

Time commenced - 6.00 pm
Time finished - 6.55 pm

**CULTURE AND PROSPERITY COMMISSION
17 MAY 2004**

Present: Councillor Repton (in the Chair)
Councillors Jackson, Latham, Redfern, Travis and Troup

65/03 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Hussain.

66/03 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

67/03 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Redfern declared a personal interest, as she was a representative of the Council on the Derwent Community Partnership.

68/03 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2004 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to the following amendment:

58/03 St Helens House

'Councillor Travis tabled a paper concerning St Helen's House, which was fully supported by the Commission, ahead of the Council Cabinet meeting on 16 March 2004'

Resolved to recommend Council Cabinet to

- 1 delay their decision to market St Helen's House and consider the proposal for the creation of a charitable trust outlined by Peter Steer and John Farnsworth.**
- 2 allow Peter Steer and John Farnsworth's group the time that they need to carry out their feasibility studies.**
- 3 consider the outcome of the feasibility studies and on the basis of the information they contain decide whether to market St Helen's House or transfer it to a charitable trust.**

Items for Discussion

69/03 Events Programme

Ray Rippingale - Assistant Director Cultural Services, presented an oral report on the events programme for 2004. It was noted that entertainment on Saturdays would be based mainly around the Market Place and events would take place between 12pm and 2pm starting from Saturday 5 June throughout the summer and included a broad number of types of entertainment, including:

- Noel Baker School, Year 10 Samba Band
- The East Midlands Youth Jazz Orchestra
- Caribbean Carnival
- A selection of Medieval musicians
- Derwent Valley Wind Band

Ray Rippingale also reported that a fundraiser was to be engaged to help raise funds for events in the next financial year. It was noted that the Council would enter into a contract with a fund raising agency to win sponsorship for the Council. It was suggested that amongst other initiatives, the money raised could be used for a second day at Darley Park. Ray reported that a shortlist of 15 interested organisations had been drawn up. They would be sent a brief and the subsequent applications would be assessed.

A copy of outdoor events programme for 2004 was circulated at the meeting and was well received by the Commission, who considered this to be useful information. The report had been written by Barbara Whieldon in the Events Unit. Her email address was barbara.whieldon@derby.gov.uk.

Resolved to:

- 1 note the report.**
- 2 thank Barbara Whieldon for her work in organising and producing the list of outdoor events during 2004.**

70/03 QUAD – Derby's Visual Arts and Media Centre

The Commission received an oral update from Ray Rippingale - Assistant Director Cultural Services on QUAD – Derby's Visual Arts and Media Centre. Ray reported that a first draft of an economic impact study had been carried out and gave the Commission the following facts and figures:

- In one year the spending power of the employees, service providers and suppliers of the new Visual Arts and Media Centre would be in the excess of £250,000.
- Based on the projected visitor figures it was anticipated that the income of the city could potentially be increased by more than £5.5m.

Ray Rippingale told the commission that these projections were based upon standard industry analysis techniques.

Ray Rippingale also reported that the QUAD Development Director - Peter Mount had been appointed from David Powell Associates - DPA. Peter Mount would work for DPA under contract to the Council.

A model showing the relationship of the proposed QUAD building to the Market Place was made available for the Commission at the meeting.

At this point Councillors Jackson, Redfern and Troup left the meeting.

The Commission discussed Derby's Visual Arts and Media Centre and agreed that consideration would need to be given to the external layout and maintenance of the building, particularly in terms of landscaping and maintenance to the structure. Furthermore, it was emphasised that the Architects would need to consider the work of the Cityscape when designing the building.

Resolved to note the update.

71/03 Review of Culture in Derby

The Commission considered the comments of Geoff Sweeney - Development Director at Derby Playhouse on the Commission's review of culture in Derby. It was noted that he had particular concerns about some of the figures relating to the Derby Playhouse that were contained in the report, but that in essence he supported the endorsements that the Commission had made.

David Romaine reported that Keith Briars had contacted him about Geoff Sweeney's comments and had said that he would be happy to meet with Geoff to explain the source of the figures he had provided to the Commission.

It was suggested that Geoff Sweeney be written to and invited to meet with Keith Briars. The Commission wished to emphasise that it considered the work of the Derby Playhouse to be an important contribution to culture in Derby.

Resolved to request David Romaine to write to Geoff Sweeney to assure him that the Commission was fully appreciative of the work of the Playhouse and to extend the offer of a meeting with Keith Briars and Council Officers.

72/03 Call In

There were no items to consider.

73/03 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

No items were identified for consideration.

Response of the Council Cabinet to Any Reports of the Commission

74/03 Review of Culture in Derby - Final Report

The Commission noted the comments of the Council Cabinet at its meeting on 6 April 2004 on the review of culture in Derby. It was noted that a date to meet with the Council Cabinet member for Leisure and Cultural Services had not yet been agreed.

Resolved

To pursue arrangements for the meeting with the Council Cabinet member for Leisure and Cultural Services.

75/03 Matters Referred to the Commission by Council Cabinet

There were no items.

76/03 Work Plan

There were no items.

MINUTES END