

MUSEUM COMMITTEE

14 MARCH 2022

Present: Councillors Barnett (Chair), Sinden (Vice-Chair), Arthur, Evans, Hilton, Patmore and Roark. Museum Association Members Susannah Farley-Green, Andre Palfrey-Martin, Steve Peak and Richard Street.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received from Councillors Carr, Rankin and Williams.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Councillor Arthur asked that her question regarding the 'democratising the museum' funding looking at decolonising the museum be noted in the minutes of the previous meeting.

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 6th September 2021 be approved as a true record, subject to the above amendment.

Richard Street, Chair of the Museum Association, gave an update on recent Museum Association activity. A new Museum Association website has launched and the Association are planning to resume events in May. The first of the new events will be a visit to the cemetery on 29th May, with an interesting tour planned. The Museum Association is thinking about a contribution to the local Jubilee celebrations and looking at having an exhibition of Hastings in 1952. The association is keen to recruit new members and will be increasing its representation on the Museum Committee.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Minute	Interest
Evans	10. Museum Update Report	Personal – Is a volunteer for the refugee buddy project and lives near Bob Mazzer.

4. MUSEUM UPDATE REPORT

The Museum and Cultural Development Manager presented a report to update the committee on the museum's work since the last formal meeting. Visitor numbers are showing signs of recovery and the museum remains on track to achieve its visitor number target for the year.

Exhibitions are doing well, with *Bob Mazzer In Camera, a Retrospective* being extended to June due to popular demand. Sue Tilley's exhibition *Together we Draw* has been featured on BBC Breakfast. The exhibition features a selection of artworks created during lockdown by local people taking part in her online drawing class.

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A new Learning Officer is in place and the museum is seeing an uptake in engagement from schools through the Museums & Schools programme. The programme has secured funding until March 2023 via Arts Council England.

Emergency repairs are required to the roof of the bungalow due to damage caused by Storm Eunice. A number of smaller leaks in the main building roof have also been attended to since January.

In response to a question regarding school engagement the Museum and Cultural Development Manager confirmed that every school in the Borough has engaged with the Museum & Schools programme at some point over the past 3 years. Around 80% of schools in the Borough have had some engagement with the museum in the past year.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

1. To accept this report and recommend approval by Cabinet

5. COLLECTIONS REPORT

The Museum and Cultural Development Manager presented a report to update the committee on collections care, access, acquisitions, loans and objects being considered for rationalisation.

The Museum and Cultural Development Manager informed the committee that due to an increase in archaeological archive requests a policy has been drafted for use by archaeological units showing the Requirements for Transferring Archaeological Archives. The policy has been created using an industry standard template adapted for Hastings' local circumstances.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

1. To accept this report and recommend approval by Cabinet.

6. HASTINGS MUSEUM & ART GALLERY BUSINESS PLAN 2022-25

The Museum and Cultural Development Manager presented a report to outline the museum's business plan for 2022-25 and share the review of the previous business plan.

The last business plan proved highly successful in making the museum more welcoming and engaging. The business plan for 2022-25 sets out how to bring communities into the decision making and governance of the museum as much as possible within existing council structures. The business plan also includes a climate emergency and equalities action plan.

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RESOLVED (unanimously):

1. To accept this report and recommend approval by Cabinet.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 3.33pm)