

Arts Leisure & Culture Select Committee

A meeting of Arts Leisure & Culture Select Committee was held on Wednesday, 5th March, 2008.

Present: Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell(Chairman), Cllr Andrew Sherris(Vice-Chairman), Cllr Hilary Aggio, Cllr Dick Cains, Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley,

Officers: N.Schneider(DNS), Peter Mennear, S.Whaley(LD).

Also in attendance: A.Slater(British Waterways)

Apologies: Cllr Jackie Earl, Cllr Kath Nelson, Cllr Mick Womphrey.

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest declared at the meeting.

2 Minutes of the Meeting Held 13th February 2008

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 13th February 2008

CONCLUDED that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th February 2008 be forwarded to Council for consideration.

3 Review of River Based Leisure facilities

N.Schneider (Corporate Director of Development and Neighbourhood Services), updated members on the current situation of HMS Kellington. The Committee were informed of a meeting which had been held at a senior level including the MoD's Chief Salvage Officer. Members were told that this had resulted in a more optimistic outcome as although the MoD could not offer direct resources of a financial nature they could however offer their skills and expertise in managing the complex project of dismantling HMS Kellington. There was also an offer to help with the project from a UK contractor which had links with the Sea Cadets.

Members were also informed that a project plan was being produced with the aim of a completion date of between 12 and 18 months.

Discussions took place with reference to the actual dismantling of HMS Kellington including the possible recycling of any parts, the cost involved and the logistics required to move HMS Kellington to the Tees Barrage. It was confirmed that the ship was being monitored regularly for any intake of water and level of deterioration.

Members continued to discuss the River Based Leisure Facilities and received a brief update from the Teesdale Business Forum was given by Peter Mennear(Scrutiny Officer) relaying some opinions from local businesses. A. Slater from British Waterways discussed in particular that development plans needed to be realistic in the sense of future maintenance and longevity.

Evidence was considered from the review and a number of recommendations

were agreed under the following themes:

- 1.Plans and Strategies
- 2.Co-ordination of activities
- 3.River Tees Trust
- 4.Attitudes of local population
- 5.Schools use of facilities
- 6.River Tees Park
- 7.Anti-social behaviour and safety
- 8.Fishing
- 9.Opportunities and challenges for business
- 10.Access
- 11.Tourist Promotion
- 12.Lead up to the 2012 Olympics
- 13.HMS Kellington

It was stressed that it was important to take a partnership approach in any future work on the river.

Concerns were raised with regard to debris and drift wood and the impact of this if there was to be residential boats on the river. A.Slater stated that if everyone disposed of refuse correctly then this should not pose a problem but a partnership approach would be needed to help tackle the problem.

Concerns were also raised with regard to the rat population at the Castlegate end of the river. A.Slater confirmed that as long as people continue to feed swans on the river then the rats have a constant supply of food which only adds to the problem coupled with cavities which can be found under some footpaths. A.Slater also stated that consideration would need to be given to future developments to make them impossible for rats.

CONCLUDED that the information be noted and the recommendations identified be included in the Committee's final report to Cabinet.

4 Work Programme

CONCLUDED that the Work Programme be noted.