



Joint Committee for the North of England Open
Air Museum

Date Friday 11 May 2012
Time 10.00 am
Venue Collections Study Room, Regional Resource Centre,
 Beamish Museum, Beamish

Business

Part A

1. Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 March 2012 (Pages 1 - 4)
2. Museum Update - Report of Museum Director (Pages 5 - 8)
3. Arts Council England/Beamish & Bowes Major Partner Museum Activity Plan 2012 - 2015 - Presentation of Museum Director
4. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration.
5. Any resolution relating to the exclusion of the public during the discussion of items containing exempt information.

Part B

Items during which it is considered the meeting is not likely to be open to the public (consideration of exempt or confidential information).

6. Update on Partnership Review - formation of working group and regional advisory panel - Report of the Museum Director
7. Business and Operation Improvement Plan - Capital Programme Project Report No. 10 - Report of the Museum Director (Pages 9 - 26)
8. Beamish Long Term Development Plan 2013+ - Presentation of Museum Director
9. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration

Colette Longbottom
Secretary to the Joint Committee

County Hall
Durham
3 May 2012

To: The Members of the Joint Committee

Councillors Bailey, J Bell, Blakey, Boyes, C Carr, Farry, Gittins, Iveson, C Marshall, D Marshall, May, Naylor, Shuttleworth, Stoker, L Thomson, Todd, Wilkinson, J Wilson and Wright (Durham County Council), Councillors S Craig, B Goldsworthy and Green (Gateshead MBC), Councillor Mortimer (North Tyneside MBC), Councillors Cunningham, Dixon, Kerr and Maxwell (South Tyneside MBC), Councillors Bell, Foster, Kelly, Richardson, J Scott, Speding, and Walker (Sunderland City Council)

Co-opted Members (Non-Voting)

Beamish Development Trust – Mr S Gray, Mrs E Hunter and Mrs S Stewart

Friends of Beamish – Mr A Ashburner and Mr M Dix

**JOINT COMMITTEE FOR THE NORTH OF ENGLAND
OPEN-AIR MUSEUM**

At a Meeting of the Joint Committee for the North of England Open-Air Museum held in the Collections Study Room, Regional Resource Centre, Beamish Museum on Friday 16 March 2012 at 10.45 a.m.

PRESENT:

Councillor D Marshall in the Chair

Members of the Joint Committee

Councillors Bailey, Bell, Blakey, Carr, Gittins, Iveson, Naylor, Thomson, Todd, Wilkinson and Wright (Durham County Council) Craig, Goldsworthy and Green (Gateshead MBC), Mortimer (North Tyneside MBC) Cunningham and Kerr (substitute for Councillor Gibson) (South Tyneside MBC) and R Bell, Kelly and Richardson (Sunderland City Council)

Co-opted Members (Non-Voting)

Friends – Mr A Ashburner and MR M Dix
BDT – Mrs E Hunter

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Farry, C Marshall, May and J Wilson (Durham County Council), Dixon, Kerr and Maxwell (South Tyneside MBC), Foster and Walker (Sunderland City Council) and Mrs S Stewart (Beamish Development Trust)

1 Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 November 2011

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2012 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2. Review of Outturn 2011/12 and Draft Revenue Budget 2012/13

The Joint Committee considered a joint report of the Director and Treasurer that reviewed the Revenue Budget for 2011/12 to reflect developments since the revised budget was approved on 18 November 2011 and sought approval for the Draft Revenue Budget for 2012/13 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:

- (a) That the revised Revenue Budget for the Joint Committee, as shown at Appendix A to the report, be approved.
- (b) That the draft Revenue Budget for the Joint Committee, as shown at Appendix A to the report, be approved.

3 Museum Update

The Joint Committee received a report from the Museum Director that gave an update on Museum business (for copy see file of Minutes).

A total of 497,891 visitors had attended the Museum in the 2011/12 year, which was an 18% increase on the previous year and was the second highest number of visitors on record.

The dates of forthcoming Museum events were attached at Appendix A to the report, however, the Museum Director asked that Members confirm these dates with the Museum should they be attending any event, as they could be subject to change.

Resolved:-

That the report be noted.

4 Exclusion of the Public

Resolved:-

That under Section 100 A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the said Act.

5 Business and Operational Improvement Plan – Capital Programme Project Report No. 9

The Joint Committee received a report from the Museum Director that provided an update on the variations and funding for Capital Projects (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:-

That the report be approved.

6 Long Term Business Plan Development

The Joint Committee received a report from the Museum Director that summarised reports and studies carried out by the Museum in order to develop a business and development plan for 2013 – 2025 (for copy see file of Minutes).

Resolved:-

That the report be noted.

7. Review of Beamish Museum's Partnership with North East Local Authorities

The Joint Committee considered a joint report of the Chair and Museum Director regarding an internal review to examine ways of strengthening Beamish Museum's partnership with Local Authorities across the North East in order to support and deliver the Museum's future plans (for copy see file of Minutes)

Resolved:

That the report be approved.

The Chairman of the meeting was of the opinion that the following item of business was of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration because of the need to preserve some buildings before their demolition.

8. Emergency Capital Project

The Museum Director informed the Joint Committee of a programme of demolition taking place in Gateshead and sought approval of the allocation of funding to remove two blocks of two houses before their demolition took place.

Resolved:

That the request for funding be approved.

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JOINT COMMITTEE OF BEAMISH, THE NORTH OF ENGLAND OPEN AIR MUSEUM
11th May 2012

UPDATE ON MUSEUM'S BUSINESS
Report of the Director: Richard Evans

1. Update on recent performance February – March 2012, 2 month period

Key Performance Indicators

| | Actual YTD 2012/13 | Budget Forecast 2012/13 | Previous Year 2011/12 |
|---|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Visitor numbers | 47,923 | 28,000 | 33,139 |
| Variance (%) | | 71% | 45% |
| Admissions income | £220,440 | £199,847 | £152,968 |
| Variance (%) | | 10% | 44% |
| Catering income | £80,343 | £50,690 | £60,346 |
| Variance (%) | | 59% | 33% |
| Fish & Chip Shop income | £19,210 | £16,800 | |
| Variance (%) | | 14% | |
| Retail income | £39,807 | £35,000 | £36,869 |
| Variance (%) | | 14% | 8% |
| Total earned income excluding VAT, donations & grants | £398,051 | £351,492 | £274,458 |
| Variance (%) | | 13% | 45% |

1.1 Beamish has enjoyed a very busy start to the 2012/13 financial year, with higher than forecast visitor numbers in both February and March. The Museum was busy over the Easter holidays and the Great North Steam Fair in April was a great success, attracting 15,050 visitors over four days, 18% up on the previous year. Sunday, 15th April, was the busiest day the Museum has recently recorded, with a total of 4,901 visitors.

1.2 Unfortunately, performance in the second half of April has been affected by cold and wet weather. As a result, although the Museum will achieve its target visitor number of 52,000 for the month, we are not expecting to achieve our forecast for the month in terms of admissions or trading income. Overall, we expect to remain on budget forecast for the year to the end of April in terms of income from

admissions and trading, but the recent poor weather has eaten into the surpluses generated in the first two months.

Approval Sought

- Note Beamish's key performance indicators for the 2012/13 year to date.

2. Update on Museum Projects

- 2.1 The building of Beamish's coal-fired Fish and Chip Shop featured in an hour-long documentary 'Brick by Brick' on BBC2 on Friday, 13th April. We've received many very positive comments on our social media platforms, and of course it was a fantastic advert for the Museum. We hope to show a clip at the Joint Committee meeting in May for members who may have missed the transmission. Sunday 15th April - on the weekend following the broadcast - was the busiest day that Museum staff can remember. Efforts are now underway to try and secure interest in filming some of the museum's future capital projects.
- 2.2 Beamish has been shortlisted for the UK Large Visitor Attraction of the Year award at the national Visit England Awards for Excellence 2012. We are planning to send a delegation to the awards ceremony in Leicester during May, and we are working with Visit County Durham to co-ordinate press and publicity.
- 2.3 Working with officers at ANEC, the North East Region's Paralympic Flame Celebrations are being planned to take place at Beamish on the evening of Friday 24th August 2012. The police will transport a flame lantern from London to Beamish for celebrations to begin at around 6pm. Every local authority in the North East is arranging for a demonstration of paralympic and disability sports around the Museum site, which will be open to the public free of charge in the evening. Discussions are underway with officers at Arts Council England regarding a potential arts commission to help us celebrate the arrival of the flame, which is coming in a miner's lantern.
- 2.4 Good progress continues to be made with the Business and Operational Improvement Plan Capital programme, and the projects continue to be delivered within agreed budgets. Beamish is in the process of collecting two Airey houses from Kibblesworth village, Gateshead – the last ones that the Authority is demolishing. We are working with media partners to see if they would like to cover the contractors working on dismantling the buildings and bringing them to the Museum stores. They will form part of the housing area in the proposed 1950s town.
- 2.5 Work continues on the production of the outline future plan for Beamish, summarising the key proposed developments over the period 2013 – 2025. There will be a presentation at the Joint Committee meeting in May outlining the key proposals. An outline plan is being prepared using research gathered by staff over the past two years. It will be developed during the 2012/13 year with an outline a draft issued for consultation in the early summer.

Priorities for next period

- Annual review of health and safety policy in light of changes to legislation and personnel at the Museum.
- Recruitment of additional staff to deliver Museum, HLF and ACE projects.
- Outline future plan 2013 – 2025.
- Major Partner Museum Activity Plan Delivery Q1 2012/13.
- Capital projects: Transport & Industry, Bakery and St Eston's Church ongoing management.
- Business and Operational Improvement Plan Action Plan review and ongoing delivery 2012/13.
- Staff training plan & IIP review.
- Biomass heating project development.

RICHARD EVANS

Director

30th April 2012

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Agenda Item 7

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