

## Heritage Sub-Committee – 15 November 2005

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Heritage Sub-Committee** held on **15 November 2005** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr Mrs M J Webster

Cllr C A Hungate  
Cllr R A Oatham

Cllr D G Stansby

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

R Crofts - Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)  
H Collins - Civic & Public Relations Officer  
C Coates - Arts Development Officer  
J Bostock - Principal Committee Administrator

### **10 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the St. George's Day Sub-Committee held on 23 June 2005 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **11 2005 CELEBRATIONS AND EVENTS PROGRAMME 2006/07**

Note: Councillor Mrs M J Webster declared a personal interest in this item by virtue of being a member of the Rayleigh Civic Society.

The Sub-Committee considered the outcomes associated with 2005 celebrations (as identified in the minutes of the last meeting) in tandem with the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) on events for 2006/07 and the formulation of a request for funding.

#### **(1) 2005 St George's Day Celebrations**

##### **(a) Supply of Display Packs to Non-Profit Making Organisations**

There were now approximately eight display packs in stock. Additional had been ordered for 2006 celebrations.

##### **(b) Arts Workshops in Selected Primary Schools**

Nearly every Primary School had shown an interest and feedback had been very positive. It should be possible to repeat the workshop approach for 2006, involving new schools. The Arts Development Officer would liaise with schools on the possibilities for workshops in the first week after the half term.

### **(c) Rayleigh High Street**

The lack of display activity in the High Street had been disappointing. It was agreed that there would be merit in approaching the Town Council on whether the District Council could utilise the pole mounts that were in place in the High Street between Bellingham Lane and the Church for the display of bunting.

### **(d) Salvation Army Concert**

The 2005 experience pointed to there being value in connecting Salvation Army concerts to other St. George's Day activities. For example, the concert in Hockley had been aligned with the WI event, which had proved of particular interest.

It was noted that, for 2005, Rayleigh Brass had been invited to hold a concert at the Freight House, Rochford on the evening of Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>.

There was some discussion on consulting the Salvation Army on an involvement in 2006 celebrations on the basis that any events that the Army are holding at their Citadel on the St. George's Day Sunday can be promoted at the same time. There was also discussion on whether a Rayleigh WI would be prepared to hold some sort of event, such as a coffee morning, in the vicinity of the beacon at Rayleigh that could be allied to a Salvation Army concert and the possibility of an approach to Holmes Place on appropriate decorations at Squires Coffee Shop. Reference was made to the potential value of approaching Rochford WI on the holding of an event at their Hall in Rochford Square with the Salvation Army playing outside. Alternatively, it could be possible that Rochford Parish Council may be prepared to hold an event in the Parish Rooms. With an event also being held at the Freight House, there may be merit in ascertaining if the mini-steam train near to the Freight House could be utilised. It was agreed that officers should investigate what could be achieved along these lines.

The Sub-Committee endorsed the suggestion of the Arts Development Officer that an event aimed at young families could be held upstairs at 'The Mill' on 22 April (12noon to 4pm). Such an event, which would cost in the region of £2,000, had been factored into the budgetary proposal in the report on the 2006/07 Events Programme.

It was noted that, whilst there had been some liaison with the Museums Service on possibilities for a Historic Heritage Day, there was a need to be mindful of both costs and possible disruption. Particularly if, say, Morris dancers were utilised.

### **(e) Opening of Canewdon Church and Ashingdon Church**

The Sub-Committee continued to feel that, whilst costs would need to be investigated, there could be merit in introducing a coach tour of historic churches (tickets sold in advance) taking in, say, locations at Canewdon,

Ashingdon, Hockley, Rochford, Rayleigh and Stambridge. Such a tour could be associated with something like a Rayleigh History Day.

Officers advised that they would investigate whether it is possible for Rayleigh Windmill to be opened on St. George's Day 2006.

The Arts Development Officer outlined the thinking behind the proposal that an event be held on Rayleigh Mount as part of the Summer Schools programme. It should be possible to include consultation with organisations such as the Rayleigh Civic Society and the Rotary Club on whether they would wish to hold associated events. However, there was a need to contain the District Council event around the Mount to involve only the National Trust and Rayleigh Historical Society to ensure it remained manageable.

The Arts Development Officer will liaise with the National Trust. Costs for such an event are expected to be around £2000.

### **(f) Themed Charity Quiz Night**

It was agreed that it would be appropriate to ensure that any themed quiz nights are held at a time that does not conflict with other events Members may wish to attend.

### **(g) Introduction of the Theme at Leisure Premises**

It was observed that, once it is completed, it may be possible that the Rayleigh Leisure Centre could be utilised for theming.

### **(h) Page in Rochford District Matters**

It was noted that next year's page could include pictures of 2005 events and reference to the availability of display packs.

## **(2) Events for 2006/07**

Members recognised that there was a need to remain mindful of resource implications when identifying events that go beyond, for instance, the flying of appropriate flags/badging and the utilisation of known audiences. It was noted that the Chairman of the Council attended events associated with heritage.

In discussing the value of promoting heritage celebrations across the District wherever possible, it was noted that it may be possible to ally to events such as the Hullbridge Low Tide day. It was also noted that, once fully opened, the Windmill would be useful as a centre for the relay of information.

The Civic and Public Relations officer advised that an approach had been received from the Rochford Hundred Festival Committee. The Committee was hoping for some form of support in celebrating the fact that 2007 would be a key anniversary of the Rochford Market Charter.

It was observed that any celebrations would no doubt need to take account of traffic flow movements associated with forthcoming developments in the vicinity of Rochford Town Centre. It was also observed that, whilst it would be appropriate for Rayleigh Mount to be the focus of St. George's Day celebrations in 2006, consideration could be given to the possibilities of a greater focus on the Heritage Day in Rochford in 2007.

During general debate on St. George's Day, the Chairman referred Members to a national newspaper article relating to the innovative thinking of a Police Sergeant in Lincolnshire who had developed the concept of a 'Knight School' which aims to instil a chivalrous code of respect in young children as part of a raft of measures transforming a town where petty crime and anti-social behaviour were once rife. It was agreed that the article on this should be passed to officers for forwarding to Essex Police.

Members endorsed the report and it was:-

**Recommended** to the Community Services Committee that budget provision of £7,000 be requested to provide for a programme of heritage events in 2006/07. (CD(F&ES))

The meeting commenced at 10.00am and closed at 11.55am.

Chairman .....

Date .....