

Arts Leisure & Culture Select Committee

A meeting of Arts Leisure & Culture Select Committee was held on Monday, 8th December, 2008.

Present: Cllr Dick Cains, Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr Alan Lewis, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley, Cllr Mick Womphrey

Officers: B. Brown, T. Gibson (DNS), P. Mennear, M. Jones (LD)

Also in attendance: Cllr Mary Womphrey

Apologies: Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell, Cllr Andrew Sherris, Cllr Hilary Aggio, Cllr Mrs Kath Nelson

1 Appointment of Chairman

RESOLVED that Councillor Dick Cains be appointed Chairman for this meeting only in the absence of Chair and Vice-Chair.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

3 Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th September

CONCLUDED that the minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2008 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4 Minutes of the Meeting Held 19th November 2008

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held 19th November 2008.

CONCLUDED that the minutes of the meeting held 19th November 2008 be agreed as a true record.

5 Monitoring of Previously Agreed Recommendations

The River Development Manager was in attendance and presented members with a progress report on the previously agreed recommendations for the Review of River Based Leisure Facilities.

It was noted that funding applications had been made to secure part of the budget for the River Tees Park, and the action plan would be officially launched in the new year.

The River Users Group, and associated working groups, had been established. Although it was noted that the Chair and Vice-Chair of the select committee received the minutes of the meetings these groups held, it was requested that all members received these minutes.

Two major events were being pursued, a major professional sporting event and a River Week Festival. The sporting event would be focussed on increasing participation and coverage of the SMI Triathlon, in an attempt to qualify for hosting the elite British Grand Prix event by 2010, and the national Jet Skiing

championships will be held in 2009. The River Week Festival was planned for August 2009, and would include a flotilla and photography competition. It was suggested that the events from the River Week could be filmed and uploaded onto the SBC website, and that the short-listed photographs from the competition could be turned into a calendar. The development of the Tees Barrage White Water Course was discussed, and members were assured that avenues were being pursued to maximise the full potential of the new course.

Investigations were being held into resolving issues effecting school usage of the river. These included producing a generic risk assessment, and the potential use of Council community transport rather than schools arranging independent transportation.

A Thornaby Police Liaison Officer had agreed to act as a link officer for the Tees, and there would be a designated number for members of the public to report issues relating to the river, which it was hoped would be launched in Spring 2009. All parties with responsibility for the river would contribute to resolving anti-social behaviour and river related crime.

An update was received on HMS Kellington, and the current action plan proposed its removal in April/May 2009.

CONCLUDED that progress so far be agreed and that further updates be received as appropriate

6 Work Programme

The Scrutiny Officer noted that he had attended a recent meeting of Children and Young People, in consultation with the Chair, where evidence was received from Steve Chaytor, Managing Director of Tees Active. A summary of evidence received at the meeting that was also relevant for the work of the Arts, Leisure and Culture Committee was circulated.

Members discussed possible topics for future reviews. Members suggested two topics, namely an investigation to see whether the Globe Theatre could be brought back into use, and also a review of how the Borough's cultural heritage could be secured and fully promoted (including reference to the railways and chemical industry).

CONCLUDED that the updated scope and project plan be noted, and the two suggestions be included in the work programme setting process