

SURREY HEATH MUSEUM ACTION GROUP

Meeting Monday 3rd July 2017 in St Michael's Church Hall

Present: Bernard Baverstock, Malcolm Bowdery, Jess Cochrane, Sylvia Cole, Tony Cowell, Sharon Cross, Mike Hillman [Chairman], David Parsons, Phil Stevens, John Williamson.

- 1. Apologies:** John Case, Albert Coles, Christine Craig, June & Reg Davis, Teresa Franzkowiak, Mo Fredricks, Tom Gregory-Jones, Graeme Parker, Cyril Pavey, Monique Taylor.
- 2. Minutes of Meeting on Monday 10th April 2017** were approved, except to correct the statement that Gill has met with Kate Hebditch from the Arts Council [not Collections] to start the Accreditation process.
- 3. There were no matters arising.**
- 4. Treasurer's Report [updated to 03.07.17]**

	£
Balance at 01.04.17	2,179.60
Income:	
Gallery sales	439.65
Desk Donations	<u>22.65</u>
Total	2,619.25
Expenditure:	
Payments to Museum for books	189.50
Payments to Artists	<u>117.00</u>
Total	306.50
Income less Expenditure at 03.07.17	<u>2,312.75</u>
Represented by – Balance at the Bank 03.07.17	2,383.75
Less 2 unrepresented cheques	<u>71.00</u>
	2,312.75
Plus Cash – Till float	30.00

5. Gallery Report:

It is becoming increasingly difficult to staff the rota owing to illness. More volunteers are needed. Footfall is 15% down on last year. Visitor numbers likewise are down due to this, empty shops and buying-on-line. Need to improve publicity.

6. Museum Curator's report:

The Museum's Report for 2016/17 is on the museum website - www.surreyheath.gov.uk/museum. Gill will be using it as a base information for all consultation work in the forthcoming months.

7. SHMAG Report:

Members of SHMAG attended the Museum Discussion Group Meeting on 18 May. A 'Mission Statement' was agreed as follows: "*Surrey Heath Heritage Service exists to collect, preserve, manage and document the heritage of this Borough. We promote this unique heritage via public exhibitions, events, outreach and research access*".

Gill passed copies of her 'working version' of a development plan round for discussion. Events

in the Autumn include the Tri-centenary Masonic Display at the Agincourt, Heritage Weekend, Music Heritage Festival, Launch of Military Remnants publication and map, Unveiling of Blue Plaque at Paddock Wood. From October there would be no more displays at Surrey Heath House, but

maybe some elsewhere, although the Atrium was proving unsuitable. It has been agreed to have a Ron Francis display at the Gallery for 2 months. In November St George's Stones will be installed at St Michael's.

In October the permanent display area at the Museum will be dismantled and turned into an office, research and preparation area. It seems that although consultation is scheduled to continue to December, all the crucial decisions have already been made. Accreditation will continue in this period.

At this SHMAG meeting members were appalled at the possible loss of the permanent and temporary display areas and the loss of its description as a museum. No costs were presented.

However, the Options seem to be:

1. To redevelop current display and exhibition area, museum entrance and shop. To have exhibitions around the borough (libraries, community centres (areas, events). To have purpose built website. WHAT WE ARE NOW.
2. To create heritage resource centre in current space and have exhibitions around the borough (libraries, community centres/areas, events). To have purpose built website.
3. To have a new home in suitable premises with redisplayed museum and exhibition space for museum objects, craft, local art and local societies plus education area. To have purpose built website. To look into Charitable Trust status and enable the museum to take up occupancy on a non-commercial basis.
4. To create an unmanned public display area on history of borough in current location with the heritage resource centre part of that. To have exhibitions around the borough (libraries, community centres/areas, events). To have purpose built website.
5. To move to ground floor basement in the council offices, facing library, disability initiative and Ian Goodchild Centre. Create history displays, exhibition area, education area and heritage resource centre.

The meeting unanimously voted that options 3 & 5 were equal best and 2 & 4 were unacceptable. With one exception, who did not consider it acceptable, members thought option 1 was 3rd best.

It was agreed that a letter would be written asking for clarification of the Council's position. [Nb At the subsequent Camberley Society meeting with councillors, Moira Gibson when questioned by Bernard Baverstock about this development plan said that this was not a working document and that the Museum was not going to close in the foreseeable future and that there would be public consultation. At the subsequent Executive Committee meeting David Chesneau recorded that she denied that any decision would be made until the consultation had been completed in December].

Bernard has written to the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive asking for clarification but has not yet received a reply.

8. AOB – there was none.

9. Next Meeting Monday ? at St Michael's Church Hall at 2pm.