

FAREHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL/HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Fareham Museum Joint Management Committee

*Minutes of a meeting held on 25 October 2012
at Westbury Manor Museum, Fareham*

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

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

**Friends of Fareham
Museum:** Mrs B Clapperton.

1. ALDERMAN MIKE GODRICH

The Chairman paid tribute to the contribution made to the work of the Museum Joint Management Committee by the late Alderman Mike Godrich. Over many years Alderman Godrich had served on the Committee both as a Council member and as a representative of the Friends of Fareham Museum. The tribute was endorsed by all those present.

2. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from the Vice-Chairman, Councillor J V Bryant.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED that, subject to an amendment to minute 7, Phase 2 of the Arts and Museums Service Review, to note that the figure of number of volunteers recruited across all museums in the county should have read 120 and not 120,000, the minutes of the meeting of the Fareham Museum Joint Management Committee held on 6 July 2012 be confirmed and signed as a correct record ([fm-120706-m](#)).

4. WESTBURY MANOR MUSEUM - CURATOR'S REPORT

The Joint Management Committee considered a report by the Community Curator, Tom de Wit, which provided an update on general progress and performance of the Museum over the period July to September 2012 (copy of report fm-121025-curator's report circulated with agenda).

Reference was made to the success of Sunday opening on 15 July 2012, when the Museum hosted a number of activities and events in support of the Olympic Torch relay procession through the town. It was noted that over 3,000 people visited the museum on that day and members expressed their appreciation to the Curator and his team for their input into a very successful community festival. Mention was also made of the "How I Got Here - My Journey to Fareham" project which was celebrated at an opening event on 25 September 2012 attended by Councillor Mrs Susan Bayford, Deputy Mayor.

Members noted the impact the above event had had on visitor figures particularly for July, and that the overall general trend was showing an increase to reasonable numbers for each month.

It was RESOLVED that:-

- (i) Tom be thanked for his informative report; and
- (ii) the Committee extend its thanks to Tom and his team for all their hard work in putting on the events and activities detailed in the report.

5. SCHOOL SERVICE REVIEW

The Joint Management Committee considered a report by the Community Curator on the School Service Review (copy of report [fm-121025-Schools Service Review](#) circulated with agenda).

Members were informed that the aim of the review was to look at the use made of the museum by its local schools at the height of Renaissance funding (2009/10) and during the transition years, and to propose an action plan to ensure that a valued service is offered to regular visitors, to re-engage any who have not visited recently, and increase visits from non-visiting schools.

Section 1 of the report provided a summary of schools' use of the museum service for 2009/10, the types of sessions delivered and details of the schools which used Westbury Manor. Section 2 described the proposed campaign to achieve an increase in schools' use of the museum. It was emphasised that with Museums and Arts services now working together, there was greater opportunity for a wider range of people to be involved in the delivery of services to schools.

It was RESOLVED that the information provided in the report be noted.

6. PRESENTATION ON ASHCROFT ARTS CENTRE

The Joint Management Committee received a presentation from Annabel Cook, (Director/Programmer of the Ashcroft Arts Centre).

The Joint Committee received a presentation from Annabel Cook (Area Arts and Museums Manager) on her role as the Ashcroft Arts Centre Director and the services provided by the Centre. She described her work with local secondary schools in both the Fareham and Gosport areas and gave details of various projects that had been undertaken.

It was RESOLVED that Ms Cook be thanked for her very informative presentation.

7. BUDGETS 2012/13 AND INITIAL PROPOSALS FOR 2013/14

The Joint Management Committee considered a report by the Strategic Manager Visitor Services on the budgets for 2012/13 and the initial proposals for 2013/14 (copy of report [fm-121025-Budgets](#) circulated with agenda).

Members were informed that the report showed initial budget proposals and proposed contributions from Fareham Borough Council and Hampshire County Council for 2013/14. It was noted that the contribution from Fareham BC was proposed to remain the same as for the current year, that is, £71,700. The Chairman requested that the report include a breakdown of additional contributions made by Fareham BC i.e. towards central costs, cost of premises, grounds maintenance, in addition to the required contribution. The Joint Committee was advised that a further report on the proposed 2013/14 budget, to include a breakdown of the additional contributions referred to above, would be presented to the next meeting of the Joint Committee for approval.

It was RESOLVED that the information be noted.

8. A NEW TRUST FOR ARTS, MUSEUMS, AND HERITAGE IN THE HAMPSHIRE/SOLENT AREA

The Joint Management Committee considered a report by the Head of Museums and Arts (Dr Janet Owen), on proposals for a new trust for arts, museums and heritage in the Solent area (copy of report - [fm-121025-Fareham.doc](#) and [fm-121025-General Briefing note](#) circulated with the agenda).

Dr Owen reminded members of the work that had already been done regarding the Fully Integrated Merger (FIM) project which was considering the proposal that Hampshire County Council, Southampton City Council and Winchester City Council work together to create a Hampshire Solent Cultural Trust that would support the delivery of arts, heritage and museums services across the area. The proposed new trust would take the form of a Charitable Company limited by guarantee. The report outlined how the proposed new trust might look for arts and museums services provided by Hampshire County Council in Fareham at Westbury Manor and Ashcroft Arts Centre. It was noted that the three authorities would be making a decision as to whether to proceed with the setting up of a proposed new trust in December 2012/January 2013.

One of the key issues detailed in the report concerned funding partnership arrangements. From 2014/15 onwards it is proposed that a 3 year funding agreement be put in place between Fareham Borough Council (FBC) and Hampshire County Council (HCC) with the new trust delivering services on behalf of HCC. Similar joint management arrangements would continue and the new Trust would report to FBC and HCC on a quarterly or six monthly basis.

It was proposed that FBC be requested to commit to current levels of funding for Westbury Manor Museum for the period 2013/14 to 2016/17. It was anticipated that the new trust would have the potential to attract new funding and thereby be in a position to support future developments, which would be of benefit to FBC in the

long-term. The Joint Committee was advised that the current lease on Westbury Manor Museum would terminate in November 2012, although provision for an extension until 31 March 2014 was currently under discussion. A 3 year tenancy agreement between FBC, HCC and the new trust was proposed for the period 2014/15 - 2016/17 to reflect future occupancy arrangements.

Dr Owen advised members that any comments or feedback on the proposals was welcome and the deadline for comments was 16 November 2012. Any comments were considered to be very helpful in shaping the proposals and highlighting areas of concern.

Concern was expressed about the impact of the proposed new trust on district councils such as Fareham and whether this might mean a reduction in the influence district councils would have on future business decisions made by the trust. Concern was also raised whether the new trust would be too large a body. Dr Owen put forward the view that a larger body would have greater potential to attract funding, particularly strategic national funding.

Mark Bowler, Head of Leisure and Community, FBC stated that it was proposed that, in consultation with the Chairman, a letter would be sent to HCC expressing the comments/views/concerns of the Joint Committee as discussed at the meeting.

It was RESOLVED that the Head of Leisure and Community, in consultation with the Chairman, write to HCC to advise of the Joint Committee's views/comments/concerns on the proposal for a New Trust and on the key issues detailed in the report.

It was NOTED that the current agreement between Fareham Borough Council and Hampshire County Council would expire on 25 November 2012. A Deed of Variation had been drafted to continue with the existing arrangements with an annual review and 12 months notice of termination.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED that the next meeting of the Fareham Museum Joint Committee take place on Monday 4 February 2013, commencing at 10.00am in Westbury Manor Museum.

(The meeting started at 10.00am and ended at 11.35am)