

CULTURE, LEISURE AND TOURISM PORTFOLIO

DECISION RECORD

13 May 2008

The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor Victor Tumilty (Culture, Leisure and Tourism Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Andrew Pearson, Parks and Countryside Manager
Stephen Cashman, Strategic Arts Manager
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

26. Burn Valley Beck – River Corridor Enhancement Opportunities *(Parks and Countryside Manager)*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

The report was presented to inform the Portfolio Holder of proposals to work in partnership with the Environment Agency and consultants to proceed from conceptual ideas to outline design stage for the enhancement of the Burn Valley Beck River Corridor.

Issues for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Environment Agency had commissioned a report by Royal Haskoning to identify enhancement opportunities for improving the beck, the management of which has passed from the local authority to the environment agency. This report has been reviewed by the Environment Agency, relevant staff from the Authority, Ward Members and Friends of Burn Valley. The beck is an artificially modified watercourse lined with a variety of concrete, brick and other artificial materials which detracts from the ecological value of the river corridor. Potential exists to make significant changes to the beck to provide major enhancement to the area. Six key areas were identified to achieve a gradual wilding of the Burn Valley and the

consultants will now work with Local Authority Officers and the Environment Agency to progress to an outline design stage which will also include the recommendations for implementation of the scheme.

Consultation with the Central Neighbourhood Forum will take place on 19 June 2008 and then a steering group will be formed to review the key issues and address any concerns raised at the forum which can be worked into a master plan similar to that of the successful Heritage Lottery bid for improvements to the lower Burn Valley. The final outline design report will be adopted as a master plan for the Burn Valley and funding will be sought to implement the plan from sources such as the Big Lottery's Access to Nature Fund.

The Portfolio Holder commented that the Friends of Burn Valley and Ward Councillors were enthusiastic about the plans. He added that he was pleased with the ecologically friendly scheme which would encourage wildlife such as water voles and dragon flies. He thanked all for the hard work put into the report.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder approved the report.

27. Local Access Forum – End of Year Report *(Parks and Countryside Manager)*

Type of Decision

Non key

Purpose of Report

The report was presented to inform the Portfolio Holder of the progress of the Local Access Forum within the first year.

Issues for consideration by the Portfolio Holder

The four Local Authorities, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Stockton on Tees and Darlington established a joint Local Access Forum in 2003 and a Development Officer based in Hartlepool, was appointed in June 2007. This post was funded by the four Local Authorities. Part of the officer's role was to develop the Local Access Forum and write a business plan involving the membership of the forum in advancing their interests, including raising the profile of the Forum and recruitment of new members from the general public. Throughout the year major improvements have taken place including consultations on a number of issues and the Development Officer has attended various events to publicise the Forum as well as raising interest in membership recruitment.

The Portfolio Holder praised the Local Development Officer for her drive, enthusiasm and ongoing dedication to the development of the Forum.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder was informed of the progress of the Local Access Forum post within the first year.

28. Hartlepool Maritime Festival *(Strategic Arts Manager)*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

The report was presented in order to inform the Portfolio Holder of the key aspects and plans for Hartlepool Maritime Festival 2008.

Items for Consideration

This year's Hartlepool Maritime Festival would be the fifth biennial festival which began in the Millennium year and marked the start of the build up to the Tall Ships Race 2010. The festival was planned to run from 7.00 pm on Friday, 4th July 2008 until 5.30 pm on Sunday, 6 July 2008. This year's event was to be on a larger site that previous years using the Hartlepool Maritime Experience area as well as Navigation point and an area of land on Maritime Avenue. Various entertainments had been planned including a world record attempt for the most people dancing a nautical hornpipe at the same time using specially commissioned music from local folk musician Eliza Carthy and dance steps commissioned from regional dance artist Amanda Drago. There was also a Veterans' Day Events area celebrating the contribution of the Armed Forces, past and present in association with National Veterans' Day Commemorations. This would include a display of military attractions. A large number of music, theatre and dance attractions were planned for this free festival.

The Portfolio Holder asked whether there would be any reference to 4th July being American Independence Day and was informed that the planned 'Taste of Hartlepool' event which involved local restaurants donating a recipe for a signature dish to be cooked by students from the College of Further Education could incorporate this. The Portfolio Holder stated that he was looking forward to this year's event which would be a taster of what was planned for the Tall Ships 2010.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the progress being made for the Hartlepool Maritime Festival 2008.

P DEVLIN

ACTING CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 15 May 2008

CONFIRMED BY PORTFOLIO HOLDER

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DATE:-