

MINUTES OF THE TOWN PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 31ST JANUARY, 2017

Present: Councillor E Bell (Chair) and
Councillors B Allen, Mrs B E Allen,
Mrs M R Baird, Mrs J A Bell,
B Burn Snr, S Cudlip, Mrs S Forster, R Meir,
Miss S Morrison, I Paul, K Shaw, C Snowball,
B Taylor, R Whitehead.

Apologies: Councillor R Arthur, Mrs G Bleasdale,
B Burn Jnr, Mrs H Cahill, K Younger.

Prior to commencement of the meeting the Chair advised members of this Committee and members of the public that in line with the amendment to 'the public bodies (admission to meetings) act 1960', which came into force in August, 2014, parts of this meeting may be recorded by photographic, video and audio means.

1. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Members were reminded prior to the start of the meeting of the need to disclose any interests, prejudicial or personal, in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

2. PRESENTATIONS

Mr Dave Murrell

The Chair welcomed to the meeting Mr Dave Murrell a Peterlee based photographer who is a long standing member of the Durham Photographic Society.

Mr Murrell introduced Mr John Cogan and Mr Peter Waldron the President of Durham Photographic Society who are also co-founders of a cooperative of photographers named Portraits of the North East. They were co-opted to produce a 100 portraits of well-known people from the North East which included Sir Thomas Allen and Ray Lonsdale. The reason this group are separate from Durham Photographic Society is that Durham is a charity and obtaining grants was proving difficult.

Mr Waldron stated that the first exhibition held was the 100 portraits of well-known people who had made a significant difference to the North East. The exhibition was launched in Alnwick Gardens and was also exhibited at Sunderland Museum and Art Gallery and the exhibition ended at Bowes Museum. The next exhibition held was veterans of World War 2 which was part of the British Legion exhibition. The current exhibition that is being worked on is Crafts People of the North East, people who carry out traditional crafts who are still practising these crafts which include saddlers, organ makers, goldsmiths, drystone wallers and people who restore medieval books. After

attending a wedding at Seaham Town Hall Mr Murrell had returned to the group and suggested that Seaham Town Hall would be an ideal place to hold an exhibition. The group would do all of the hanging and taking down of the pictures and Mr Waldron stipulated that the pictures do not have glass frames. The group hold their own public liability insurance and their only request would be for a contribution towards the hangers which would be in the region of £25.00.

The group are hoping to hold an exhibition which would last for a month and a selection of crafts from Seaham could be used in the exhibition. Mr Waldron suggested that there could be a few images in the lobby area and images in the top annexe. This would bring footfall into the Town Hall after advertising which would be of benefit to both the Town Council and the Photographic Society.

At this point Members were invited to ask any questions and the following comments were made:

- (i) A Member raised concern about how the pictures would be hung on the walls?

The Deputy Town Clerk stated non damaging hooks which are self-adhesive and which are removed very easily can be purchased for approximately £3.00 each. The frames are extremely light in weight.

- (ii) A Member questioned whether Councillors would be able to see the photographs before they are exhibited so Councillors can choose what will be shown?

Mr Cogan stated that they would negotiate with the Town Council about which pictures to display.

- (iii) What proportion of the exhibit would be about Seaham and are there any alternative hanging methods as the Town Council prefer the walls plain so clients can dress the rooms the way they want to and the Town Council wouldn't want holes left in the walls?

Mr Cogan stated the Deputy Town Clerk had removed the pictures in the reception area and no damage was made. He stated that the group can do whatever suits the Town Council. The remit of the group is to document the North East of England as it isn't shown enough and the idea is to show the breadth and depth of talent in the region which would cover Northumberland, County Durham and Tyne & Wear. Ray Lonsdale would be included in the exhibition.

- (iv) Assuming the group are given permission and the pictures are on the wall if any were stolen who would be responsible?

Mr Cogan stated that the group have their own public liability insurance. The Town Council would not be held responsible.

- (v) Who would be responsible for the publicity?

Mr Coglan stated it would be hoped that the Town Council could assist with the publicity via their own website or social media.

- (vi) A Member stated that some of the pictures are beautiful but they could be pictures of beaches anywhere. Would it be possible to add tags to the pictures so people can see where the location of the pictures are? Are the group asking for a fee and what happens if the public want to buy the pictures?

The pictures of the crafts people are not for sale as the group don't envisage anyone wanting to buy a person's story. The group do not want a fee as the group are a non-profit making organisation. If anyone wants to buy any other pictures the group would half the sale value with the Town Council.

The Chair thanked the three members of the Durham Photographic Society for attending the meeting and informed them that this would be discussed at a further meeting of the Council and then a response would be given to them.

RECOMMENDED that this item be discussed at a future meeting.

Mr Peter Bodo

The Chair welcomed to the meeting Mr Peter Bodo from Durham County Council's Civil Contingencies Unit who is updating Members on community resilience.

Mr Bodo thanked Members for inviting him along to the meeting to discuss community resilience.

Mr Bodo discussed the role of the Civic Contingencies Unit (CCU) as each Local Authority has this department. The role of the Unit is to plan for emergencies, promote business continuity, train individuals and exercise plans and liaise closely with other emergency services such as the Police, Fire Service and Ambulance Service. The Unit has a 24/7 Duty Officer on call to assist with any emergencies.

Mr Bodo stated that community resilience is communities and individuals using local resources and expertise to help themselves to prepare for and respond to an emergency. Emergency risks include flooding, severe weather, pandemic flu, landslip, power cuts, animal disease and environmental contamination. In this area environmental contamination could have resulted from the coal mines but the Local Authority have turned the tide on this over the last 20-30 years.

Communities can direct emergency services to specific locations and advise and warn neighbours. They can also monitor and support residents in need and assist people or businesses in difficulty and assist with returning back to normality after an incident.

Communities with specific risk like flooding can produce a community plan so that agreement is made in advance of an emergency of who will do what, when and where and can liaise with emergency services and the Council. Stocks can be in place prior to any emergency for example sand bags can be purchased and stored. Buildings can be identified as shelters for anyone who needs to be evacuated from their homes.

Mr Bodo stated that Durham County Council have templates on their website which can be utilised for business continuity. The unit have visited over 15 caravan sites in County Durham primarily they are sites next to flood areas and advice has been given to owners in the event of any flooding occurring. The Unit also works closely with youth organisations and school children to give young people the opportunity to learn what to do in an emergency situation.

Mr Bodo stated that help is available from Durham County Council in the form of plan templates and guides for community groups and business continuity. Support can be given by the Unit for training communities. The achievements for the Unit to date include greater community awareness on local risk, localised resources have been deployed, quicker local responses, quicker recovery, increased business resilience and increased community resilience.

At this point Members were invited to ask any questions and the following comments were made:

- (i) A Member questioned whether it was part of Mr Bodo's role to go out and identify risk areas?

Mr Bodo stated that flooding tends to happen in the same places most of the time so the Unit are aware of the risk areas.

- (ii) You stated you visited caravan sites do you also look at travellers sites?

Mr Bodo stated that they didn't visit traveller sites it is mostly commercial static caravan sites and not tourers.

- (iii) A Member questioned whether Durham has got a plan for high risk flooding rather than a low risk?

Mr Bodo replied that the Unit work with all of the emergency services, Police, environment agency, Fire and even the RAF as this would be a multi-agency response so that plans are written to take into account all of the services.

- (iv) Does the Unit train people in First Aid?

Mr Bodo stated that the Unit does not train people in First Aid, however they can put people in touch with the British Red Cross. The Unit do not advocate members of the community offering assistance to other people as that is what the Ambulance Service is for.

The Chair thanked Mr Bodo for attending the meeting and giving an informative presentation.

RECOMMENDED that the Council note the information.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 22ND NOVEMBER, 2016

RECOMMENDED the Minutes of this meeting, a copy of which had been previously printed and circulated to each Member, be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

4. VISIT COUNTY DURHAM PUBLICATIONS

4.1 Wednesday Grapevine

RECOMMENDED the copies of the Wednesday Grapevines dated from 23rd November, 2016 to 18th January, 2017 which had been published by Visit County Durham, be accepted.

5. FUTURE SPEAKERS

RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk be contacted if any members have suggestions for future speakers to attend this meeting.

6. PRESS OPPORTUNITIES

RECOMMENDED the Council note that no press opportunities existed from this meeting.