



shaping
culture's future

portsmouth
cultural consortium

annual general meeting

Tuesday 1 July 2008, 6.30pm
aspeX, Vulcan Building, Gunwharf Quays, Portsmouth

Foreword

Welcome to the Annual General Meeting of the independent Portsmouth Cultural Consortium

This report looks back on the past year at our key achievements as a voluntary group in the city committed to transforming the cultural life of Portsmouth.

I'm delighted to have had the opportunity to chair the Consortium's Executive Group during 2007/8 which has been both a positive but busy year for the Consortium, and the city as a whole, as work has gone on to draft and agree a vision for the city for 2018.

I'm really pleased with the progress we are making to build the capacity in our organisation, recruit new members in innovative ways and encourage more volunteers to join us in our efforts to lobby and campaign to further improve the cultural offer in Portsmouth.

Despite achieving a lot in the past year, we're not complacent. We need to continue to find ways to build our membership, reach out to local people and organisations the Cultural Consortium hasn't reached before, so we can truly represent the views of all people with an interest in culture in Portsmouth.

2007/8 has been a busy year for us, but we're confident with your help, we'll have the energy and commitment to do even more in the year ahead.

We hope you enjoy this evening and I look forward to discussing with you your priorities for our work in the coming year

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Morgan', with a long horizontal line underneath it.

Stephen Morgan
Chair, Portsmouth Cultural Consortium
chair@cultural-consortium.co.uk

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With this report you should find separately the draft minutes from the AGM 2007 and a full copy of the Cultural Consortium's Constitution

Agenda

Portsmouth Cultural Consortium's AGM

Tuesday 1 July 2008

Aspex, Vulcan Building, Gunwharf Quays, Portsmouth

The AGM will also be your opportunity to:

- contribute to a discussion with our keynote speaker Mark Waldron, new editor at The News on the theme 'Positive reporting in Portsmouth'
- hear what the Consortium have been doing in the last year
- elect members to the Consortium's Executive Group 2008/9
- tell us what you want the Consortium to focus on in the coming year
- look around Aspex's latest exhibition
- network and meet others over a glass of wine or juice

6pm Arrival, registration and networking

6.30pm Welcome, introductions and apologies – Stephen Morgan

Annual General Meeting:

Minutes of AGM 2007

Chair's verbal report

Treasurer's verbal report

Election of members for the Executive Group 2008/9

Date of first Executive Group 2008/9

Any other business

Short break

Live music and refreshments

Opportunity for you to tell us what the Cultural Consortium should do in the coming year

Positive reporting in Portsmouth

Short address by Mark Waldron, The News editor

Followed by question and answer session

9pm AGM closes

What is the Cultural Consortium?

Portsmouth's Cultural Consortium is an independent membership-based group of local people and the cultural sector interested in transforming cultural life in Portsmouth.

We promote both access to, and excellence in, cultural opportunities for all Portsmouth people.

What does it do?

Through its newsletters, seminars, and website, the Consortium provides an arena for open-minded debate:

- Culture Matters – regular seminars and events on cultural hot topics
- regular e-newsletters delivered to every member's inbox
- representation on the city's strategic groups making sure culture is always on the agenda
- an elected executive – a group of volunteers who steer the work of the Consortium.

Is it for me?

The Consortium was first set up as a voice for culture and to help ensure the city's proposals for culture became reality.

Today the Consortium continues to be a forum for local people and the cultural sector to inform and shape priorities and plans for Portsmouth.

The Consortium has some real successes but it could always do with more help.

Anyone can join and membership is free. If you're interested in transforming cultural life in Portsmouth, why not join us?

www.cultural-consortium.co.uk

Constitution

Extracts of the constitution

The formal name of the organisation will be 'The Independent Cultural Consortium of Portsmouth' referred to in the rest of this document as the 'Cultural Consortium'.

The Cultural Consortium was founded at a public meeting held on 31 March 2004 at Tiger Tiger at Gunwharf Quays Portsmouth.

What we mean by culture

The term 'culture' in this document is defined in the same terms detailed in 'From the hill to the sea', Portsmouth's Cultural Strategy 2003.

By 'culture' we mean the values, traditions, beliefs, creations, artefacts, performances, activities and quality of relationship between and within generations that constitute our 'ways of life'. 'Culture' includes, but is not limited to, leisure activities.

Purpose

The Cultural Consortium is a non-profit making organisation but has the power to generate surpluses on any of its activities provided such surpluses are used in pursuit of Cultural Consortium objectives.

Objects

The original objectives of the Cultural Consortium are to:

- improve, extend and promote the cultural life of Portsmouth
- widen participation in the cultural life of Portsmouth
- ensure that culture and leisure are key priorities for the City
- promote the vision, values and Cultural Charter as set out in Portsmouth's Cultural Strategy 2003

A full copy of the constitution is available on the chairs at tonight's AGM and online at www.cultural-consortium.co.uk

Executive Group

The following local people volunteered to be on the Executive Group for 2007/8:

Stephen Morgan (Chair)
John Phillipson
Peter Wainwright
Martin Chalk
Brandon Prince
Jonathan Fost (Secretary)
Barbara Milligan
Sean Bowman (resigned during the year due to work commitments)

In addition, the following people were co-opted during the year:

- Anna Potten
- Steve Pitt (Treasurer)
- Mary Valley
- Peter Moutray

Administrative support to the Cultural Consortium's Executive Group has been provided by Sharon Watling

Our thanks also go to the following people who have supported Executive Group meetings or sub-groups:

- Celia Clarke
- Steve Bomford
- Carl Leroy-Smith
- Stephen Browning
- Julia Holberry
- Heather Todd
- Ben Wright
- Sarah Cheverton
- Charles Burns
- Claire Childley

Agreed minutes of the Executive Group are publicly available at www.cultural-consortium.co.uk

Chair's report

"We've done a lot of talking,
its time to act"

It might have been to the point, but I think what we decided on as a key message in our action plan for this year is a good indication of what we've achieved.

We'd like to use this opportunity to give a flavour of some of the things the Consortium have supported in 2007/8:

Development of a cultural blueprint

In March 2007, the city council's Culture Group took a report to the council's Executive setting out the development of a 'cultural blueprint' for the city. This included a review of the existing cultural strategy, 'From the Hill to the Sea: Transforming Cultural Life in Portsmouth' adopted by the local authority in 2004. The Consortium supported this consultation by holding a successful 'Culture Matters' session in July 2007, attended by over 35 people, and promoted the completion of the survey amongst local people and communities with an interview on Express FM and in the local press.

Northern Quarter and regeneration

It is the Executive Group's view that the £500million redevelopment of the city centre and 'Northern Quarter' development provide an exciting opportunity to redefine the city centre, supported by other regeneration schemes across Portsmouth including at Tipner, Mountbatten and potential move of Pompey's stadium. These schemes provide a real chance for culture, be it events, tourism, the arts or sports, to demonstrate the crucial role it plays in improving the quality of life for Portsmouth People. The Consortium held a Culture Matters session in November 2007 to help inform the plans for the public art and hoardings project and provided an opportunity for our members to meet with the developers Centros Miller. We continue to campaign to ensure the cultural

offer in the development is as varied and to the scale we think the city deserves.

Creative thinking and a Vision for Portsmouth 2018

The city's Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) kick-started a consultation exercise in June 2007 to identify a vision for Portsmouth in 2018. The consultation informed the development of the city's 'sustainable community strategy' with the local area agreement adopted acting as the action plan for the strategy. The Executive Group were keen to contribute to the consultation to help promote the importance of culture in the life of the city.

Within a similar timescale, the city council commissioned two creative thinkers, to help set out a vision for the future of culture, The work, undertaken by Charles Landry and Claire Chidley of the consultancy company Comedia, included a series of interviews, articles in The News and the 'Big Portsmouth Day' in February 2008. The Consortium supported the creative thinkers process by actively contributing to the consultation, and helped raise the profile of the process with a campaign which received coverage in The News and local media.

After initially being successful in encouraging the LSP to include explicit mention of culture in the draft priorities for the Vision for Portsmouth, the Executive Group were keen to find a way to bring these two visioning exercises together. We were delighted to be asked by the LSP to assist in facilitating further consultation on the Vision for Portsmouth and in the preparation of an aspirational document to sit alongside it.

The result was a 'Continuing the Conversation' conference at Fratton Park, with over 130 people attending to contribute to the draft document which was presented to the LSP, with a final document agreed by the city council on 17 June 2008.

Building our capacity and membership base

In the past year, we've been keen to encourage more volunteers to join the Executive Group and increase our membership.

We've been working on this in a variety of ways:

- rebranded the Cultural Consortium
- spoken to a number of groups and individuals
- redesigned our website and developed a presence of Facebook (with over 230 members on this medium)
- developed an online Culture Matters discussion forum

- three interviews on Express FM
- produced a short promotional leaflet
- more regular events, seminars and newsletters
- developed a campaign on a number of local issues including Love Albert Road Day, the city council budget, the condition of South Parade Pier, the future of Southsea Skatepark, seafront strategy, Albert Road street banners, and plans for the new Pompey stadium.

This work has helped ensure we have doubled our membership in the past year, which now stands at over 700 local people.

We have also developed our representation and support for a number of key groups and organisations including:

- Economic Wellbeing Partnership Board
- Community Involvement Partnership Board
- Portsmouth Festivities Steering Group
- Seafront Strategy Steering Group
- City of Festivals Group
- CIBAS
- Portsmouth Society
- South Coast Design Forum

Clear representation guidelines are in place and nominated Executive Group members support the above groups. We believe this is a key way we can continue to keep culture on the agenda and help make Portsmouth a better place.

In conclusion

I'd like to thank everyone who has worked with us in the past year, be it by coming along to a Culture Matters session, or responding to one of our consultations. My particular thanks go to the Consortium's Executive Group who have volunteered so much time in steering this work.

We continue to be excited by new opportunities in Portsmouth. Those of us who know that culture has much to offer must continue to seize these opportunities to demonstrate both the benefit and impact the cultural life of the city can bring to local people.

The Cultural Consortium has had a good year, and we'd welcome your support in making 2008/9 even better.

Stephen Morgan
Chair, Portsmouth Cultural Consortium