



JOINT COMMITTEE OF BEAMISH MUSEUM – 6TH MAY 2011

ACQUISITION OF A LIGHTHOUSE SLIP FROM THE HOLLYCOMBE STEAM COLLECTION

REPORT OF THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR: RICHARD EVANS

1. The Museum has been offered a Lighthouse Slip (Helter Skelter) from the Hollycombe Steam Collection in Hampshire, to enhance the attractions in Beamish's Edwardian Fairground.
2. It is recommended that the Lighthouse Slip be transferred to Beamish from the Hollycombe Working Steam Museum and accessioned as a working object in the Beamish collections. The transfer will take place without cost since it is between two registered museums, in accordance with Museum Libraries and Archives Council guidelines.
3. Museum staff have visited the Hollycombe Working Steam Museum to view the object and discuss the transfer with their staff. The Lighthouse Slip is generally in good order but will require some further restoration work to the timbers and statutory testing as a fairground ride, prior to it being brought into operation at Beamish. It is proposed that the work be carried out in-house by the Museum Joiner over 2011/12, with a view to opening in summer 2012.
4. The Hollycombe Working Steam Museum received a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund in 1998, which included a grant payment for some restoration work to the Lighthouse Slip. As is normal in such circumstances, following the award of grant the HLF placed a number of conditions upon the Hollycombe Working Steam Museum, including a requirement for it to be kept to a reasonable standard of repair in the future. The agreed economic life of the object is stated as indefinite in the contract and the conditions remain in place for this period.
5. The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has approved the transfer to Beamish in principle, providing that Beamish Museum inherits the grant conditions that the HLF agreed with the Hollycombe Working Steam Museum in 1998. A tripartite legal deed has been drafted by the HLF between the three parties (HLF/Beamish/Hollycombe Working Steam Museum). The deed is attached as appendix A to this report.
6. The deed discharges the Hollycombe Working Steam Museum of its obligations to the HLF with respect to the Lighthouse Slip, and confirms the HLF's approval of the

transfer. It also explains that Beamish accepts liability for the HLF grant conditions, including the obligation to keep the object insured and in a reasonable state of repair. The HLF conditions are in place for an indefinite period from the date of the original grant contract (1998).

7. The Secretary of the Joint Committee has reviewed the draft tripartite agreement attached as appendix A, and recommends that the agreement be made clearer to ensure it explicitly states that Beamish, the North of England Open Air Museum does not inherit any responsibility for breach of grant conditions by Hollycombe Working Steam Museum occurring prior to the transfer. Agreement is being sought to amend Clause 2 of the deed to conclude with the proviso that "Provided that Beamish shall not be liable for any breach of condition by the company occurring prior to the date of this Agreement."
8. Prior to transfer, it is necessary for the Joint Committee to approve the transfer and authorise the Secretary of the Joint Committee from Durham County Council to sign the legal deed attached as appendix A on behalf of all the constituent authorities of the Joint Committee, subject to the amendment being agreed as noted in paragraph 7 above.

Approval sought

- Approval for the transfer of a Lighthouse Slip from Hollycombe Working Steam Museum Limited to Beamish, the North of England Open Air Museum
- Authorisation for the Secretary of the Joint Committee from Durham County Council to sign the legal deed attached as appendix A on behalf of the constituent authorities of Beamish, the North of England Open Air Museum, subject to the proviso noted above in paragraph 7.

Richard Evans
Director
18th April 2011