

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL  
PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**

**4 FEBRUARY 2019**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Sutherland (in the Chair), Chatterjee, Child, Kirkbride, Mrs Moorhouse, Peat and Raw; Shelagh Avery (The Witham) and Jane Whittaker (The Bowes Museum);

**Also in attendance:** Cllr Blissett; Matthew Read (The Bowes Museum); Rachel Tweddle (TCR Hub); Andy Howard (BC Rugby Club); and one member of the press.

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

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

Apologies were received from Councillor Miss Blissett.

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

**49. 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.

**50. PRESENTATIONS**

**(i) The Barney Jam Music Festival 2019**

A representative did not attend.

**(ii) Teesdale Sports Wheel**

Andy Howard, Chair of Barnard Castle Junior Rugby Academy, who was leading on the project on behalf of Barnard Castle RUFC, attended to present information about the concept of the 'Teesdale Sports Wheel'.

Barnard Castle RUFC currently operated on The Demesnes, with its club house on Birch Road. There were issues including safeguarding and hospitality with the current set up. The proposal was to sell the premises in Birch Road and create new rugby pitches, clubhouse, additional car parking and associated facilities on land to the north of Teesdale School. This would be a resource for the whole community, including the creation of a new 4G all weather pitch for Rugby and Soccer and all-weather 400m running track for competitive athletics.

Other project partners included Teesdale School (North East Learning Trust), TCR Hub and Teesdale Leisure Centre (Durham County Council).

The project would be funded primarily by grants, alongside money from the sale of the club's premises in Birch Road.

There were currently no detailed designs. The project was in the early stages of community and stakeholder engagement. A public meeting would be held at TCR Hub on Thursday 28 February at 8pm to formally launch the project.

**Resolved** – That it be recommended to Council on 18 March that the town council supports, in principle, the concept of the Teesdale Sports Wheel.

## **51. PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING – 3 DECEMBER 2018 – MINUTES**

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

## **52. THE BOWES MUSEUM UPDATE**

A public meeting involving The Bowes Museum was held on 28 January at St. Mary's Parish Hall, to gauge interest in the preservation of the Pittuck Mural and its value to the town. There was considerable interest. A further meeting would look at responses gathered and a way forward.

The Christmas Fair took place 14 to 16 December with 75 stalls. A total of 5,124 visitors attended over three days. Funding from Darlington Building Society brought in additional disadvantaged families.

The 'Catwalking: Fashion through the Lens of Chris Moore' exhibition closed on 6 January.

The current major exhibition showing was 'SOLD! The Great British Antiques Story' from 26 January to 5 May. Local antiques dealers had been approached to recreate a curiosity shop from 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

The four year WW1 project was being evaluated, including Remembrance Day Parades, reporting back to Heritage Lottery Fund.

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

## **53. THE WITHAM**

A new Centre Manager, David McKnight, had been appointed and a meeting of the new board with revised governance structure was held in January. Each trustee now held a portfolio. The Witham's programme this year would focus on 'something for everyone'.

Tuesday evening entertainment for £5 was being tested.

Fundraising events were continuing. Another variety 'Sunday Night at The Witham' was being held on 14 April.

Barnard Castle Band was rehearsing free once a month on Sunday in return for concerts.

A summer garden party was planned.

The Witham had hosted the 'Making Barney Brighter Together' Mayoral event on 9 January.

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

## **54. TCR HUB**

Rachel Tweddle, CEO at TCR Hub attended to update on activities. It was proposed that this would be a standing item at each Partnership Committee meeting. Members noted that as TCR Hub was outside the parish boundary, it was appropriate that a representative attended in a non-voting capacity.

*Harambee Pasadia* - an Afro-Fusion musical festival was being held again 31 May to 2 June. Funding had been secured to take part in Durham Festival of Wellbeing end of August. A newsletter detailing weekly classes was circulated.

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

## **55. POPPY APPEAL**

At the last meeting, it was reported that the total raised within the 2-week period of 2018 Remembrancetide stood at £12,364.08. To date, the interim total now stood at £16,650.71, which was only £675.52 short of the total for the 2017 Appeal.

The 1940s weekend in June offered another opportunity to fundraise for the appeal and further increase the total. A street collection permit had been sought from Durham County Council for 22 and 23 June 2019.

Despite a number of new volunteers coming on board this year, it proved difficult to arrange collection cover for the whole two-week period and this involved some individuals doing a tremendous amount of hours. If the number of volunteers could not be extended this year, it might not be possible to have cover for the two-week period without overworking current volunteers; a decision would be taken later in the year.

Discussions were currently taking place with HMYOI Deerbolt to work collaboratively on a project to up-cycle old appeal stock. Further details should be available at the next meeting.

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

## **56. MAYORAL EVENTS**

The Town Mayor gave a verbal update on the group '*Making Barney Brighter Together*'. There had been a fantastic response to the launch on 9 January, with 75 people attending. The group was now fully constituted with charitable status under the umbrella of MTPP. A newsletter was to be circulated. The group was concerned about 'Destination Plan' for Barnard Castle, produced by Visit County Durham in 2013, which was referenced as a background document for the County Durham Plan. This would be explored at Special Council on 18 February.

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

## **57. 2019/20 COMMUNITY EVENTS PROGRAMME**

Received – a report providing an overview of community events the town council had already committed to for the coming year and presenting a potential 2019/20 programme with indicative budgetary allocation for consideration.

Members were reminded that, consequent on the budget set by Council on 21 January, there was a total budget of £7,140 allocated to Community Events for 2019/20.

There was currently £733.00 remaining in 'The Bowes Museum 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary' and £1,142 in the '1940s Event' Earmarked Reserves.

A 2019/20 Events Calendar was proposed as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Proposed Expenditure</b>
May	Arts Week	0
June 21	Aviation Day	£150
June (21 to 23)	1940s Weekend	£3,000
July 13-21	Durham Brass Festival	0
Sept 3	Fly the Red Ensign for Merchant Navy Day	£150
Sept 7	Barney Jam	0
Sept 13-22	Heritage Open Days	0
Oct	Juggling Convention	£250
Nov 10 & 11	Remembrance Sunday & Armistice Day	£500
Nov 29 (tbc)	Christmas Lights Switch-on	£2,500
Dec 4 to 8	Christmas Tree Festival (St. Mary's Parish Church)	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>£6,550</b>

**Resolved** – (a) That the information be noted;

(b) That a budget of £3,000 be allocated to the 2019 1940s weekend from 2019/20 Community Events Budget;

(c) That a budget of £800 be allocated to Remembrance Events;

(d) That Christmas Lights Switch-On Event be confirmed as Friday 29 November;

(e) That a project group be convened to determine content and structure of Christmas Event, with plans finalised by end May;

(f) That a budget of £2,500 be allocated to Christmas Event;

(g) That the town council participates in St. Mary's Parish Church Christmas Tree Festival 4 to 8 December 2019, funded by Mayor's Charity Fund;

(h) That £250 be allocated to public performance during Juggling Convention in October;

(i) That the £733 remaining in 'The Bowes Museum 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary' Earmarked Reserve be retained under a more generalised title, to be determined by Resources Committee;

and

(j) That £590 otherwise unallocated in the 2019/20 Community Events budget, be used to support other potential local events throughout the year, to be considered in line with the Council's Community Events Policy.

## **58. DURHAM YEAR OF CULTURE 2019**

It was reported that 2019 had been designated by Visit County Durham as Durham's Year of Culture. Launched in January, the #Durham19 campaign gave businesses the opportunity to get on board and benefit from the activities taking place and drive visits to the county. The programme also engaged residents, encouraging local communities to discover the region's culture and heritage.

There was a consumer website <http://www.thisisdurham.com/19> showcasing all of the county's events and festivals, large and small, in one place for the first time, along with a corporate website <https://www.visitcountydurham.org/durham19> providing the tools businesses needed to get involved. The town council had already submitted details of the 1940s weekend (21 to 23 June 2019).

CDALC had provided a representative, Cllr Blakemore from Sedgefield Town Council, on the steering group, representing town and parish councils.

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

#### **59. CHRISTMAS LIGHTING 2018/19 & 2019/20 (BARNARD CASTLE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS)**

The Christmas Lights Committee was checking to see how many of the lights needed replacing to maintain the existing display, as well as deciding on improvements for next year and organising fundraising events. Possible improvements included: changing all of the 50 small Christmas trees to coloured ones as seen on The Bank; the possible purchase of a Snow Globe to go outside Woodleigh and dressing another tree with snowfall strips.

The much appreciated money from the Town Council did not quite cover the cost of putting the lights up and down and storing them. To help finance maintaining the existing display and any future improvements, the next fundraising event was a Wine Tasting Evening on Wednesday 20 February 2019 7pm at the Cricket Club. Other events planned for the year included an Indian Quiz Night, a BBQ and a Bonfire Night with quiet fireworks set to music, in conjunction with The Clique.

Following the 2018/19 display, a review meeting was held on 29 January attended by representatives of BCCL, Cllr Mrs Moorhouse, the Clerk and Deputy Clerk. Overall, the Christmas Lighting display was a success. The remaining balance out of the 2018/19 Christmas Lights budget (£3,934.50) was to be paid to BCCL on receipt of an invoice.

There were issues with some commando boxes on lampposts and the Christmas tree lights were on permanently. One swan motif had not been erected along Newgate as tree branches were in the way. This would be reported to Durham County Council.

The entire dismantled display was currently being checked and tested. Some hardware would need replacing and windage testing of lampposts on Newgate for swan motifs was due prior to the 2019/20 season. A further meeting was to be held at end of March 2019.

**Resolved** –(a) That the information be noted; and  
(b) That the town council gives administrative assistance with the SAG process for a Bonfire Night with fireworks display.