

**Meeting: Museum Management Working Group 10 March 2009**

**Item 4**

## **Saffron Walden Museum Society Limited**

### **Report for Museum Management Working Group: 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2009**

The Board met on 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2009; the Management Committee met on 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2009.

#### **Meeting with UDC Officers and subsequent review**

The Directors had met with Adrian Webb and Richard Awty on 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2008, to review the budget for the Museum for the forthcoming period. The Directors subsequently reviewed the aims of the Museum Society and the costs of meeting these.

One area for possible further consideration was apparent conflation between the Museum Society and the museum, possibly partly because of the support the Museum Society was giving to the museum's staff to ensure the success of HQC.

The museum had been funded prior to 1972 by Saffron Walden Borough Council and SW District Council; although no regular funding is now received from the Town Council, this might be an area for exploration. The educational aspect had in the past been funded by Essex County Council; no funding is now received for this but could this be re-visited?

It was also thought that insufficient weight might well be given to the outreach and support programmes which the museum service undertook, and which it was obliged to undertake under current Government guidelines if grants were not to be lost. It was considered that if the Museum Society was to play the valued role which was anticipated, then its input in the decision making process needed to be recognised.

Current economic circumstances and forecasts indicate that the Society's income from investments and interest would reduce substantially in the near and foreseeable future.

#### **Uttlesford History Fair: 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2009**

The Museum Society, with the assistance of the Curator and her colleagues, will have a 'stall' at this event. The 'call my bluff' style quiz at Showcase was so successful that a similar venture will be undertaken.

#### **Web site**

The development is now in the hands of the web site designer; because of her other commitments, the launch is not anticipated until March.

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