



NORWICH AREA MUSEUMS COMMITTEE

2pm to 2.50pm

9 July 2013

Present:

City Councillors:

Button (chair following appointment)
Ackroyd
Blunt
Bradford
Grahame (substitute for Councillor Boswell)
Maxwell

County Councillors:

Bremner (vice chair following appointment)
Dearnley
Sands (M)

Co-opted Non-voting members:

Councillor Bracey (Broadland District Council), Brenda Ferris (Norfolk Contemporary Arts Society), Charlotte Crawley (East Anglia Arts Fund) and Ceri Lamb (Friends of Norwich Museums)

Apologies:

County Councillors Gihawi, Morgan and Watkins
City Councillor Boswell

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Button as chair for the ensuing civic year.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Bremner as vice chair for the ensuing civic year.

3. GENERAL INTRODUCTIONS

General introductions ensued. The committee was introduced to Steve Miller, head of museums and archaeology, who attended the meeting for this item.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2012.

5. THE NORWICH MUSEUMS – MEMBERS’ BRIEFING JULY 2013

The Norwich museums manager presented the report and circulated copies of the Curator report 2011-12. She reported that Councillor Bradford had attended the Norwich Museums Youth Forum event on 18 June 2013 to celebrate the work of the young people aged 16 to 24 years, who comprised the forum, whose aim was to make the museums more youth friendly and reach a whole new audience.

During discussion members considered that there were still some teachers who were not aware of the extent of what could be offered by the Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service (NMAS) to the learning process. The Norwich museums manager informed members that an ACE funded Schools Marketing Strategy was underway which would address this issue. Members sought reassurance that despite changes in the national curriculum, there would still be opportunities for children to dress up as Victorians and Ancient Egyptians. Members also considered the capacity to host school visits and it was noted that members of the Norfolk Contemporary Arts Society were concerned that the use of the Timothy Gurney gallery for schools to eat their lunches was a distraction to visitors to the art gallery. The Norwich museums manager reassured members that options were being explored which would ensure that galleries were only used for food consumption in exceptional and controlled circumstances in the future.

In reply to a member’s question, the Norwich museums manager said that the more obvious cuts to the NMAS budget had been made, and that the head of NMAS would engage members in further proposals for the development of the service.

Charlotte Crawley referred to the report and pointed out that there was a typographical error under the heading “Autumn 2014” which should be amended to reflect that it was the 170th anniversary of the Norwich University of the Arts (NUA).

In reply to a member’s question regarding the future display of the pre-Raphaelite tapestry that was on loan to the Pushkin Museum, Moscow, the Norwich Museums manager explained that the conservation requirements of some articles, such as the tapestry, required items to be “rested” or taken off display, away from extremes of heat and light for periods of time.

Members were advised that the new “rover” ticket would be monitored to evaluate whether it had an impact on museums passes.

During discussion it was suggested that the co-opted members were invited to submit reports for inclusion on agendas for future meetings of the committee as appropriate.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) note the report;
- (2) ask the committee officer to contact invite co-opted members to submit reports to future meetings for inclusion on the agenda;

- (3) approve the proposals for a member induction programme, which will include guided tours of each of the Norwich sites.

6. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

RESOLVED to confirm the schedule of meetings for the committee, approved at the city council's annual meeting, as follows (all meetings to be held at 2pm):

1 October 2013;
3 December 2013;
4 February 2014.

CHAIR