

MUSEUM MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP held at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN MUSEUM at 6.00 pm on 4 NOVEMBER 2009

Present: Councillor K L Eden – Chairman
Councillors R H Chamberlain, D J Morson and S V Schneider (Uttlesford Members), A Watson (Museum Society).

Officers in attendance: C Wingfield (Curator) and C Roberts (Democratic Services Officer).

MM14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs J Bullen, Mr D Laing, and Mr P Salvidge.

Declarations of interest were made as follows:-

Councillor K L Eden declared an interest in so far as he was a Member of the Development Control Committee.
Councillor S V Schneider declared an interest in so far as she was a member of the Saffron Walden Museum Society.

MM15 PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2009 were received, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to the amendment in Minute MM10 of the words "David Laing" to read "Tony Watson".

MM16 REPORT OF SAFFRON WALDEN MUSEUM SOCIETY

The Working Group considered the report of the Museum Society.

Tony Watson informed the meeting that the Annual Meeting of the Society had taken place on 3 November 2009.

Councillor Chamberlain asked a question about the Museum programme for the coming year and in answer the Curator explained that the lecture programme would be distributed by the Museum Society but that some speakers remained to be confirmed. She added that a distinction had to be drawn between the Museum Society's list of lectures and the Museum's printed leaflet of events when published.

Members considered the question whether it would be useful for Members of the Working Group to receive a copy of the Museum

Society's lecture programme and the Museum's leaflet of exhibitions, events and activities when they were available for 2010.

RESOLVED that copies of the Museum Society lecture programme and leaflet of 2010 Museum events be supplied to the Members of the Working Group .

MM17

CURATOR'S QUARTERLY REPORT

The Group considered the report of the Curator covering the quarter ending September 2009. She commented further as follows:

- **Management** – an update was given on the following:- progress of negotiations with Sainsburys and the project architects; agreement for contribution of topographical work by Sainsburys; timetabling of tendering for the Spring, the site work start for the Autumn of 2010; and the submission of the UDC and the Sainsbury planning applications which though independent would probably be processed contemporaneously. Councillor D Morson asked a question about impartiality of planning decisions and the Chairman informed the meeting that a workshop on this subject was to be held by the Assistant Chief Executive. He added that planning permission had already been granted for the commercial development on the site and the proposals were in line with the Development Plan. The Curator outlined the position so far with retention of matching funding. Members and the Curator expressed satisfaction with the work of retained experts.
- **Buildings and Site** – The Curator updated the meeting on removal of the sycamore and work being carried out to the grounds and described efforts being made to provide new lighting in the Museum with satisfactory colour rendition whilst conserving energy. English Heritage had priced essential works to the Castle and would be prepared to offer a grant towards these works subject to matching funding being supplied by the Council.
- **Collections and Research :- Len Pole's ethnography project.** The bid which had been made for funding in the order of £10,000 to extend the work of Len Pole had been successful.
- **Displays and Visitor Services:-** The Henry Moore exhibition had generated a large number of visitors. The Curator asked Members to note that the September visitor figure should read 1151 not 1101.
- **Education:-** It had been a lean summer for school visits due to the closure of the Bell School and the lack of a permanent Learning Officer. The Curator however was pleased with new private bookings of the premises.

The Chairman thanked the Curator for her full and excellent report.

MM18 HERITAGE QUEST UPDATE

The Curator displayed the latest set of Architect's plans for Members to view after the meeting.

MM19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be Tuesday 2 February at 6 pm in the Council Offices, Saffron Walden.

The meeting ended at 6:40 pm.