

Battle Town Council Visual Arts Development Committee (BVADC)

Notes of the meeting held on 31 March 2016

Held at the Bull Inn at 7:30pm

Present – Lesley Samms (chair), Margaret Kiloh, Vincent Matthews, Tina Greene and Mary Midgley.

Apologies – Peter Greene, Jo Reeves, Debbie Noble-Grant, Caitlin Wheatley

Non-attending advisory members – Sarah & Adrian Hall

Pending Committee Invite (due to holidays) Ann Stewart – Battle Abbey School

Part 1

A remit, mission statement and judgement criteria for all art proposals were circulated to all present. The document was discussed at length and amended and agreed.

Mary Midgley to send a copy to Andy Beams for the council to adopt the statement.

Committee reporting line was discussed and it was agreed that it would seem most relevant for the committee to report directly to the full town council.

Margaret Kiloh to liaise and advise committee of finalised reporting line arrangements – requirements etc.

The committee reviewed current projects and their status:

Mary Midgley to establish current status of the roundabout project and report back.

Mary Midgley to ask Andy Beams to provide clear demarcation of the towns boundaries.

Margaret Kiloh to approach Millbrook Homes (developing on A2100) for money for cultural projects.

Lesley Samms to contact Sue Burton regarding Battle health pathway.

There is a proposal from Beautiful Battle for the Almonry Gardens. Beautiful Battle wish to pay for a sculpture and therefore they want to choose it and site the sculpture. The committee agreed that as this is a new project, it must go through the judging criteria. This will apply to all projects from now on. It will set the precedent for the donor and funding body and will ensure continuity across the board.

All artists submitting will be sent the criteria so there can be no misunderstandings. It was agreed that sculptures must be at one with their sites.

Margaret Kiloh to send the judging criteria to Beautiful Battle and advise that the sculpture will be submitted to this process at the next meeting, should they wish to make an adjustments/amends prior to.

Tina Greene declared a vested interest with regard to a sculpture proposal and confirmed she and husband Peter, would abstain from all and any meetings or voting in this regard.

Lesley Samms will create a Strategic Visual brief for Battle - to be shown to the council

Lesley Samms will be primary artist liaison for the river bench and stone markers (already agreed prior to the formation of this committee).

Lesley Samms is to contact Hastings museum regarding the Cauldrons currently held there.

Geo tourist App is managed by Margaret. Our first trail has been downloaded to this app and is good news as it stops the need to create a website.

Debbie Noble-Grant is to look into how the app and town businesses can interact.

The first trail has been completed by the historical society.

The second trail is to be a family friendly trail involving the environment.

The Mansers Shaw area has been suggested and can take mountain bikes. It needs to link to the recreation ground as there is to be a new BMX park and new play park. It was suggested that an old bike could be galvanised and mounted at the start of the trail to highlight its existence and interaction with the existing Keane Trail.

Mary Midgley to map the trail route.

Part 2

The town Council wants an art trail as a priority. Some issues need to be overcome such as theft or vandalism. The stone markers that will highlight the trail will be made with this in mind.

Lesley Samms to put Jo Reeves and Steve Scott in contact in order to move funding applications for the heritage trails project forward as a matter of urgency

Part of heritage funding requires community involvement and groups suggested to be involved are:

Baptist church and St Mary's Nursery groups

Cycling groups

Photographic club

Bonfire Society

Local riding groups

The Bayeux Mosaic will be touring the UK 2016 - 2017. It will be in St Marys in the Castle Hastings until October and then move to St. Mary's Church, Battle from November to January 2017. Once it has finished its UK tour, it is hoped that Battle will secure the mosaic and therefore a permanent site needs to be found and agreed with the Linton family.

Margaret Kiloh to circulate images and sizes of the mosaic.

See website: <http://www.1066.co.nz>

Margaret Kiloh to act as principle liaison for this project.

Vincent Matthews to review how to place them and how to encase them/present them appropriately bearing in mind conservation aspects etc.

A glazed pavilion in the grounds of the Almonry was discussed as a possible solution.

This exhibit could become a major tourist attraction for Battle. The Victorian replica of the Bayeux Tapestry is housed in a bespoke gallery in Reading.

Jo Reeves to look at how this might be funded. Crowd funding, Heritage lottery fund etc.

On Thursday 7th April, there will be an official opening of the Bayeux Tapestry Mural on Platform 2 of Battle train Station. It is then proposed that some filming will be done within the town to create an archive for the town. This will then happen annually.

Lesley Samms to contact Tracy Dixon to ask permission to use St Mary's church in this film archive.

Agenda Item for next meeting: Geo Tourist App - Press release and Launch event.

Lamp post advertising Flags

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 5TH MAY 2016 AT 7:30 – The Bull Inn, Battle.

Please RSVP Mary Midgley to confirm attendance/absence