

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE

21 MARCH 2016

At the Meeting of the Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee held on 21 March 2016:

PRESENT:

Dorchester Town Council	Councillors:	C. Biggs F.E. Kent-Ledger
	Officer:	S. Newman
West Dorset District Council	Councillor:	A. Canning (Chairman) J. Dunseith S. Jones
Dorset County Council	Councillor:	R.M. Biggs
Dorchester Association		J. Smith
Dorchester Civic Society		P. Mann
Dorchester Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Tourism		A. Chisholm
Dorchester Local Nature Reserve		C.M. Hebditch

29. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from S. Lloyd-Jacob (West Dorset District Council), Dr J. Murden (Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society) and Councillor B. Armstrong-Marshall (Dorchester Town Council).

30. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2015, a copy of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed.

31. **DECLARATIONS OF PRE-DETERMINATION**

There were no declarations of pre-determination.

32. **A BOARDS**

Members received the notes of the meeting, held on 14 January 2016, to discuss the proliferation of A Boards in the town and noted that the County Council had agreed to undertake a consultation in the town centre during the school Easter holidays. The Committee had also been circulated with the questions proposed to be asked during the consultation.

Members supported the consultation questions and format and requested that the County Council publicise the event so as to ensure a good number of responses.

It was noted that no funding had yet to be allocated to implement any new arrangement and that this was an issue that would need to be considered.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the notes of the A Board meeting held on 14 January 2016 be received.
- (2) That the proposed consultation content and format be agreed and that the County Council be requested to publicise the consultation fully.

33. **OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR EXTENDING THE COMMITTEES MEMBERSHIP**

The Committee considered the notes of the open forum held on 29 February 2016 and correspondence which had been received since the meeting.

Members felt that the forum had been well attended with many different organisations and sectors being represented. It was felt that a good way forward would be to have six monthly meetings of the forum to which everyone would be invited. To keep interest it was considered important that the forum saw some positive action in regard to the issues it raised and in this regard identified signage at the railway stations based on the existing car park signs and town branding. In respect of branding Members felt that the Town Council should be fully involved.

With regard to attendance at future forums it was felt that it would be helpful if representatives of the hotel trade be invited. It was also considered that the Chairman of the Committee should continue to chair forum meetings.

It was agreed that a further forum be held later in the year and focus on branding with the Town Council's new community planning officer to attend and the representative from West Dorset District Council in respect of the studies being undertaken by the LEP.

It was noted that DCM and the TIC had some information regarding visitors to the town and Members felt that it would be useful to have this information.

RESOLVED

- (1) That another forum be held on 3 October 2016 commencing at 5.45pm in the Council Chamber.
- (2) That the focus for the next forum be branding and actions from previous forum.

(3) That the Town Council's new community planning officer to attend and the representative from West Dorset District Council in respect of the studies being undertaken by the LEP.

(4) That investigations be made into the possibility of having signage at the two railway stations based on the signs used in the town's car parks.

34. **DORSET COUNTY MUSEUM – CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The Committee was informed that the draft Conservation Management Plan for Dorset County Museum was being consulted upon shortly for a three week period and that the Committee had been identified as a consultee. Members were asked to nominate a group to comment on behalf of the Committee within the timescale.

RESOLVED

That Councillor F. Kent-Ledger, P. Mann and K. Hebditch be authorised to consider and respond to the Management Plan.

35. **FRINKS SCULPTURE – SOUTH WALKS**

The Committee was informed that this year was the 30th anniversary of the installation of the Frink Sculpture and Members were asked whether an application should be made to Historic England for it to be Listed and also whether the interpretation board should be replaced with one that was legible in the style of the other information boards around the town.

Members agreed that an application should be made for the sculpture to be Listed and agreed that a new board be produced. In respect of the board Members felt that the wording might be less and include something about the sculpture and how it originally came about including the funding for it.

The Committee also requested that the trees near the sculpture be regularly pruned so as to ensure that

RESOLVED

(1) That an application be made to Historic England for the sculpture to be Listed.

(2) That a new information board be produced.

36. **WW1 INFORMATION BOARD – CENTENARY FIELD**

Further to Minute No. 19(a) the Committee had before it a further report from the Town Clerk on a proposal to submit an application to Fields in Trust to rename the area between Holmead Walk and Jubilee Woods at Poundbury as a Centenary Field.

Having given the matter further consideration Members agreed the proposal subject to addition information boards or plaques also being located at sites in the town which had direct significance during WW1.

RESOLVED

That the proposal be agreed subject to addition information boards or plaques also being located at sites in the town which had direct significance during WW1.

37. RAILWAY BRIDGE AT ALINGTON ROAD

Further to Minute No. 24(a) Members noted the response from Network Rail as follows:-

"I have passed on your comments to our structures engineer and have been informed that they will look at this but I have been informed that our bridges are regularly inspected and any work is planned in safety priority order first. With regards to the aesthetics of the bridge this would be planned in when the bridge is due a refurbishment."

Members felt that the bridge had deteriorated since Network Rail engineers had last inspected the bridge and felt that they should be invited to inspect it again.

RESOLVED

That further representations be made to Network Rail as set out above.

38. PROMOTING HERITAGE LEAFLET

Members considered a report from the Town Clerk on a proposal from Miranda Woodgate requesting that the Committee endorse a privately produced and funded heritage tourism directory for the town.

The Committee supported the proposal subject to it agreeing the final version of any printed material. K. Hebditch and the Chairman agreed to write / check any editorial needed for the publication.

RESOLVED

(1) That the Committee agrees to endorse the proposed heritage tourism leaflet subject to approval of the final draft.

(2) That K. Hebditch and the Chairman be authorised to write / check any editorial needed for the publication.

39. WORLD HERITAGE STATUS

Further to Minute No. 23 the Committee considered a further report by the representative from the Local Nature Reserve on the potential for Dorchester to be listed as a World Heritage Site. Members were informed that there was a fairly slim chance of the town being listed but that it was felt important to explore the possibility more by meeting with representatives from the Jurassic Coast, establish the town's important heritage and push for completion of the County Council's historic Towns Survey report.

With regard to completion of the town survey Councillor S. Jones reported that West Dorset District Council was looking at options for the Charles Street site again and the town survey

information might be useful for those considerations; Councillor Jones would report this matter back to that group. Members also felt that it might be worth ascertaining the cost of the Committee funding the survey to completion.

It was also noted that the Roman Baths report had yet to be received from Historic England.

RESOLVED

(1) That the possibility of applying for WHS be explored further, taking advice from those with experience in World Heritage Sites at Dorset County Council and at other relevant sites.

(2) That a 'Statement of Outstanding Universal Value' be prepared - whether or not WHS status is applied for. This would be a useful expression of Dorchester's unique cultural and heritage value that could inform future local plans and developments and give local residents pride in their area.

(3) That efforts be made to ensure the County Council's Historic Towns Survey report on Dorchester is completed and seek partnership funding for this project if necessary. The LEP heritage consultant should also be asked to request completion of this document.

40. FORTHCOMING HISTORIC TOWNS EVENTS

The Committee noted the forthcoming historic Towns Forum events which had previously been circulated.

41. QUESTIONS

No formal questions had been submitted.

42. URGENT ITEMS

The representative from Dorset County Council informed the Committee that some urgent works had been carried out to the Roman Town House to stop and prevent future flooding.

In response to a question the Chairman confirmed that there would be a consultation on each step of the DTEP proposals.

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the stock of Town Trails leaflet was very low and that the Dorchester TIC had requested a supply for the summer. The Committee agreed that a further print run be requested.

The representative from the Dorchester Chamber for Business noted that there would be a press release shortly in respect of what might happen at the Charles Street site.

43. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Monday 27 June 2016 commencing at 7.00pm.