



COUNTY DURHAM CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP - BOARD MEETING

Thursday 29th September 2016
The Bowes Museum, Durham

NOTE OF MEETING

Present

Roger Kelly	-	Chair
Nicholas Baumfield	-	Arts Council
Chris Ferguson	-	Auckland Castle
Sally Dixon	-	Beamish Museum
Ruth Robson	-	Durham Cathedral
Cllr Trish Pemberton	-	Durham County Council
Nick Malyan	-	Durham County Council
Paul Kirkman	-	National Railway Museum
Adrian Jenkins	-	The Bowes Museum
Tony Harrington	-	The Forge
Michelle Gorman	-	Visit County Durham
Jane Hedges	-	County Durham Cultural Partnership

Apologies

Richard Evans	-	Beamish Museum
Eileen Atkins	-	Culture Bridge North East
Cllr Neil Foster	-	Durham County Council
Steve Howell	-	Durham County Council
Richard Dowson	-	Durham County Cricket Club
Jane Shaw	-	Durham Creatives
Keith Bartlett	-	Durham University
Frank Wilson	-	Event International
Martin Wilson	-	TIN Arts

1 Minutes of Meeting 14th April 2016 and Matters Arising

	Action
The minutes of the meeting on 14 th April were agreed as an accurate record. There were no matters arising that would not be covered on the agenda.	

2 Annual Conference, 21st June 2016

	Action
It was agreed that the conference has been a success. Over 80 people had attended the event and feedback was very positive. Participants had appreciated both the presentations and networking opportunities.	

3 Stockton and Darlington Railway – Presentation by Cllr Trish Pemberton

	Action
<p>Trish Pemberton, Chair of the Friends of the Stockton and Darlington Railway, briefed the Board on proposals for the 200th Anniversary of the Stockton and Darlington Railway in 2025. The aim is to submit a proposal to Government in 2018/19 to secure a place on the Government’s UNESCO World Heritage Site ‘Tentative List’, which is due to be reviewed between 2019 and 2021.</p> <p>With developments In Bishop Auckland and Tees Valley’s preparation to bid for City of Culture for 2025, momentum is growing in culture and heritage in the south of the Region and this will support the railway initiative.</p> <p>Points raised by the group included: the potential for developing linkages with Auckland Castle and other venues through cycle and walking routes; the significance of the mining industry in the development of the railways and consequent links with rural heritage; the importance of the railways to John Bowes in his capacity as an industrialist; the scope for using EU funding to support the project before it is no longer available.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Partnership supports the initiative and will do whatever it can to assist it.</p>	

4 Progressing the Partnership’s Action Plan

	Action
It was agreed that a range of actions would be taken forward over the coming year:	
Calendar: a discussion would be convened between Durham County Council, Visit County Durham, RK and JH and be reported to the next	JH

meeting.	
Education: it was noted that this activity was effectively being taken forward by the Durham Local Cultural Education Partnership, led by Eileen Atkins and that Eileen would be asked to consider this and come back to the group at a future meeting.	EA
Coordination and Communications: work is underway on renewing the website and will be reported back to a future meeting; the large organisations in the County (Big 7) to lead work on the scope to coordinate their programmes and development of joint marketing. JH to discuss potential with partners and report back to the next meeting.	DCC/SD/JH JH/others
Art Forms: Nicholas Baumfield to be asked to consider the action and discuss with the group County Durham at a future meeting.	JH/NB
International: Keith Bartlett's offer to convene a working group to take this action forward was welcomed and accepted.	RK/KB
Collections: Roger Kelly to take forward discussions with DCC and DU on increasing accessibility, developing new audiences and digital access by exhibiting. Adrian Jenkins offered to share the experience of taking a Flemish painting into the community and developing an activity programme around it.	RK/SH/KB/AJ
Festivals: In its capacity as leading work on festivals, DCC will support towns across to develop festivals if they are interested in doing so.	DCC
Churches and Chapels: it is hoped that this work can be started through the Great Place Scheme bid.	TBC
Action Plan progress will be reported and reviewed at future Board meetings.	

5 Great Place Scheme

	Action
RK outlined the opportunity, the timescale and the ideas that had emerged and the development of the idea to collaborate with Heart of Teesdale.	
Ewan Allinson from the Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership described the proposal as an artist/scholar led approach to engaging	

<p>local people in the Northern Heartlands in a project bringing together landscape, heritage and culture. He noted the importance of exploring the relationship between upland and lowland areas.</p> <p>RK said that it was important to ensure that the geography was clearly defined and did not extend too far given the resources available.</p> <p>AJ drew linkages between this and the Stockton and Darlington Railway developments and highlighted the importance of the work underway in the south of the county in transforming the way we view ourselves. He described the work as forming a step-change for the Partnership, using the SDR to bring us together with a shared sense of place.</p> <p>TH emphasised the importance of joint planning.</p> <p>NM suggested that the 'Durham Dales' was an established brand that could be useful in terms of defining a recognisable geography for the project.</p> <p>RK suggested working with Inspired North East on using disused/under used Anglican Churches and said it would be important to find a ways of working with other denominations as well.</p> <p>It was agreed that Heart of Teesdale would submit a joint Expression of Interest through VCD with the support of the CDCP Board, with greater emphasis on disused/under used spaces and clearer links to the CDCP Vision and Action Plan.</p>	
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6 CDCP Website

	Action
<p>JH reported that she was working with Beamish and with DCC to take the website forward. Further progress reports will be brought to future Board meetings.</p>	JH

7 Cultural Audit

	Action
<p>Nick Malyan presented the report which included the first section on venues on which he sought comments.</p>	

It was noted that Churches should be included as should libraries. Further work would take place through discussions with Inspired North East and with reference to the recent meeting convened by DCMS.	NM
Partners were asked to submit any detailed comments to NM.	All

8 Blue Plaques

	Action
Nick Malyan asked if the CDCP Board was prepared to act as a panel for deciding which buildings should bear blue plaques. Steve Howell would prepare a report on the proposed process. Agreed.	SH

9 County Durham Local Cultural Education Partnership

	Action
Eileen Atkins to be asked to circulate a written update.	JH/EA

10 Partner Updates

	Action
<p>TH – production of Beowulf in Auckland Castle Chapel; Tommy Armstrong literature festival starting in February 2017; Verdi, Durham Cathedral, 28th January 2017.</p> <p>NM - No Turning Back exhibition concluded; Fighting Bradfords was the first in-house production at the Gala Theatre for some time; Book Festival; Take Off Festival.</p> <p>AJ – 2017 is the 125th anniversary; Silver Swan going to be exhibited in the Science Museum; working on a project with the National Gallery.</p> <p>PK – Flying Scotsman visit very successful.</p> <p>SD – Record number of visitors for August – 120,000; key focus is capital build; £11.5m HLF award was announced on 11th October.</p>	

<p>CF – About to start HLF funded capital project; closing next week; exhibits currently on tour in the US; mining exhibition currently in Old Bank Chambers; partnership on Spanish Art with Durham University.</p> <p>VCD – Durham Place of Light Launch; Ben Fogle involved in the outdoor campaign; promoting food and drink and local produce with the annual Taste Durham event in October.</p> <p>RR – Open Treasure; 2017 – Treasures of St Cuthbert; textile exhibition in November including the Grayson Perry banner; work on the tower in underway.</p> <p>RK – Ushaw 450th anniversary in 2018; number of visitors has increased significantly this year; Northern Sinfonia played St Cuthbert’s Chapel to a full house.</p>	
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11 Date of next meeting

	Action
Thursday 24 th November	