

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL  
PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**

**23 MAY 2016**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Mrs Moorhouse (in the Chair), Cooke, Kinch, Hinchcliffe, Peat, Rowell; Sutherland, Mr M. Hanby (Business Guild); Mr R. Welsby (The Bowes Museum).

**Also in attendance:** One member of the press.

**Officers:** Mr King (Town Clerk) and Mrs Woodward (Deputy Clerk).

**1. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from Ms J. Whitaker (The Bowes Museum).

**Resolved** – That the apologies be accepted.

**2. THE WITHAM'S SUMMER OF STORIES...INSPIRED BY ROALD DAHL**

Sarah Gent and Katy Taylor from The Witham presented information about a planned summer programme of events celebrating 100 years since the birth of Roald Dahl. There would be a six week creative programme from 23 July to 3 September with films, workshops, storytelling and a musical summer school over 6 days culminating in a performance of 'Matilda'. The Mercury was running an adult writing for children competition. The town was encouraged to take part in Roald Dahl themed window displays. There would be a library reading challenge. A child friendly town map was being produced and a 'Summer of Stories' logo. If successful, 'Summer of Stories' was proposed to be an annual event. There were opportunities for retailers, businesses and community groups to get involved. Funding was still needed for: a gypsy caravan (to be a permanent feature) with free little library and traditional storytellers; artists into schools; and book binding/ picture framing.

It was reported that in the longer term, The Witham was to be promoted as an Arts Centre.

**Resolved** – That the information be noted.

**3. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR FOR MUNICIPAL YEAR 2016/17**

**Resolved** – That Councillor Peat be elected Vice Chair of Partnership Committee for the municipal year 2016/17.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In accordance with this Council's adopted Code of Conduct (Minute 72(a)/Sep/12 refers), Members were asked whether they had any personal or prejudicial interests in any matter on the agenda and, if so, to declare those interests at this point of the meeting. Members were reminded that a declaration could be given later in the meeting if a need arose during discussion. Councillors Peat and Mrs Moorhouse declared an interest in respect of Minute 14; Councillor Kinch declared an interest in respect of Minute 12 and Councillor Hinchcliffe declared an interest in respect of Minute 13.

**5. PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING – 11 APRIL 2016 – MINUTES**

**Resolved** – That the minutes be accepted as a correct record.

**6. POPPY APPEAL**

There was currently nothing to report.

**Resolved** – That the information be noted.

## **7. MAYORAL EVENTS**

### **(i) 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Tea Party – 21 April**

The Town Mayor hosted a Tea Party on 21 April 2016 for Barnard Castle residents who were 90 or over in 2016 to celebrate the Queen's Birthday.

**Resolved** – That the information be noted.

### **(ii) Treasures of Teesdale – 26 April**

There was a 1940s themed classic coach tour round Teesdale for civic guests on 26 April, represented by twelve local authorities.

**Resolved** – That the information be noted.

## **8. 1940s EVENT – 24 TO 26 JUNE NOTES AND UPDATE**

(i) 1940s Event Task & Finish Group – 19 April – notes

(ii) 1940s Event Task & Finish Group – 3 May – draft notes

Members were informed that there were now seventeen vintage vehicles being displayed on the marketplace cobbles. A park and ride at Teesdale School was confirmed, with shuttle service provided by Classic Coach 'Rosie'. Three living history groups had confirmed attendance, together with vintage singer 'Lancashire Belle'. Various activities were planned at St. Mary's Parish Church and vintage stalls in the Methodist Church Hall and Dawson Room, Woodleigh. 2000 event guides had been printed, funded by local businesses. These were circulated for information.

**Resolved** – (a) That the notes and information be received and;

(b) That delegated authority of up to £1,600 spend be given to the 1940s Event Task & Finish Group.

## **9. SPRING/SUMMER 2016 COMMUNITY EVENTS**

### **(i) HM The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Beacons – 21 April**

It was reported that the Town Council, in partnership with English Heritage, had organised a Beacon Lighting and Fireworks Event on Scar Top in celebration of HM The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Formal announcements were read by the Town Mayor and Town Crier before official lighting of the Beacon at 8.30pm. This was followed by a spectacular fireworks display. The event was well attended and much appreciated by the local community and tourists.

**Resolved** – That the information be noted.

### **(ii) Aviation Day – 24 June**

Pursuant to Minute 18a./July/15, arrangements had been made for the Teesdale Aviation Day Service to be incorporated into the Barnard Castle 1940s event.

Prior to the weekend of activities, the Service of Commemoration would take place at the Memorial Gardens in Galgate commencing at 11.00 a.m.

The event was being supported by The Royal Air Forces Association, RAF Leeming, Barnard Castle School and the Combined Cadet Force. Rev Cannon Alec Harding of St Mary's Parish Church along with Rev Darren Moore of Barnard Castle School would jointly lead the act of worship. Mr Tony Galley, co-founder of the event had kindly agreed to take the lead in the opening introduction and closure of the ceremony.

The bid for an RAF fly-past had been unsuccessful, however, the Vintage Pipers had once again agreed to attend and a PA system had been loaned to the council free of charge by Mr Allan Jones.

The Town Mayor (Cllr John Blissett) would lay a wreath on behalf of the Town and Cllr John Yarker, Champion of the Memorial and one of the co-founders of the event, would also lay a wreath.

It was reported that, at the same time as the Service of Commemoration, the Alzheimer's Society was hosting a 1940s themed 'Singing for the Brain' session at the Methodist Church Hall on Scar Top. Afterwards, they would host a buffet and refreshments. An invitation had been extended by the Society for invited Aviation Day guests to join them.

Members were encouraged to support the event. An itinerary would be sent out once timings were confirmed.

**Resolved** – (a) That the information be noted; and  
(b) That Members confirm their attendance to the office.

#### **10. THE BOWES MUSEUM UPDATE**

An update was given on the summer exhibition programme, including 'Shoes: Pleasure and Pain', commencing 11 June. It was also reported that The Bowes Museum was close to achieving 100% match funding for its Fundraising Campaign.

**Resolved** – That the information be noted.

#### **11. BUSINESS GUILD UPDATE**

Members were updated on changes to officers of the Business Guild, following its AGM on 18 May.

**Resolved** – That the information be noted.

#### **12. DURHAM BRASS PARTY IN THE PARK**

Received – a report noting that the Streets Of Durham event would not take place in 2016 and recommending that the earmarked sum in the events budget be used to fund a Brass 2016 'Party in the Park' event on 12 July, in partnership with Teesdale Action Partnership (TAP) and The Witham.

Brass 2016 was visiting Shildon, Newton Aycliffe, Crook, Peterlee, Murton, Stanley and Spennymoor. Durham County Council's events team was keen to explore the option of bringing the event to the area this year, especially as Streets Of...would not be happening.

Clarification was given via email by TAP that, at the time of the meeting, neither TAP nor the County Councillors had made any commitment to support Brass in Barnard Castle.

It was furthermore confirmed by The Witham that, despite indications to the contrary from DCC, the Music Hall was not available on Tuesday 12 July.

Members felt that, in the absence of firm arrangements, there were other opportunities this year that provided better value for money, but were not precluding support for Brass in the future. Subsequently, Members discussed supporting the Witham's 'Summer of Stories'.

**Resolved** – (a) That no financial support be given to Brass 2016;

(b) That further discussions be held with Durham County Council with a view to Town Council support for Brass 2017.

(c) That, in principle, £1,500 be allocated to The Witham to purchase a gypsy caravan, with town council branding, subject to design approval; and

(d) That delegated authority be given to the Clerk to approve gypsy caravan designs, in consultation with Chair and Vice Chair of Partnership Committee and Councillor Rowell.

### **13. VINTAGE WEEKEND – 24 & 25 SEPTEMBER**

Pursuant to Minute 68/Apr/16, the matter of Town Council support for the 2016 vintage Weekend organised by Barnard Castle Vintage Rally Group (BCVRG), was referred to Council on 9 May. In the absence of further information, the matter was referred back to Partnership Committee (Council Minute 22(2)(i)/May/16 refers). Further information had now been received from BCVRG and was circulated for Members' deliberations. Members felt that as the 2015 Vintage Weekend had made a loss, sustainability was a concern.

**Resolved** – That BCVRG be asked to submit a detailed business plan for further consideration by Partnership Committee at next meeting on 11 July.

### **14. CHRISTMAS LIGHTING**

#### **(i) Update**

Pursuant to Council on 9 May, the town's Christmas Lighting scheme was considered and it was resolved that additional icicle lights be purchased, together with associated storage, PAT testing, installation and dismantling, at a total cost of £643.50.

This left a balance of £1,906.50 out of 2016/17 Christmas Lighting budget of £6,500 to further enhance lighting displays.

The Bowes Museum had agreed to purchase four additional swan motifs, contributing towards the town's Christmas lighting displays – total £1,520.

The Friends of the Bowes Museum were to be asked if they would like to renovate the five existing swan motifs at a total cost of £800.

A definitive answer on the need to windage test lampposts on Newgate was still needed from Durham County Council. However, an estimated cost of windage testing was between £360 and £720.

**Resolved** – That the information be noted.

## **(ii) Barnard Castle Christmas Lights (BCCL)**

Submitted – a report from the Secretary of BCCL updating Members on priorities, planned activities and fundraising to date. The priorities for 2016/17 were to: try and obtain power to two of the Galgate Greens so that the area could be enhanced; provide Festoon Lights down the Bank and explore the possibility of a Light Festival on Scar Top, coinciding with the Town Council's Christmas Lights switch-on event on 2 December. Members discussed the request from BCCL for any money not needed from the Town Council's Christmas Lights Budget to be donated to BCCL. Councillor Peat was asked to give more information in his role as Chair of BCCL and then left the meeting for a decision to be made.

**Resolved** – (a) That the information be noted; and  
(b) That up to £1,000 be allocated out of 2016/17 Christmas Lighting budget to purchase lights for trees on Galgate Greens, once confirmation of power was obtained from BCCL.

## **15. DEMENTIA FRIENDLY TOWN**

It was reported that Dementia Awareness Week was 15 to 22 May. Nine members and three town council staff, together with a staff member from Association of Teesdale Day Clubs, attended Dementia Awareness Training on 16 May and became Dementia Friends. The Alzheimer's Society had a charity stall on the Wednesday market on 18 May. The opening of the Dementia Café on Friday 20 May at St. Mary's Parish Hall was postponed. On the afternoon of Friday 20 May, a Dementia Friendly Community Event was held in the Jubilee Room at The Bowes Museum. Thirteen community representatives attended to discuss making Barnard Castle a Dementia Friendly Town. Next steps were to form a community group, with support and advice from the Alzheimer's Society. It was stressed that the community group should not be led by the Town Council.

**Resolved** – That the information be noted.

## **16. CIVIC ARRANGEMENTS**

Members were reminded that Mr Ian Kirkbride had been formally appointed as the town's Honorary Town Crier at the Town Meeting on 9 May. An embroidered crest badge had been commissioned. Attention turned to the costs of a robe.

Robe hire costs per hired day was £94 (£70 plus carriage). It was anticipated that alongside the Christmas Lights Switch-On event, which the Town Crier attended, provision could be made for two appearances in support of Town Council/Mayoral events during the year, which would result in a probable costume hire budget requirement of £282. In the absence of information on the costs of a bespoke robe being made, which were still being researched, it was resolved to defer the decision to cover robe costs to a later meeting.

Members noted that arrangements for the administration and accountability of the Town Mayor's Charity (2016/17) would be resolved at the next meeting of the Resources Committee on 13 June.

**Resolved** – (a) That the information be noted; and  
(b) That a proposed allocation from the 2016/17 Events budget to either cover robe hire for a determined number of events, or to purchase a bespoke robe, be considered at next Partnership Committee on 11 July.

## 17. LOUVECIENNES

A proposal had been received from the Friends of the Bowes Museum for Town Council support to form a friendship link between Louveciennes (in the western suburbs of Paris) and Barnard Castle. The Friends of The Bowes Museum visited the Chateau du Barry on 13 July 2015, following in the footsteps of John and Josephine Bowes. The Chateau du Barry was formerly the home of Louis XV's mistress Mme du Barry and it was John Bowes' wedding gift to Josephine in 1852. They lived there for a number of years before selling it in order to finance the building of The Bowes Museum. The links between the two towns were strong and the towns were similar in nature.

Louveciennes had been twinned with Radlett, in the United Kingdom, since 1983 and was also twinned with Meersburg, Germany, and Vama, Romania.

It was noted that 2017 would be 125 years of The Bowes Museum.

A friendship link was deemed less formal and less costly than an actual twinning. There was no need for financial commitment to develop this idea in the first instance.

**Resolved** – That support be given to pursue a Friendship Link between Louveciennes and Barnard Castle.