

Minutes of Cultural Consortium Executive Meeting

Monday 3 September 2007 5pm
Floor 2, The Guildhall, Guildhall Square

Welcome, introduction and apologies

Present: Stephen Morgan (SM) (Chair), Martin Chalk (MC), Brandon Prince (BP), Peter Wainwright (PW), Barbara Milligan (BM), & Sharon Watling (SW).

Apologies: John Phillipson (JP), Sean Bowman (SB), Jonathan Fost (JF)

Stephen welcomed attendees to the first meeting after the summer months. The apologies were accepted.

Minutes from the last meeting and matters arising

MC noted that a letter of appreciation was sent to Heather Todd and the Events team regarding the reorganisation of the Festivities Finale event, a letter was also sent to The News, which was published. This amendment was accepted and the minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

Early findings from the Cultural Strategy review consultation

Stephen stated that he had arranged for Sarah Cheverton to provide an update on the cultural strategy review consultation, and as she was unable to attend this meeting has provided a written briefing for the Cultural Consortium.

A discussion took place on the early findings of the consultation. One of the comments made concerned the word 'consortium' and how this wasn't a word which necessarily reflected the work of the Consortium. Executive members agreed with this view. Executive members agreed that Sarah's report was useful and looked forward to the outcome of the consultation.

Feedback from 'Cultural Blueprint' Culture Matters – Peter Wainwright

Stephen introduced this item stating that all the flip charts and papers from the Culture Matters seminar on the blueprint have been typed up as written. He asked Executive members for feedback on the event and there was a feeling that it had been a very interactive and helpful event to feed into the cultural strategy review.

Barbara stated that she would be keen to promote aspirations and encourage speakers to come to Portsmouth and give lectures on key cultural themes.

Stephen asked for assistance in taking the notes of the seminar to the next stage – to pull together the key findings and analysis to inform Sarah Cheverton’s report on the cultural strategy.

BP and BM agreed to meet, with any other available Executive member on Thursday 6 September 2007 at 2pm in the Eldon Building of the University of Portsmouth, Winston Churchill Avenue, to pull together the write up of the event. It was hoped this could be with Sarah Cheverton by 10 September, with assistance from Sharon who will format the report.

Discussion on the development of the ‘Sustainable Community Strategy’ – Stephen Morgan

Stephen stated that the Local Strategic Partnership is currently consulting on a Vision for Portsmouth or a ‘sustainable community strategy’ which will replace the existing community strategy.

The existing priorities in the strategy include:

- community safety
- environment and transport
- education and lifelong learning
- housing
- health and social wellbeing
- community involvement
- economic wellbeing

Currently culture is seen as a priority that runs throughout these themes, and Stephen said that the revision of the document provided an excellent opportunity to ensure that culture is raised up the agenda. The yearly ‘Local Area Agreement’ would be the action document for the strategy, and the vision will be supported with planning policies such as the ‘core strategy’ which sets out how land will be used to reflect the priorities of the city.

He circulated a draft copy of the vision and priorities identified by the LSP for consultation and the Cultural Consortium discussed these.

It was agreed that SM write on behalf of the Executive to the LSP Chair John Campbell saying that the Cultural Consortium Executive prefer the ‘Waterfront’ description as the vision, that the priorities identified need to be more closely linked with the vision, and need to be more aspirational, and clearer in their connection with culture.

Election of representatives to Partnership Boards and other groups

Stephen stated that there are several groups that the Executive has representation on, and as this was the first meeting of the new Executive it was time to agree

that representation. An election took place and the following representations were agreed:

- Economic Wellbeing Partnership – Peter Wainwright, SM proposed, MC seconded
- Community Involvement – John Phillipson, SM proposed BM seconded
- Cross Sectional Seafront Strategy Group – Barbara Milligan, SM proposed PW seconded
- Portsmouth Festivities – Stephen Morgan, MC proposed BM seconded.

It was stated that there is no formal representation on the City Growth Board but that a 'link' Executive member should be identified for this role. Peter Wainwright put his name forward, SM proposed BP seconded.

Stephen asked for all representatives to keep other Executive members updated on the discussions at these meetings, and that information is shared.

Stephen agreed to formally write to the Chair/support officer of each of these groups to inform them of the representation changes.

Development of a Cultural Consortium Action Plan 2007/08 – Stephen Morgan

Stephen stated that over the summer he had done some work to draft an action plan for the year to replace the list of actions from each meeting and act as a development plan for the Consortium. He said that he felt this would be an exciting year for culture in the city and the Cultural Consortium has a real opportunity to influence and shape the agenda.

He shared the early draft with Executive members and it was agreed that a full draft be the main agenda item at the next meeting. He said that he also wanted to share it with the Consortium's wider membership and stakeholders to get their view on what the Consortium could be doing in the next year.

Final Preparation for the Culture Matters session on the Northern Quarter – Sharon Watling

Sharon and Stephen updated the group on the preparations for the next Culture Matters seminar. The provisional date had been set for 18 October 2007, 6pm to 8pm, the venue, The Haven, Lake Road. Barry Walker had kindly agreed to fund the cost of the venue and refreshments for the event, and early discussions have been held on the potential focus of the seminar which could include consultation on:

- the look of the built environment in the redevelopment (Centros Miller)
- the proposed performance space in the city centre (City Council)
- the 'leisure offer' to be included in the scheme (Centros Miller)

the proposals for hoardings, branding of the scheme and public art opportunities (City Council)

There then followed a discussion on what the aim of this session could be.

Some questions that could be asked of the presenters or attendees were identified:

What aspect of culture would you most like to see enhanced by the City Centre and Northern Quarter, and what needs to be done to achieve this?

How would you like to see City Centre & Northern Quarter open, performance space and how should these be used in the future.

How can the consultation process be improved?

How can we improve the way people feel in the City Centre & Northern Quarter?

How can we improve the City Centre and Northern Quarter to make it an upbeat feel?

It was agreed that SW to contact Liz at The Haven to find other dates for the seminar, and Executive members to email or call Sharon with suggestions for the focus of the seminar.

Information Sharing (including circulation of the correspondence file)

SM has created and shared a correspondence file, and a discussion followed on the following subjects.

Express FM – SM had extended an invitation to Cllr Hall to speak on culture and the outcome of the Culture Matters seminar on radio and this had gone well.

CIBAS – SM will be meeting with Steve Fisher soon to talk about linkages between the two groups.

Dickens 2012, 200 anniversary – Mary Hillier from the city council's Culture Group has asked for ideas on what sort of events could be developed to celebrate this anniversary. Executive members were encouraged to let Mary know, and the Consortium's membership informed through the newsletter of this consultation.

Events Information – Following the Culture Matters seminar SM had been contacted by attendees to discuss how there could be better provision of information of events. SM has agreed to meet with Steve Bomford to discuss and look to set up a working group with the council's Events team.

Agenda setting and dates of future meetings

Next meeting Monday 1 October 2007, 5pm in the Eldon Building, Winston Churchill Avenue at Barbara Milligan's invitation.

Any other business

PW – asked if the meeting dates set on agenda item 6 be diarised. SW agreed to do this.

There was a review of Theatre Performance Space Strategy, PW will be speaking to Steve Baily, as the report is due back soon and he is keen to see consultation on it.

MC - suggest CC Executive write a letter to the organisers of the Funday Fridays event in Commercial Road, as this was a great event which was well attended. SW agreed to draft this letter with MC.

BP - Culture Matters are very important and should continue in the next year, some suggestions for future topics, Festival 2008, transport, the future of Albert Road.

SW - Not able to attend the next meeting 1 October as on leave, could someone please take the minutes. SM agreed to ask JF if he would be willing to do this as Secretary.

Meeting closed at 7.20pm