

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL  
PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**

**8 OCTOBER 2018**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Sutherland (in the Chair), Miss Blissett, Child, Kirkbride, Mrs Moorhouse, Peat and Raw.

**Also in attendance:** Cllr Blissett; Jill Cole (The Witham); Rachel Tweddle (TCR Hub) (until item 29); Rachel Dyne (YMCA)(until item 29); Judy Caplin (Teesdale ArtNet)(until item 30); and one member of the press.

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

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

Apologies were received from Councillor Chatterjee and Ms Jane Whittaker (The Bowes Museum).

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

**27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In accordance with this Council's adopted Constitution (Members' Code of Conduct) (Minute 10/May/18 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. None were declared at this juncture.

**28. YOUTH VOICE**

Rachel Tweddle, TCR Hub and Rachel Dyne, YMCA, presented information about formation of Youth Voice in Teesdale, a partnership that included YMCA, TCR Hub, The Bowes Centre, The Witham, Teesdale School and Staindrop Academy.

The Teesdale Youth Voice project intended to support and empower young people, ensuring that they had a voice in the community and opportunities. The group would be used as a way for organisations to seek opinions of young people and ensure that their views were included in decision making processes.

The target group was aged between 11 and 18 years old.

The partners would work together to recruit young people, advertise and manage the project until the point where additional funding could be sourced for the sustainability of the group. The aim was not for the group to be heavily involved in political agendas. However, it would be an ideal position that within a year, young people had grown in confidence and skills to be able to work with partners on this level.

The first meeting was to be held on 30 October.

Town council support was requested. Members were unanimous in their support.

**Resolved** – (a) That the town council supports Youth Voice in Teesdale;  
(b) That Youth Voice, once formally constituted, be invited to attend meetings of Partnership Committee to report regularly on progress; and  
(c) That Youth Voice be offered free use of the Dawson Room for its meetings.

## **29. TEESDALE ARTNET**

Judy Caplin informed members about Teesdale ArtNet, which was set up in 2017 to connect artists living and working in Teesdale. It currently had 30 members and was funded by Arts Council and Northern Heartlands.

There would be Open Studios 19 to 28 October 2018, with four bus tours visiting every studio and gallery. An exhibition at The Witham would open on Friday 12 October.

In 2019, it was hoped that ArtNet would expand and connect all cultural organisations and creative businesses, including The Bowes Museum and The Witham. There were proposed plans for an Art Trail around Barnard Castle and Teesdale during an Arts Week, lasting up to 10 days around early May bank holiday. Conversations would take place with businesses in the town to maximise involvement.

**Resolved** – (a) That the town council offers its support to Teesdale ArtNet and 2019 Arts Week; and  
(b) That information be shared on the town council website and social media.

## **30. PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING – 2 JULY 2018 – MINUTES**

An amendment was made to Minute 18(e) that representation from DCC be included, if possible.

**Resolved** – That the Minutes, as amended, be approved as a correct record.

## **31. THE BOWES MUSEUM UPDATE**

In the absence of a representative from The Bowes Museum, a report was circulated.

The exhibition *Catwalking: Fashion through the Lens of Chris Moore* opened on 7 July and had been well received by visitors. It was on until 5 January 2019.

The Bowes Museum had been awarded a second *Sandford Heritage Education Award* at its quinquennial review. This award was an independently judged, quality assured assessment of education programmes at heritage sites, museums, archives and collections across the country. The Bowes Museum had retained the award since first being awarded in 2013. The awards ceremony took place at the Tower of London.

The Big Friendly Giant Exhibition was very popular, especially during the summer holidays when daily activities were offered. Darlington Building Society paid for transport and entry to the museum for families from deprived areas of County Durham. Over five days, 165 adults and 232 children attended on the accessibility programme to enjoy family fun days and BFG craft activities. These groups were from some of the most deprived areas of East Durham and Teesside, many not having visited a Museum as a family.

With remaining money from this grant, similar visits would be publicised at half term for Halloween activities on 25 and 31 October. The Christmas Market would be held 14 to 16 December.

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

### **32. THE WITHAM**

Pursuant to Council on 24 September, when it was resolved that The Witham be invited to send a representative to sit on Partnership Committee as co-optee, Jill Cole attended the meeting and gave a verbal update. She joined The Witham Ltd Board as trustee in April/ May 2018 and was also the Director of Northern Heartlands. Following on from The Witham's recent fundraising appeal, significant support had been received from GSK and a £60,000 investment from DCC and AAP. A Centre Manager was to be recruited and the Board was being re-invigorated to take on a more hands-on approach, including assistance with operations. The main focus would be on fundraising/ sponsorship, with more programming to appeal to the local community.

A condition of DCC funding was to secure support from the town council.

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

### **33. POPPY APPEAL**

It was reported that the Royal British Legion's 2017 appeal closed on 30 September 2018. A summary donation report received from the Legion on 20 September confirmed that the net total at that time stood at £17,326.23 (including £7,222.30 collected in Morrisons). It was expected that a final total would be presented to the next Partnership Committee in December.

Preparations were underway for the 2018 appeal, which launched on Saturday 27 October. Volunteer Poppy Appeal collectors were being sought for the two-week collection period. It was also proposed to hold a stall on the Wednesday Market on 31 October and 7 November. A letter would be sent to the Teesdale Mercury to raise awareness. Councillors were now sought to assist with the delivery, during the week commencing 22 October, and collection of appeal supplies, on the 12-13 November, to and from local businesses and organisations.

On Friday 26 October, a giant Poppy Wave, consisting of hundreds of knitted poppies, would be installed on Woodleigh. At 3pm, the Town Mayor would host an afternoon tea in the Dawson Room, Woodleigh, as a thank you to those volunteers in the community who had helped to knit the poppies. This would culminate at 4pm with the lighting of the 'Tree of Peace' outside the front of Woodleigh.

**Resolved** – (a) That the information be noted; and  
(b) That Members confirm their availability to the office to assist with delivery and collection of appeal supplies to and from local businesses and organisations.

### **34. MAYORAL EVENTS**

#### **(i) Fly the Red Ensign – 3 September 2018**

It was reported that a flag raising ceremony took place on 3 September in Galgate, Remembrance Gardens to commemorate Merchant Navy Day. Pursuant to Minute 24(iii)/July/18, the ceremony was designated a civic event, with seven local councils represented. The Reverend John Moore undertook a blessing of the Red Ensign and the Town Mayor raised the flag. Butterknowle's Sea Scout Group acted as standard bearers. Wreaths were laid. Cllr Kirkbride read the Ode of Remembrance, followed by rousing verses of 'Eternal Father Strong to Save' and haunting last post and reveille, played by Andrew Nicholson. The Port Chaplain for Tees Port and Hartlepool read a closing prayer.

Approximately 91 people attended the ceremony, which was well received by all, including a number of veterans and representatives from Merchant Navy organisations. Afterwards, visitors were invited for refreshments in the Witham, which opened its doors for free.

- Resolved** – (a) That the information be noted;  
(b) That thanks be given to Rev. John Moore, Butterknowle Sea Scouts and Andrew Nicholson;  
(c) That thanks be given to Marie Yarker and the catering team for providing refreshments;  
(d) That thanks be given to The Witham for hosting the reception afterwards and providing tea and coffee; and  
(e) That the date for Fly the Red Ensign for Merchant Navy Day be agreed as Tuesday 3 September 2019, to be programmed into the events programme for 2019/20 with budgetary allocation.

**(ii) Fashion Through the Ages – 28 October 2018**

The Town Mayor announced that, along with the Friends of The Bowes Museum, she was supporting a newly launched youth group, Rotary Interact Club at Barnard Castle School.

A charity event was to be held on Sunday 28 October 2018 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Barnard Castle School. A traditional afternoon tea would be served before the young people showcased fashion and events in Barnard Castle "Through the Ages", based on information from The Mercury archives.

There were currently seventeen town councils and local authorities represented.

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

**35. 2018/19 COMMUNITY EVENTS PROGRAMME**

**(i) Juggling Conference – 19 to 21 October 2018**

Pursuant to Special Council on 16 July, the town council was supporting a juggling workshop for young people on 10 October and a free public performance by a five ring circus on Woodleigh performance area on 20 October at 12 noon. A Durham Jugglers Convention show was to be held at Glaxo sports and social club on 20 October from 7pm.

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

**(ii) Remembrance Sunday & Battle's Over: A Nation's Tribute – 11 November 2018**

The project group coordinating arrangements for the centenary of the declaration of the Armistice had finalised arrangements for that Sunday. The Remembrance service and parade would proceed as in other years, with additional activities across town culminating in the lighting of a beacon from the Castle, which would be part of a national chain of beacons lit in commemoration and as a celebration of peace.

Following the wreath laying at The Town Memorial in the grounds of The Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle School and The Masonic Hall would be serving refreshments. The Witham would open specifically from 12.30pm and would be serving refreshments and 'community lunches'. It was staging a Requiem concert with performers from Barnard Castle School at 7:30pm.

The draft schedule was received.

There would be exhibitions at The Bowes Museum & Barnard Castle School. The Castle Players would perform 'Battle's Over' Vignettes at hourly intervals from 1:00pm at the school and 1:30pm at the Museum (tbc).

A Commemorative Choir Concert would be held in Barnard Castle Methodist Church at 5:45pm (tbc).

Five choirs would perform songs commemorating the early part of the 20th Century and in celebration of peace, interspersed with the vignettes marking the experiences of Teesdale people during the First World War. The timing would be finalised once the length of the programme was confirmed. At the conclusion of the concert, people would be encouraged to gather on Scar Top, where images would be projected onto the Castle walls prior to the last post, beacon lighting, cry for peace (town crier) and bells ringing out for peace (St. Mary's Church).

Members would be provided with fully finalised details of the arrangements nearer the time but were encouraged to advise the office, in advance, of their attendance.

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

### **(iii) Christmas Lights Switch-on Event – 30 November 2018**

Plans were in progress for the town council's annual Christmas event. Barnard Castle Band would provide entertainment. Hot roast chestnuts and gingerbread would be served. Themed photo boards and an Aladdin's Cave would be in-situ on the Performance Area outside Woodleigh, in advance of an Aladdin themed pantomime, prior to the switching-on of the town's Christmas tree lights scheduled for 6.30pm. The traditional Santa's Grotto would be in the Methodist Church, with activities and refreshments in the Church Hall etc.

Santa's sleigh and a winter wonderland of white trees in Woodleigh Grounds would add to the festive atmosphere. Sponsorship was being sought to supplement the town council's budget.

A 'pantomime' themed window dressing competition would be promoted to the town's shops and businesses, with the prize being an Aladdin's lamp.

Children would be provided with lamp cut outs to colour and join in the fun!

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

### **36. CHRISTMAS LIGHTING 2018/19 (BARNARD CASTLE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS)**

A well-attended Italian Evening at Vivos raised £640. Plans were well advanced to hold a Bonfire Night on Saturday 3 November with quieter fireworks set to music on the Demesnes. Help and support for the event had been received from the Clique and Town Council officers.

On 24 October and 14 November, a charity stall on the Wednesday Market would sell Christmas Cards and Fridge magnets to raise further funds.

Sixty meters of icicle lights and a large section of the lights on the main Christmas tree had had to be replaced.

The Christmas Lights Committee had agreed to purchase and install a 'Tree of Peace' to mark the centenary of the Armistice- 'Battle's Over'. This consisted of warm white lights draped down from the trunk of the monkey puzzle tree by Woodleigh.

The Christmas Lights would start to be erected week beginning 12 November.

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

### **37. 1940S EVENT – 21 TO 23 JUNE 2019**

A meeting of the project group was held on 7 August to evaluate the 2018 weekend. Next year, the market place cobbles would be open for public parking, use of the Castle grounds would be increased, a variety of different musical acts would be engaged throughout the weekend and there would be more re-enactors encouraged to attend.

A further meeting was held on 2 October. A 1940s Classic Coach was booked for the weekend. Displays and various exhibitions would be in St Mary's Parish Church and Hall. The Witham was keen to host the 1940s dance on Saturday evening and potentially vintage fair.

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