

FAREHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL/HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Fareham Museum Joint Management Committee

*Minutes of a meeting held on 23 May 2011
at Westbury Manor Museum, Fareham*

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs C L A Hockley (Fareham)
(Chairman)

Councillor J V Bryant (Hampshire)
(Vice-Chairman)

Councillors: B Bayford (Fareham) and R H Price, JP (Hampshire)

Other representatives: Mrs B M Clapperton (Friends of Fareham Museum)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr M F Godrich (Friends of Fareham Museum) and Stephen Lowy, Community Museums Manager (HCC).

2. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Bayford, who had recently been appointed as Fareham Borough Council's representative on the Joint Committee for the new municipal year.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Fareham Museum Joint Management Committee held on 14 April 2011 be confirmed and signed as a correct record ([fm-110414-m](#))

4. PHASE 2 ARTS AND MUSEUMS STRATEGIC REVIEW

The Committee received a verbal update from Dr Janet Owen, Head of Museums and Arts Services regarding Phase 2 of the Museums and Arts Services Strategic Review and the implications in terms of the future vision for Fareham museum service.

Reference was made to the report to the Executive Member for Culture and Recreation (HCC) on 8 March 2011 which introduced Phase 2. Members were advised that Phase 2 would continue the strategic approach to delivery of the

museum service within the requirement to make financial savings. The 5 Phase 1 principles to be carried forward to Phase 2 were:-

- (i) continuing to develop wider participation in museum activity across the community;
- (ii) Continuing the approach to maintaining strategic collections;
- (iii) Promoting integrated working by taking opportunities for greater links between museums and arts activity within the service;
- (iv) Continuing to developing partnership working with district councils; and
- (v) Generating income and accessing external funding including exploring potential funding opportunities such as sponsorship or philanthropy.

It had also been specifically proposed that Phase 2 further develops an innovative and cost efficient approach to arts and museums service delivery.

Dr Owen advised that it was intended to hold informal discussions with the Head of Leisure and Community to gain an idea of the aspirations for the future delivery of the museum service in Fareham. However, this meeting provided an important opportunity to discuss the matter and receive members' general views as part of the consultation process.

It was noted that Fareham has the four facilities of Westbury Manor Museum, the Library, Ashcroft Arts Centre and Ferneham Hall. Dr Owen stated that one of the dimensions to the strategic review was to look at the sub-regional museum sector. In Phase 1 of the strategic review the move was to a more area based approach which will continue. An example of this area based approach was the recent Local Heroes project which involved direct links with Gosport.

Councillor Price, whilst acknowledging that there may be scope in the future for working in conjunction with the other facilities referred to above, expressed the view that he supported the museum service remaining in the current building in the town centre. It was his view that it is a focal point promoting the history of the area and concerned with local issues. Councillor Bryant stated that consideration could be given to moving towards the concept of a Discovery Centre with the opportunity for a more integrated service providing exhibitions and more provision for research.

The Curator commented that the Museum being centrally located could contribute to town centre events and the building itself with its forecourt and garden provided an attraction to visitors. Also in the current year a lot of work had been undertaken in partnership with Council officers which had proved very successful. The key audiences were generally considered to be families and school children (particularly through work undertaken with local schools).

The Head of Leisure and Community reported that the existing management agreement with Hampshire County Council to run Westbury Manor as a museum expires in 2012, which ties in with the Phase 2 review. Dr Owen commented that the future of the museum service and how that service would be provided would be a joint decision between the Borough Council and Hampshire County Council. On behalf of the Friends of Fareham Museum, Mrs Clapperton was also invited to seek

the views of her members on the issues discussed and advise the Committee accordingly.

Dr Owen thanked members for their comments and views which had proved informative and helpful in establishing some of the key issues at this stage. It was proposed that options for future operation of the museum service be presented to the Joint Committee at the next meeting for further discussion.

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Monday 19 September 2011 commencing at 10.00 am in Westbury Manor Museum.

(The meeting started at 10.00 am and ended at 11.27am)