

MUSEUM MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP held at SAFFRON WALDEN MUSEUM at 2.40 pm on 15 SEPTEMBER 2008

Present:- Councillor K L Eden – Chairman.
Councillor D J Morson (Uttlesford Member); D Laing, P Salvage and T Watson (Museum Society).

Officers in attendance:- Sarah Kenyon (Nature Sciences Officer), Maggie Cox (Democratic Services Officer) and C Wingfield (Curator).

MM17 APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor S Schneider.

MM18 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of 31 July 2008 were received, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

MM19 MATTERS ARISING

(i) Minute MM15 – Learning Officer

It was reported that Dr Alexandra Jones had now taken up her position as Learning Officer and had already started to take some bookings from schools.

MM20 PERMISSION TO START HERITAGE QUEST CENTRE PROJECT

The Working Group received the report of the Curator that had been considered by the Resource Centre Project Team prior to this meeting. The members endorsed the comments made at that meeting and

AGREED that

1. The Chief Executive is delegated to sign the Permission to Start form on behalf of the Council as soon as the remaining matching funding to be secured (currently £125,000) falls below £100,000, the maximum figure which Saffron Walden Museum Society Ltd have offered to underwrite.
2. To note the construction programme required to comply with the conditions on the planning permission for the Heritage Quest Centre, and measures to ensure that the site would revert to the Council in the unlikely event of either project failing or Saffron Walden Museum Society Ltd ceases to exist.

BIOLOGICAL RECORDS IN ESSEX

Sarah Kenyon presented a report on the Biological Records in Essex Project (BRIE) which had been set up to collect and provide records of wildlife and geology in Essex. The project was collaboration between the County Council, District Councils, Essex Museums and Essex Wildlife Trust, the Essex Field Club and others. The project was currently establishing a records centre for Essex and developing a range of products and services to deliver biodiversity information to a wide range of uses. This was a service that had not previously been available in Essex. Uttlesford would be involved through the Saffron Walden Museum and would enable it to provide improved public access to information about wildlife in Uttlesford,

The report would be considered by the Community Committee on 18 September 2008 and would seek authorisation for the Chief Executive to sign a Memorandum of understanding that would set out the governing principles for the BRIE project.

AGREED that the Chief Executive be authorised to sign the BRIE Memorandum of Understanding for the District Council.

The meeting ended at 3.05 pm.