

ROTHERHAM CULTURAL CONSORTIUM

Venue: Town Hall,
Moorgate Street,
Rotherham.

Date: Wednesday, 15 September
2004

Time: 2.00 p.m.

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 18th February, 2004 (copy herewith).
(Pages 1 - 10)
3. Matters Arising
4. Cultural Service Developments - February-August 2004.
Phil Rogers, Strategic Leader, Culture, Leisure & Lifelong Learning.
Opportunity for members of the Consortium to ask questions.
5. Rotherham Renaissance - Your Views Count
Presentation by Karl Battersby, Head of Planning & Transportation
6. Future Perfect: Rotherham's Cultural Strategy
Quarterly update on the implementation of individual elements of the Future Perfect Action Plan:
Guy Kilminster, Libraries, Museums & Arts Manager
Steve Hallsworth, Leisure & Green Spaces Manager
Marie Hayes, Commercial & Promotional Services Manager
Rod Norton, Young People's Services Manager
Richard Poundford, Head of Rotherham Investment & Development Office
(Local Tourism Partnership)
7. Cultural Consortium Advisory Panels
Reports from lead officers or panel chairs on initial meetings and any issues arising:
Sport (Steve Hallsworth)
Green Spaces (Phil Gill)
Heritage, Archives & Tourism (Steve Blackburn)
Theatre, Libraries, Writing & the Arts (Guy Kilminster)
8. Relationship with the Rotherham Partnership - Cultural Strategy Action Plan and Community Strategy
Report from Phil Rogers and Guy Kilminster

9. The South Yorkshire Cultural Prospectus
Report from Guy Kilminster

10. Lifelong Learning Opportunities Scrutiny Panel
Request to nominate up to three co-optees. Note that Christine Cox, Joyce Williams and Roy Newman served over the last 12 months.

11. 3rd Rotherham Cultural Conference, 2005
To consider whether and how to plan this event.

12. Any Other Business

13. Date of Next Meeting

ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**ROTHERHAM CULTURAL CONSORTIUM****18th FEBRUARY, 2004**

Present:-

Councillor G. Boyes **(In the Chair)**

Councillor K. Wyatt

Mrs. E. Temple

Mr. S. Lister

Mr. L. Johnson

Mr. B. Beeley

Mr. T. Clabby

Mr. R. Bye

Mr. D. Rowley

Mrs. J. Williams

Mrs. A. Myers

Mr. M. Bishop

R.M.B.C. Officers:-

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| Mr. Phil Rogers | Strategic Leader, Culture, Leisure and Lifelong Learning |
| Mr. Tony Preston | Business Development Manager, Culture, Leisure & Lifelong Learning |
| Mr. S. Hallsworth | Acting Business Manager, Leisure and Green Spaces, Culture, Leisure and Lifelong Learning |
| Mr. Guy Kilminster | Manager, Libraries, Museums & Arts |
| Mr. N. Barnes | Business Development Officer, Culture, Leisure and Lifelong Learning |
| Mr. S. Blackburn | Principal Officer, Museums, Galleries & Heritage |
| Miss S. Myers | Tourism Manager, Planning & Transportation Manager |
| Mr. T. Devine | Development Surveyor, Rotherham Investment and Development Office |

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Christine Cox, Val Allen, Martin Happs, Paul Glentworth, Roy Newman, David Gayton, Marie Hayes, Phil Gill and Councillors Austen, Burke and St. John.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 26th NOVEMBER, 2003.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Cultural Landmarks

Invitations would shortly be sent out for the launch of this initiative.

(b) The Old Three Cranes, High Street

The meeting was informed that the Council had been unsuccessful in the purchase of the Three Cranes building. This had been sold to a private owner who proposed to convert the building to a convenience store.

Louise Richardson, Conservation & Urban Design Officer, Planning, Transportation and Tourism had arranged an emergency meeting with the developer to discuss the need for any alterations to the building to seek listed building consent. The owners had been advised to stop all work pending this meeting.

The meeting expressed great disappointment about this.

Agreed:- That an update report be submitted to a future meeting.

(c) Theatre and Arts

Town Team and Consultants – A representative from the Town Team had been unable to attend today's meeting.

4. FUTURE PERFECT: ROTHERHAM'S CULTURAL STRATEGY

Quarterly update reports were given on the implementation of individual elements of the Future Perfect Action Plan, as follows:-

Libraries - Three years ago the service had not met Library Standards. However, since the refurbishment of libraries it was expected to meet 21 of the 24 library standards, the three not being met being about the location of libraries, which the Council had plans to look at.

Libraries On-Line – an initiative which encouraged children to use computers with parents – had made pleasing progress.

£484,000 investment in IT which was operational at all branches. Every householder to be issued a free e mail address – 83,000 user sessions booked since the 1st April, 2003 – 3,800 new children have been introduced to the Library via the People's Champion post for Libraries. This area of work will continue to develop across the service.

Due to investment of £60,000 from Primary Care Trust, it would be possible to develop Brinsworth Library at a cost of £180,000.

Gulbenkian Award – Community Curators' Project – This year Rotherham had again been shortlisted for this basic skills Heritage Education Project – the

use of Heritage resources through museums, galleries to help people with basic skills needs in relation to development of numeracy and literacy. Two Judges were to visit Rotherham on the 27th February - only two other Yorkshire projects shortlisted.

This was an important initiative which was a demonstration that Museums, Galleries and Heritage has a role to play in learning which is not presently acknowledged.

Thurcroft Library - facilities were proving to be of great value. Significant increase in book issues and usage.

Catcliffe Glass Cone – Due to funding from English Heritage - grilles have now been fitted and Catcliffe Parish Council was to take over the supervision of the area, which would be closed after dark. It was hoped the vandalism would be reduced.

Working with Carers in Care - £24,000 funding from Arts Council England/Yorkshire office for a project working with carers in care homes to help them to develop artistic talents to work with the residents so that they have an artistic impact into their time in the care homes. Very successful project, Social Services are very pleased with the results and reviewing their contribution to the project.

Keppel's Column – Final stages of Project Planning work preparation for submission to Heritage Lottery Fund, or a major funding body, to repair and re-open the column. Visitors Management Plan in the final stages – to include facts and figures about what kind of staffing are required, Health and Safety issues, visitor figures/current capacity and ways of improving other interesting sites. Work progressing well.

Walker Mausoleum – Currently working with an Architect to develop plans to restore the Mausoleum. Subject to planning permission, it is hoped to complete the Project by June, 2004.

Best Value Performance Indicators – One BVPI looked at on a three yearly basis – satisfaction rating by library users – 93.9% rating this year (target 75%). Clear demonstration that users are starting to acknowledge an improvement.

Agreed:- That a press release be issued regarding the BVPI results.

School's Music Service – The Service had undergone a very successful Ofsted inspection. This had highlighted the talents of young people in this area, which the Service continued to promote.

It was felt the result showed the extra value the School's Music Service provided.

It was hoped to secure funding for a Curriculum Support Officer for the Autumn term to develop Key Stage I and II, and hopefully progress to Key Stage III.

Tourism Service – International Tourist Guide Day highlighted. Possibly the only town in Yorkshire to mark the event with a series of free walks around Rotherham Town centre to highlight buildings of architectural and cultural interest.

Work to raise the profile of Rotherham continued and in encouraging a sense of pride of place in the community. Other aspects of work include liaising with the Rotherham Arts Festival and a need to follow a theme, and activities to mark the opening of the Museum and Rotherham Show. A tourism strategy would shortly be compiled.

The Tourism Service was available to help facilitate all the positive things happening in the Borough and groups were encouraged to make full use of their town centre window if there were events to promote and advertise. There was also the new giant screen in All Saints Square.

Young People's Services - The Council had invited a "shadow" Ofsted inspection. Excellent result showing a thriving service with clear guidance for improvement. Weak areas to be worked on. Degree of success with the group who went to Edinburgh. Corporate report to be submitted to the next meeting.

Community Learning – "Playing for Success" project (which commenced in September) has been very good. Preliminary negotiations with the Football Club for a similar project there.

Officers of the Local Authority are very conscious that cultural activity development in Rotherham is being contributed to from the voluntary sector.

Recent information from the National Lottery database showed that since January, 2003 organisations in Rotherham have acquired 139 lottery awards from the Arts Council through to Sports England – total value just under £6million.

Agreed:- That a suitable press release be issued on the lottery awards.

5. ROTHERHAM SKATEPARKS

It was reported that additional funding through "Transforming Your Space Fair Share" of New Opportunities Funding has been obtained.

One of the projects is the provision of skateparks in Rotherham.

Work continued on a strategic approach, partly in recognition of the fact that the Council could not provide this facility everywhere in view of maintenance and costs.

Initially looking at a core of five skateparks, the first of which had been installed at Ferham Park funded by another source.

Presently working to secure a further four skateparks located at Wath upon Dearne, Wales, Clifton Park in 2004 and Maltby which will follow in 2005.

The facility at Clifton Park could be installed before the end of March, 2004. Further plans were being explored in order to offer opportunities for multi-use games.

Consultation work was ongoing with local groups.

The facility at Wales was on a Wales Parish Council site, which it was hoped to link with multi-use games facilities.

One of the main features of the provision was to ensure easy access where possible through public transport links.

It was anticipated that the facility in Wath would be installed before this Summer.

Maltby had not yet identified an appropriate location.

Match-funding had been from a range of other providers giving a total project cost of £308,000. Linked with this was a small revenue package which would allow a web site and video diary to be set up. This would enable training and demonstration, with the possibility of funding mobile skateparks.

Officers within Culture and Leisure Services were presently working with a private developer to provide indoor provision.

Each of the skateparks has a Steering Group.

One member sought an assurance regarding the safety features of the facility.

It was pointed out that appropriate signage on the need to wear protective equipment and headgear was to be installed, and that legal guidance had been taken on such matters.

Tony Clabby added that, Officers in Green Spaces, were presently considering supporting a similar initiative in Valley Park.

6. CULTURAL CONSORTIUM ADVISORY PANELS

Heritage, Archives & Tourism – Two meetings had now taken place.

Clifton Park Museum Project – Building Work was progressing well and within budget. The re-opening date of Saturday, 21st October, 2004 was on target.

The Project had been put forward for the Gulbenkian Award.

Cultural Landmarks Project – Panels have been installed and launch leaflets are presently being printed for the end of March, prior to the Community Funding ceasing. Signage manufacturers, as used by the National Trust, have been employed to maintain and inspect panels on a regular basis, and clean them as and when graffiti appears.

Archives – The staffing issue was the major problem. However, there are a number of interesting projects.

Discussions have taken place on the reopening of the Museum. Staff are passionate that this event should justify the hard work which has gone into the Museum's redevelopment. A Programme will be considered by everyone involved.

A range of Rotherham souvenirs had been discussed for the Rotherham Visitor Centre and how this could be promoted, and allowing groups to sell them to represent the Borough both inside and outside.

Rotherham Show also being planned and the fact that Libraries, Museums and Arts will be staffing a marquee.

Writing and Arts – Second meeting held last week. Focus of the agenda was the new Theatre facility, which it was hoped to achieve through Town Team, and programming of the existing Civic Theatre and Arts Centre.

Urban Renaissance Programme had been discussed in terms of getting the Theatre on the agenda.

The "Yes Project" had been mentioned and concerns raised. It was felt the important factor was that all parties liaised with each other in terms of the two different developments.

Discussion had centred around what the constraints are and timescale - the demand on the Theatre from the Operatic and Drama Societies - the need to provide more professional programmes – relationships with schools and risk assessment in bringing pupils out of school – and work with Heads of Drama and other teacher networks.

It is generally felt that the new brochure is a great improvement in terms of design, layout and content.

Leisure and Green Spaces – It is hoped to continue to develop the Ranger Service pilot which had been a success in Clifton Park. New Opportunities Funding for two ranger posts for three years.

New publicity brochure for Open and Green Spaces – of major significance was the re-enactment by The Sealed Knot in Rother Valley Country Park.

Both the Green Spaces and Leisure Advisory Panels have met twice and both groups were challenging, supporting and providing advocacy for the work happening in both areas. The work within the Green Spaces section was praised and it was hoped to provide a similar level of service for sport and leisure.

Both groups very much appreciated the support from the groups and would endeavour to maximize this.

Sport and Leisure – There has been a number of externally funded posts which would come to an end at some point. However, a mainstream core funded team had been formed of development officers who are engaging with communities to identify and meet needs.

Both with leisure and green spaces there has been development of a partnership through Primary Care Trust.

One member made reference to the new RSPB reserve in Wath and of the need to make the best use of this facility when promoting tourism in the area.

It was confirmed that the Local Authority recognised the relevance of boundaries and of the need to celebrate what is available to tourists.

7. SWIMMING POOL CLOSURES

Phil Rogers explained the rationale behind the two recent closures of Sheffield Road pool and Herringthorpe Leisure Centre pool, the main reason being as a result of Health and Safety risks. Certainly in the case of Sheffield Road there had been 57 defects, 13 of which had been deemed potentially dangerous, and the facilities had gone beyond their useful life.

The main problem at Herringthorpe pool had been the roof over the swimming pool.

In view of those risks, and new build scheduled to take place, a decision had been taken to close the facilities rather than invest further public money.

The bidding process for new pools was progressing well and on schedule, the bid was expected to be submitted to the Treasury to assess the Council's Outline Business Case. Public consultation would then take place.

The success of the project should be known by early June, 2004. If successful, it was hoped to engage with construction partners shortly after.

Agreed:- That a press release be issued and a Helpline number given for information on pools and where it was possible to swim.

Swinton Pool – Lighting problem rectified.

Maltby Pool – Remedial works to be carried out.

Dry Sports Site -The New Centre at Herringthorpe was combined with the same 30 million bid and would follow the same route and timescale.

Remedial works were being carried out at Herringthorpe Dry Sports Hall.

Space for Sports and Arts – Four of the five Primary Schools were now open and the last school would be a complete build.

The Sports Hall at Rawmarsh is open and the new Sports Hall at St. Ann's J & I School opened last week to a production of Les Miserables, which was a great success.

New Opportunities Funding - Bids for Aston Comprehensive, Wath Pope Pius RC and Dinnington Comprehensive for all weather sports halls had been submitted. Positive feedback had been received. If successful, this area of work would move forward.

Now a great opportunity to drive forward the leisure aspects of the work.

The Programme Area has worked very hard with Town Team to ensure culture is at the forefront of agendas.

Community Learning – The Service had been re-focussed and a re-inspection was to take place on 10th May, 2004.

Music Service – Friends of Clifton Park Museum and the Music Service have worked hard with basic learning skills to enhance the work.

Schools Music Service – Recently undergone Ofsted inspection, the results being very encouraging. Rotherham rated as equal first in the country. DVD recorded in Rotherham which would be made available to every school in the country as an excellent example of good practice in the teaching of music.

New ideas were being explored for music to be more modern, work which the Music Service is embracing. Audit of provision carried out and plans to look at other voluntary and community sector services/organisations are part of the review.

Advisory Groups – Thanks were extended to everyone involved in the work of the Advisory Groups. This had proved to be very useful and was another way of driving culture forward.

Other Areas of Work – had made progress. It was hoped to take the Service forward as the best in the country.

The Yes! Project – Tim Devine was welcomed to the meeting to give an outline history of the Yes! Project. The presentation covered the following aspects and a conceptual drawing was circulated:-

- The Sites
- The Opportunity
- The Developer – privately financed
- The Yes! Project
- Significance

The main advantages to the Project were:-

- links with sports and leisure
- theatre for major westend productions/training and education
- luxury spa and resort
- multi-media links
- deluxe conferencing facilities
- live entertainment space
- no-pay perimeter
- sporting centre/multi-events space

The developers had always made it clear that it has never been their intention to detract from the park as it is.

One member expressed concern in terms of the Rother Valley Project and its impact on Town Centre plans, and the lack of consultation with key people from this Consortium.

The Chair explained that up to the present time, the information had been commercially sensitive.

The Chair explained that the developer had met to discuss intentions at every opportunity and that it was not felt the initiative would radically affect any other proposals. On the contrary, it was hoped both the Rother Valley initiative and town centre plans would attract a growing audience.

Views were expressed on the advantages and disadvantages of the project, and how it was felt it linked to Rotherham town centre and raised its profile – how it linked to Finningley - Magna and cross-culturing around South Yorkshire – and supertram nearby.

Tim Devine explained it was a unique Project in the UK, which, subject to planning permission, should be complete by 2007.

8. GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE ON INTEGRATED CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY STRATEGIES

Guy Kilminster gave a verbal report on recent guidance issued by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport on the current requirement for a community strategy to be prepared for the Borough which is led by the Rotherham Partnership.

There was clearly some links between that and the Community Strategies of the Local Authority.

DCMS had suggested it might be a good idea to integrate this work strategically so that the direction of the cultural requirement within a Borough will be contained within the same document.

A response from Rotherham Partnership was currently awaited.

In the meantime it was felt a response should be sent from the Local Authority.

Agreed:- That Guy Kilminster write to Rotherham Partnership emphasising the need for cultural issues to be included in the strategy, and perhaps suggest the need for the Local Partnership to add a cultural spoke to its make-up.

9. SECOND ROTHERHAM CULTURAL CONFERENCE

The meeting was reminded that the second Cultural Conference was to take place on Saturday, 8th May, 2004 at St. Anns Performing Arts centre.

Consideration was given to the agenda for the Conference which had been compiled after feedback received at the November meeting.

It was pointed out that the four Advisory Panels of this Consortium should be advertised at the Conference.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

“The Twits” – 18th – 21st February, 2004.

Attention was drawn to this week’s production of The Twits by Third Nail Theatre.

11. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- That the next meeting of this Consortium be held in September, 2004 (date and time yet to be determined).