



MINUTES

NORWICH AREA MUSEUMS COMMITTEE

2pm to 2:50pm

3 December 2013

Present:

City Councillors:

Button (chair)
Ackroyd
Boswell
Bradford
Maxwell

County Councillors:

Bremner (vice chair)
Dearnley
Gihawi
Morgan

Co-opted Non-voting members:

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

Apologies:

County Councillors Sands (M) and Watkins
City Councillor Blunt
Councillor Bracey (Broadland District Council)
Councillor Hornby (South Norfolk Council)

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 1 October 2013, subject to noting that the Norfolk Writer's Circle was established in 1943 and not 1945.

3. THE NORWICH MUSEUMS – MEMBERS' BRIEFING DECEMBER 2013

Rachel Kirk, the Norwich museums manager presented the report and answered members' questions.

The Norwich museums manager said that it had been a good autumn for visitor numbers including school visits to the museums. She confirmed that the Friends of Norwich Museums had agreed to fund additional open days for Strangers Hall June – Sept 2014.

Vacancies for two learning officers had been filled so there have been a full complement of staff to maximise school visits to the museum. She said that Norwich Museums had expressed an interest in being one of the British venues to host an international dolls house exhibition from the V&A Museum of Childhood.

The museum service has been receiving increased requests for information surrounding the First World War so a training pack was being put together to provide help to individuals and other organisations coordinating WW1 projects.

The Norwich museums manager reported that eight new museums trainees had recently been appointed to start in January 2014 and they had received nearly six hundred applications for the eight positions.

She reminded members that they had been invited to the opening of the Norman Connections project.

RESOLVED to:

- 1) Note the report; and
- 2) To record the committee's appreciation of the support provided by the Friends of Norwich Museums to facilitate additional open days for Strangers Hall in 2014.

4. NMAS COLLECTIONS RATIONALISATION PROGRAMME 2013-14

Jamie Everitt, Collections Development manager, presented the report. He reminded the committee of the rationalisation process for items that are no longer suitable for display. He emphasised that the museum services tried to keep as many items in the public domain as possible. The items within the report were either previously displayed or stored in the Bridewell museum, in stores at Gressenhall or in storage in North Walsham. Some funding from the 'Shine the Light' project had been allocated to allow staff time to look through the stores and sort the items held. Some items had been collected in the 1970s for a proposed industrial museum which did not go ahead.

Members asked questions around the items in the report. With regard to the architectural salvage items, the Collections development manager said that he understood that such items were more likely to find a home within Norwich but said that he was obliged to offer the items to other museums in the first instance. He said that items which had been given to fire and rescue collections were usually displayed in individual fire stations with the ambition to eventually have a museum dedicated to such items. These items were usually taken to open days where they would be accessible to the public.

With reference to item number NWHCM 1974.639.1 an engine with a Lawrence and Scott generator, the Collections manager explained that although the item had Norwich connections, the museum service had more relevant items to represent Lawrence and Scott. The museum of internal fire in Wales had expressed an interest in this item and this was the route he proposed.

RESOLVED to approve the rationalisation of the items listed in annex 2 of the report.

CHAIR