

Agenda Item No: 5

Report to: Museums Committee

Date of Meeting: 6 December 2010

Report Title: Curator's Report

Report By: Cathy Walling
Museum Curator

Purpose of Report

to provide an update on issues from previous meetings and confirmation of Curator's actions

Recommendation(s)

1. the report is for noting

Reasons for Recommendations

Introduction

This report updates members on matters carried over from previous meetings and other items not included on the agenda.

1. The draft Museum Forward Plan, presented at the last Museums Committee meeting in September, has now been agreed by Cabinet and Full Council. The forward actions now form part of the work programme of the Curator and other Museum staff.
2. Some staff post titles and job descriptions have been changed to reflect additional responsibilities. The Archivist is now Keeper of Local History and Archives. The Education Officer is now Education Officer and Keeper of World Art. The Exhibitions Officer is now Exhibition Officer and Keeper of Fine and Decorative Art. The Admin Officer is now Museum Support Services Co-ordinator.
3. Listed Building Consent has now been obtained to place the commemorative plaque to Muriel Matters in position on 7 Pelham Crescent.
4. Permission has been given for the following reproductions of illustrations from the Museum collection.
 - BBC for images of Hastings Pier for news coverage
 - Judges, working with the Pier Trust, for images of the pier for a set of postcards
 - P.Ensom for an image of Samuel Husband Beckles for inclusion in a guide book on the geology of the Purbeck coast, commissioned by Jurassic Coast Trust.
 - British Museum Press for image of Yixin Ware teapot from Jiangsu province for reprint of '10,000 years of Pottery' by Enmmanuel Cooper.
 - Georgian Group magazine for five images of Burtons St Leonards for article.
5. A question has been received about the future of the Corporate Archive at Castleham. This was opened in March, and enabled all HBC archive material to be kept in one place, and for facilities at Summerfields, Wellington Square and Century House to be cleared. There is both archive material and working documents from all HBC departments, which are kept according to the statutory requirements and current policy. Museum archives are still in the Museum store, and there is no plan to transfer them to the Corporate Archive.
6. A question has been received about the use of the land behind the Museum, previously intended for an extension. Consideration of future use for this land has been included on the Museums Forward plan for 2012.
7. A question has been received about Museum staff views on the East Sussex County Council and Brighton and Hove City Council project for archives and Local History entitled the 'Keep'. It is hoped that staff and members of the Committee will be able

to attend the presentation to be given by Wendy Walker on 27 November to learn more about the project.

8. Discussions on drawing up new guidelines on the deposition of archaeological archives are taking place, with a working party set up within Sussex Museums Group. A meeting is due to take place on 3rd December, and the Curator will provide an update for Committee.

Wards Affected

Ashdown, Baird, Braybrooke, Castle, Central St. Leonards, Conquest, Gensing, Hollington, Maze Hill, Old Hastings, Ore, Silverhill, St. Helens, Tressell, West St. Leonards, Wishing Tree

Area(s) Affected

Central Hastings, East Hastings, North St. Leonards, South St. Leonards

Policy Implications

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	Yes
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	Yes
Risk Management	No
Environmental Issues	Yes
Economic/Financial Implications	Yes
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	Yes

Background Information

Officer to Contact

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