



## County Durham Cultural Partnership

### Minutes of Board Meeting, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2017

#### Present

Roger Kelly	-	Chair
Nicholas Baumfield	-	Arts Council
Sally Dixon	-	Beamish Museum
Helen Barker	-	Beamish Museum
Jane Whittaker	-	The Bowes Museum
Eileen Atkins	-	Culture Bridge North East
Julie Russell	-	Durham County Council
Richard Dowson	-	Durham County Cricket Club
Jane Shaw	-	Durham Creatives
Keith Bartlett	-	Durham University
Anna Siddall	-	Durham University
Frank Wilson	-	Event International
Tony Harrington	-	The Forge
Chris Woodley-Stewart	-	North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Jane Hedges	-	County Durham Cultural Partnership

#### Apologies

Chris Ferguson	-	Auckland Castle
Richard Evans	-	Beamish Museum
Adrian Jenkins	-	The Bowes Museum
Andy Jackson	-	Cobweb
Ruth Robson	-	Durham Cathedral
Cllr Ossie Johnson	-	Durham County Council
Steve Howell	-	Durham County Council
Mike Summers	-	Durham Music Service
Ivor Crowther	-	Heritage Lottery Fund
Alexandra Watson	-	Historic England
Gary Campbell	-	Locomotion
Paul Kirkman	-	National Railway Museum
Matthew Jarratt	-	North East Cultural Partnership
Judith Rasmussen	-	Sport England
Martin Wilson	-	TIN Arts
Michelle Gorman	-	Visit County Durham

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies.

RK welcomed Chris Woodley-Stewart and Helen Barker to the meeting. Chris has joined the Board to represent the North Pennines AONB and the wider natural environment sector.	
Apologies (above) were noted.	

2. Minutes of the meeting, 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017 and matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a correct record.	
Julie Russell reported that SH is having internal DCC discussions before arranging the partnership sub-group. SD, KB and RK had volunteered to join the group.	JR/SH

3. Local Engagement

Helen Barker, Assistant Director Engagement and Participation at Beamish gave a presentation on the approach adopted by Beamish.	
Key points were that: Beamish is about more than the physical space of the museum and is a concept that includes what is done in communities; the same production quality is taken outside of the museum as adopted within; by displaying elements of the collection outside of the museum, exhibits that would otherwise be in store can be seen by the public. For example, Beamish's Norman Cornish collection, which would be in store for several years until the Norman Cornish house has been built, is currently on display in Spennymoor Town Hall; the importance of making events/exhibitions fun for people is understood – leisure time is valuable and Beamish must be appealing to engage audiences/visitors; celebration with participants/communities of what is achieved through activities/events is important in maintaining engagement.	
RK thanked HB for what everybody agreed was a fascinating presentation. <i>Presentation attached.</i>	

4. Annual Conference

JH presented the report which outlined the proposal to hold the conference in the autumn, associated with the opening of or a private viewing of a new	
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exhibition/event etc., with a changed format.	
Points of discussion included: practitioners tend to be interested in hearing about forthcoming opportunities; potential for this to be a fringe event associated with Lumiere, although consideration has to be given to this being a City focussed event	
<p>Agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to hold the conference in the autumn;</li> <li>• a small reference group to be established including DCC, SD, KB, TH, JH;</li> <li>• JH to invite those not present to be involved;</li> <li>• JH to ask JS for views of practitioners on both content and travel distance;</li> <li>• Consideration to potential events that the conference could be linked to;</li> <li>• Reference Group to consider options.</li> </ul>	<p>JH JH JH All RG</p>

## 5. Durham University Cultural Strategy

Anna Siddall tabled and presented a report on the DU Cultural Strategy.	
<p>AS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• outlined the context and approach of the strategy;</li> <li>• considered the outcomes of the consultation with Durham partners;</li> <li>• advised that the framework has been approved in February 2017 and that work has not started on developing the implementation plan;</li> <li>• noted that the next stage is to seek agreement of the University Council and Executive Committee in June, after which it will be used for consultation but not published;</li> <li>• advised that the published version will be costed and include timescales.</li> </ul>	
<p>Points of discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• what consideration had been given to the fit with the CDCP and other partners? KB said that he had a telephone conversation scheduled with SH to discuss the fit with DCC;</li> <li>• what does DU do extremely well and better than other universities?</li> <li>• what role does the strategy have in place-shaping / how does the university engage with that agenda and the cultural landscape?</li> <li>• the strategy lacks raw ambition and this needs development. For example, DU, with other partners, could look to attract world class artists to the County;</li> <li>• how can DU work with The Forge and young people to look at the role of culture in the health and wellbeing of young people in the County?</li> <li>• how can partners be involved in the work DU is doing with Nicholas Serota?</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disappointment that the internal processes at DU had not allowed time for CDCP to be part of the formal consultation process.</li> </ul>	
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## 6. Audience and Programme Development for Different Art Forms

<p>NB presented the report highlighting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the potential for growth in audiences and cultural development;</li> <li>the opportunities offered by sharing information on audience development plans;</li> <li>the benefits of revisiting the SWOT carried in preparing the Vision and Action Plan.</li> </ul>	
<p>The group discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>forming a task and finish group or identifying an individual to take this forward;</li> <li>the suggestion that the brief was impossibly large and it may be worth focussing on one art form such as contemporary dance;</li> <li>it would be worth talking to NewcastleGateshead about how they analyse venue development collectively.</li> </ul>	
<p>It was agreed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a task and finish group should be formed to hone down the scope of the work;</li> <li>partners should consider who from their organisations was best placed to contribute to this work.</li> </ul>	<p>JH</p> <p>All</p>

## 7. Action Plan Progress

a) Events Forum – noted	RR
b) Education – EA reported that 19 teachers had expressed interest in piloting the Cultural Passport and the next County Durham Education Partnership Group meeting would take this forward.	EA
c) Art Forms – discussed under agenda item 6	JH
d) International – AS is organising a second meeting of the group. CWS volunteered to be involved. It was noted that AJ had volunteered to contribute to the group.	AS
e) Collections – noted	RK/JH
f) Festivals – SH will give a presentation at the next meeting	SH
g) Churches and Chapels - noted	RK/JH
h) Website - noted	JH
i) Cultural Audit - noted	JH

8. Member updates reports

The report was noted.	
JR advised the group that Neil Foster was no longer on the Council and would be replaced on the Board by Cllr Ossie Johnson. Neil's contribution to the group was noted and it was agreed that the chair would write to thank him for serving on the Board.	RK

9. Any other business

It was agreed that Board members would prepare pen portraits for use on the website and to share with new members of the group. These should be sent to JH	All
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10. Dates of future meetings

Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> June – task and finish groups on the Conference and the website. Bowes offered to provide the venue.	JH/JW
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> September, 2pm – offers of venues to JH	All
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> November, 2pm – offers to venues to JH	All