



Bishop Auckland Town Team
15th June 2017

Notes and Actions

Present: Clive S Auld, Rob Berry, Adrian Beswick, June Brown, Lee Brownson, Nigel Bryson, Chris Burn, John Campbell, Gillian Campbell, Jamie Chappell, Leanda Chappell, Daniel Childs, Andrew Corry, Maureen Davison, Clare Davison, Raj Devgan, Claire Gibbons, Matt Gillibrand, Susan Grayson, Jill Leach, Julie Maddison, Stefa McManners, Faye Miller, Chris Percival, Colin Raine, Chris Robinson, Bernadette Rush, Gillian Scott, Michael Siddle, Katie Smurthwaite, Chloe Suddes, Charlie Walton, Kathryn Watson, Marilyn Weerasinghe, Alison Wild, Ann Williams-Maughan, Debra Wood, Sam Zair and David Anderson

Apologies Alan Anderson, Peter Daniels, Ann Golightly and Dr R McManners

1. Appointment to the Core Team

The following appointments were made to the Core Team:-

Business Sector Gillian Campbell, Claire Gibbons and Dave Wilson.

Community Sector Alan Anderson, Clive Auld and Nigel Bryson

Key Regeneration Partners Liz Fisher (Operations Director, Auckland Castle Trust) and Chris Myers (Regeneration Projects Manager, Durham County Council) (vacancy)

Durham University was to be approached regarding the vacancy for this sector when the Professor and Director of the Zurbarán Centre for Spanish and Latin American Art had been appointed.

Local Councillors Councillors Jamie Blackburn (BATC), L Brownlee (BATC) and S. Zair (DCC)

2. Chair of the Town Team/Core Team

Nigel Bryson was appointed Chair of the Town Team.

It was noted that the Chairman of the Town Team would also chair the Core Team

3. Vice Chair of the Town Team/Core Team

Lee Brownson was appointed Vice-Chair of the Town Team.

It was noted that the Vice Chairman of the Town Team would also be Vice Chair the Core Team

4. Chair of Events Team

Clive Auld was appointed chair of the Events Team

5. Appointment of Treasurer

Alan Anderson was appointed Treasurer.

6. Appointment of Communication Lead

Lee Brownson was appointed communications lead

7. Financial Year End Report

A Financial Summary as at 15th June 2017 summarising income and expenditure over the previous year was circulated for information.

A copy of the accounts was available for inspection.

Agreed: That the information be noted

8. Notes of meeting held on 16th February 2017

Notes of the meeting were agreed

9. Auckland Castle Update

Liz Fisher, Auckland Castle Trust, gave an update of the Trusts projects, including

Heritage Skills Workshops would be on offer giving people hands on activities related to a range of traditional crafts including jewellery making, weaving, wood turning, embroidery, blacksmithing, leatherworking and leaded glass work.

Work was ongoing to create additional attractions to supplement the Town Council's Horticultural Show to be held on 23rd September 2017.

Work was continuing on the Old Bank Chambers which would be home to the Mining Art Gallery. It was envisaged that the gallery would open in autumn of 2017.

Lee Brownson would be visiting businesses in the town centre to explain about the ACT's projects and would be the main point of contacts for businesses.

10. Eleven Arches Update

Stefa McManners gave an update with regard to arrangements for the second season of Kynren which would begin on 1st July 2017.

It was noted that the first show would be a special premier night and would involve additional treats for the audience including enhanced performances and goody bags.

The content of the show was had been improved further with additional cast, performances and special effects.

Rehearsals were in full flow and work was ongoing with all aspects of volunteers to ensure that visitors had an excellent experience.

Landscaping works were continuing on the site.

Eleven Arches were encouraging visitors to dwell in the town so that businesses could benefit from the opportunities. Local businesses were encouraged to come forward with suggestions to make the town look more attractive for visitors so that they would make better use of the town and businesses.

The following questions were raised.

- **In 2016 visitors were requested to be on site 3 hours before the performance. Would this be the same for 2017?**

It was noted that there were initial worries in 2016 in getting the audience on site to allow the show to begin on time so that the finale could be performed with fireworks within the licensed. The arrival times were relaxed during 2016 as confidence grew that the logistical arrangements were appropriate to accommodate the show. Arrangements for 2017 would be more relaxed.

- **In 2016 stewards were pointing visitors to the Kynren site direct from the car parks without being given the opportunity of visiting the town centre. Have lessons been learned from last year?**

Given the logistical concerns regarding people being on site in good time visitors had been encouraged to be on site 3 hours before the show. As this relaxed more effort was made to direct visitors to the town.

Eleven Arches Trust wanted the town to prosper and benefit from the events and would work with them to achieve this.

- **Why has car parking charges for Kynren increased so much?**

The cost of car parking and transport for 2016 was £187,000. The charges for 2017 had increased to cover the costs. No profit was being made on car park charges.

- **Roadworks in the Market Place caused congestion during 2016 season. Are there any further road works planned in the Market Place during 2017 season?**

The realignment of the road had to be undertaken during the summer of 2016 in order for the construction of the Welcome Building. The work to realign the road was complete, apart from a final finishing work which would be undertaken when the Welcome Building was completed. This would be after season II had concluded.

It was suggested that work was due to be undertaken to the water main in the Market Place in the near future. This was to be checked.

- **Would it be possible to Kynren to promote local attractions direct with attendees?**

An offer was made for promotional information to be included in the goody bags for the opening performance to be held on 1st July.

A business representative added that business also had a role in promoting themselves to the increased visitors in the town. Giving special offers would encourage them to use local businesses.

It would also be possible to cross promote via social media.

- **Would it be possible for Kynren characters to be present in the Market Place on show days to create a buzz around town?**

This had been trialed in other towns to promote the show which had worked well. Logistics may be difficult on show days however it would be considered.

- **Has other entertainment been considered in the Market Place on show days?**

Street food and entertainment had been considered for season I, however this did not come to fruition due to concerns that it may have delayed visitors getting to the site in time.

Entertainment and attractions were being considered for 2017.

Durham Markets Company had taken over the running of Bishop Auckland market on a Thursday and if successful would be extending this to the Saturday market which would provide an additional attraction for visitors. Entertainment may also be considered.

- **A vintage vehicle rally held locally had lost its venue last year. Would it be possible to bring this to Bishop Auckland?**

The feasibility of this would be considered by the Events Team.

11. Update on Core Team Projects

Phase II of the wayfinding signs would be installed during the summer 2017. This would include signage in the bus station. Interpretations boards would be installed later in the autumn.

A planning application had been submitted for phase II of North Bondgate car park. The application would be open to statutory and public consultation for 8 weeks.

The targeted business improvement scheme aimed at improving shop fronts and certain internal work was going well. Funding was available over next 2 years (2017/18 and 2018/19). Twenty-two expressions of interest had been received. Three businesses had received an offer of a grant. A further two offers of grant were to be made in the near future.

The Community Toilet scheme was now in operation. The owner of the Champagne Bar indicated that he would like to join the scheme. Contact would be made.

12. Bishop Auckland and Coundon in Bloom

The first round of judging for Bishop Auckland and Coundon in Bloom had taken place and had received positive feedback. The panel would return on 25th July for the second round of judging.

The areas being judged included the Kynren site, Auckland Castle, Coundon Crematorium, recreation ground and allotments.

Local businesses were encouraged to join in by installing hanging baskets and tubs outside their premises. A litter pick in the town was also to be arranged. All volunteers were welcome.

A fundraising event would be held at Bishop Auckland Golf Club on 25th July 2017.

It was noted that Bishop Auckland and Coundon in Bloom were looking into the possibility of creating a town crier.

13. Events Programme

Clive Auld (Chair of the Events Team) updated the meeting as to recent activities.

It was noted that the Events Team met regularly at the Park Head, Coundon and would always welcome new volunteers.

A 'Buskers Day' would be held on Saturday 15th July and again on Saturday 12th August 2017. Local singers and bands will perform in the Market Place and at locations along Newgate Street from 10.00am until 3.00 pm.

New Car Show was to be held on Friday 25th August 2017. This would be the sixth car show. A number of car dealerships had been invited to attend.

Advent Window Project was being considered for the Christmas period. A funding application was to be made to County Durham Community Fund.

Bishop the Boar was keeping busy promoting the town. He was available to appear at events and parties providing volunteers were available.

Anyone wishing to join the Events Team or wishing to help Bishop the Boar should contact Clive Auld.

It was suggested that businesses could support the Events Team by sponsoring leaflets. For a reasonable donation adverts could be included on leaflets promoting businesses that donated to printing cost.

14. Town Centre Map Project

Gillian Scott of Gillian Arnold Design, introduced herself to the group. Gillian explained that she was producing a pictorial map of the town centre and invited businesses to participate by producing an image of their premises for the map. Assistance would be given where requested.

15. Bishop Press

Queried whether Bishop Press was delivered to West Auckland. A resident present at the meeting did not receive it.

An enquiry would be made with the producers.

16. Parking on Newgate Street/Market Place

Lee Brownson updated the group as to the situation regarding movement of vehicles along Fore Bondgate and Newgate Street and the problem of youths parking cars near the O2 shop to access their free wifi.

The traffic control order was in the process of being amended making it an offence to park in the subject area. Traffic wardens would enforce the parking restrictions during the day until 6.00 p.m. Responsibility would then transfer to the Police to deal with illegally parked cars causing obstructions on the highway. This would however need to be balanced with the police's other priorities.

Discussion was also given to restrictions of traffic movement at Fore Bondgate and the rising bollard. It was suggested that the problem would be resolved if the bollard was in place 24/7 only being lowered to allow access to authorised vehicles, i.e. loading, disabled drivers, delvers and emergency vehicles. This could be achieved as the barrier is monitored by CCTV and intercom from Chilton Depot.

This would be discussed further with Durham County Council.

17. Next Meetings

Thursday, 17th August 2017 at 6.00 p.m.

Thursday, 16th November 2017 at 6.00 p.m.

Thursday, 22nd February 2018 at 6.00 p.m.

Thursday, 17th May 2018 at 6.00 p.m. (AGM)