



COUNTY DURHAM CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP - BOARD MEETING

Monday 9th November 2015

Conference Room, Ushaw College, Durham, DH7 9RH

MINUTES OF MEETING

Present:

- Roger Kelly - CDCP Chair
- Richard Dixon - Beamish Museum
- Steve Howell - Durham County Council
- Catherine Howes - Durham County Council (Minutes)
- Anna Siddall - Durham University
- Nicky Harrison - Historic England
- Gary Campbell - Locomotion Museum
- Jane Whittaker - Bowes Museum
- Michelle Gorman - Visit County Durham
- Eileen Atkins - Culture Bridge NE
- Cllr Neil Foster - Durham County Council
- Frank Wilson - Events International Ltd

Apologies:

- Sally Dixon - Beamish Museum
- Adrian Jenkins - Bowes Museum
- Paul Kirkman - NRM
- Andy Jackson - Cobweb Orchestra
- Matthew Jarratt - Consultant
- Keith Bartlett - Durham University

| | SUBJECT | ACTION |
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| 1. | Welcome & Apologies As host, RK welcomed CDCP members to Ushaw College. | |
| 2. | Minutes from Previous Meeting Consideration was given to the notes of the meeting held on 10 September 2015 and specific reference as made to the following: <u>Land of the Northern Saints</u> SH advised that the working group established following the last meeting has yet to convene. It is hoped that this will happen before Christmas. | |

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| | <p><u>Resources</u> We have received 13 applications for the Culture Partnership Support Officers, 5 of which have been short-listed. The interviews will take place on Monday 16th November 2015. Currently on the interview panel are RK, SH and MG.</p> | |
| 3. | <p>Cultural Vision Consideration was given to the revised draft County Durham Cultural Vision and Action Plan.</p> <p>Detailed discussion took place regarding the content on a page by page basis. Comments made were as follows:</p> <p><u>Page 1</u> RK suggested changing the title of the Executive Summary as it currently sounds very academic. Creative History sounds like it is describing everything in the past when we also need to reflect the present and the future. It is about making history contemporary. It was felt that the title lacked energy and ownership of the County. The sentiment is right but the wording doesn't reflect what we are doing.</p> <p>MG recommended using Visit County Durham's Place of Light Website (www.durhamplaceoflight.com) to help with suggested wording which could also be tied into the vision.</p> <p>It was agreed that the document needs to be well designed and that may be useful to get some external assistance in order to produce a number of options. We would like something similar to the publication produced by the Regional Cultural Partnership which is a working document.</p> <p><u>Pages 2 – 7</u> RK suggested reducing the content down that is to be added into the document or add this to the appendix. There is some editorial work to do.</p> <p><u>Pages 8 – 9</u> We need to be precise regarding 'Durham' and 'City of Durham'. There appears to be the absence of engagement with communities. What we are going to be doing with and what opportunities there will be for communities, needs to be built in. There needs to be a wider concept of communication rather than just identified audiences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Actions and Proposals <p>The content of this section needs to be sharper by changing the tone. Bullet point one should be split into 2 separate points. It was suggested that key words should be used and carried on throughout the document so clear links can be made.</p> | |

Culture entitlement for children and young people in and outside of school needs to be incorporate into the document.

Pages 10 – 12

AS pointed out that it is important that we are mindful of example balance as it currently appears very top heavy regarding Durham University. We need to check with other partnerships to ensure there is no exclusion. There is a tendency to look at venues rather than the natural heritage and countryside. Again this is missing but could be incorporated by adding images to the document. RK pointed out that there is a risk of adding too much therefore we need to understand fully why we are adding what we agree to add, that it is fit for purpose moving forward.

Focusing on themes rather than venues would really make some current/future projects really stand out.

It is not clear what relates to the vision and the action plan making it confusing. It needs to relate to the Strategic Actions and Proposals. It was agreed that the section needs re-writing.

Page 13 – 15

The Strategic Actions when amended need to be linked throughout the document.

10 Things to do in 2016/17

The list of 10 things should span over a 2/3 year period. It was questioned as to whether we can resource all 10 things. These should be structured in order of priority.

Each 'Thing to Do' were discussed on an individual and the following changes/comments were made:

No 1 - Planning

First word 'Convene' to be replaced by 'Develop'. One or two large events per year would be a good way of doing this but also very costly.

There may be capacity for the Culture Partnership Support Officer to help with arranging events but this will depend on resources.

NF questioned if this is a quick win or a long term vision. NF pointed out that it is not only about large events. We need to identify a range of target project who can attract investment into the region.

NH advised that they have pulled together an events calendar running up to 2025 which can be circulated around the group for information.

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| | <p>No 5 – Digital Needs clarification, unclear as to what it means.</p> <p>No 6 – Education EA advised that she is looking at this across all partnerships, increasing engagement.</p> <p>No 8 – Regeneration The NE LEP has not invested in any cultural projects. It is unclear why regeneration is included on the list of 10 things to do.</p> <p>No 9 – Coordination Comms will be a large piece of work for the Culture Partnership Support Officer.</p> <p>Themes to Develop in the Medium Term It was suggested that we could link the 5 listed themes to our 10 things to do and reduce the things to do to 5.</p> <p>On a final note, it was highlighted that the Cultural Vision will need sign up from Durham County Council and other partners. The sign up process to be discussed at the next meeting.</p> | |
| 4. | <p>Process for Determining Priorities This will flow from the Cultural Vision when finalised in January/February 2016.</p> | |
| 5. | <p>Lumiere Update The Council are anticipating record crowds at this year’s event with 80,000 tickets selling out within 4 days. The programme is a lot better this year with larger and more accessible installations. There will also be a new projection onto Durham Cathedral.</p> | |
| 6. | <p>Durham Book Festival Update There was record attendance at this year’s event with excellent national press coverage.</p> | |
| 7. | <p>Forward Plan and Future Agenda Items CDCP were asked to forward any items for the forward plan to CH.</p> | |
| 8. | <p>Member Updates</p> <p><u>Durham University</u> Currently working on the University’s Cultural Strategy.</p> <p><u>Visit County Durham</u> Work is ongoing to support Lumiere including hosting press tips and supporting to the information hub. Place Brand was soft launched to</p> | |

coincide with Lumiere.

Events International

FW advised that he has been working on several projects outside Durham, and had just been reappointed as international programmer for the Beijing Chaoyang Spring Carnival.

Durham County Council

We have announced the re-profiling of the DLI Museum which has raised a number of complaints from residents. SH highlighted a major clash in events on the 15th October 2015. SH suggested that the Support Officer post could help coordinate events in future to reduce the risk of this happening again in the future. SH announced that FW is being awarded an MBE for his services to festivals of the North East. He is to be presented with this on the 19th November 2015.

Locomotion

It is anticipated that the Flying Scotsman will attract huge visitor numbers. Work is ongoing to ensure the museum is geared up for the event.

Historic England

The latest version of the Heritage at Risk register has been published. NH to circulate the list to CDCP members for their information.

Culture Bridge North East

The County Durham LCEP (local cultural education partnership) group has now been established through a working group. Members of the group are Sally Dixon, Martin Wilson, Tony Harrington, Roger Kelly, Sarah Price, Nick Malyan, Jane Whittaker and Mike Summers. LCEPs are being set up through Bridge Organisations across the country to establish stronger local place based partnerships and working around children and young people engagement. The agreed overall focus of the Durham group is cultural entitlement for children and young people in the County looking at in and out of school access to culture. EB will keep the CDCP group informed of this work and will also feedback CDCP meeting discussions to the LCEP. Culture Bridge North East have established an Arts Award programme called 'We are 10 pairing organisations to schools' and three organisations are involved – Auckland Castle, Bowes Museum and Greenfield Arts.

Bowes Museum

The YSL Exhibition has now come to a close. Work is to be carried to establish the impact of the event.

Ushaw College

RK advertised that the College are to look at alternative uses moving forward. Collection space is to be established. We are looking to

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| | <p>increase visitor numbers.</p> <p><u>Beamish Museum</u> Attendance figures are 8% up on last year. There is currently 400 paid staff working for the museum. The winter evening events have now all sold out. The East Durham Programme is starting in the spring with lots of activity taking place over the next 6 months. The Case for Culture launched last week and went very well.</p> | |
| 9. | <p>Any Other Business The next meeting is to be arranged for the end of January 2016.</p> | |