Mrs Green and Mrs Cole for their update and invited questions from Members, who raised the following points:

- The refreshment area would offer visitors facilities to take a seat and purchase a simple range of refreshments from a drinks machine, it would not be possible to provide a full café in the space available;
- Suggested that the local churches be contacted to encourage their involvement in the stained glass workshops;
- The designs included a strong community emphasis and Members endorsed the inclusion of 'Your Space' to display community collections;
- The community would be consulted and the latest designs were subject to change and development;
- The community support and enthusiasm was conveyed throughout the continued participation in the engagement process;
- Suggested that a shower be included in the design to encourage staff to cycle to work, albeit this was subject to sufficient space; and
- The flexible meeting space would enable additional events such as temporary exhibitions and film screenings.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Green and Mrs Cole on behalf of Members, for their thorough and informative presentation, whereupon they left the meeting.

414. **SUB-COMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/FORUMS**

A(i). COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP – 31st JANUARY 2018

Arising from the consideration of the report of the meeting it was

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Community Engagement Group meeting held on 31st January 2018 be hereby approved and adopted;

A(ii) EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE – 14th MARCH 2018

Arising from the consideration of the report of the meeting it was

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Events Sub-Committee meeting held on 14th March 2018 be hereby approved and adopted;

A(iii). COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP – 21st MARCH 2018

Arising from the consideration of the report of the meeting it was

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Community Engagement Group meeting held on 21st March 2018 be approved and adopted.

415. **NEWTON'S PLACE - UPDATE**

Further to the presentation update from Mrs Green (reference Minute 18/03/413 above), the Chairman invited Councillor M Ryan, Chairman of Newton's Place Project Board to update Members on the project. Councillor Ryan was pleased to report that the community had supported the Crowd Funding appeal and that it had achieved the target of £10,000 this week. He reminded Members that the Round Two submission had been made to the Heritage Lottery Fund at the end of February and the decision was due at the end of June 2018. He added that they awaited the decision prior to being able to commence the tendering process for the building works. Councillor Ryan offered his sincere thanks to all the staff involved in the preparation of the Round Two application and the extensive work undertaken to date.

416. **INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

The Committee received and noted the Income and Expenditure statement for the Community and Heritage Committee for the period 1st April 2017 to 28th February 2018 (previously circulated).

The Chairman invited the Events Co-ordinator to update Members on the statement. Mrs Hicks reminded Members that further to Minute 18/02(342), where a detailed explanation was given for the main areas and reasons for the overspend; that this was largely due to the maintenance charges in relation to the Newfoundland Way Toilets and the additional costs incurred for Grass-cutting this year. Following a discussion, accordingly it was;

RESOLVED that the Income and Expenditure Statement to 28th February 2018 for Community and Heritage Committee be hereby approved and adopted.

417. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Community and Heritage Committee would be held on Wednesday 27th June 2018.



Chairman