

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

CULTURE, TOURISM & ENTERPRISE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2.00PM 10 SEPTEMBER 2008

BANQUETING ROOM, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Randall (Chairman); Davis, Hawkes, Kennedy and Older

Co-opted Members:

PART ONE

12. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

12a Declaration of substitutes

12.1 There were none.

12.2 Apologies were received from Cllr Carol Theobald.

12b Declarations of Interests

12.3 There were none.

12c Exclusion of Press and Public

12.4 The Committee considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of any items contained in the agenda, having regard to the nature of the business to be transacted and the nature of the proceedings and the likelihood as to whether, if members of the press and public were present, there would be disclosure to them of confidential or exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A, Part 5A, Section 100A(4) or 100 1 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

12.5 RESOLVED - That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting.

13. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

- 13.1 The Chairman apologised for the unavoidable clash with the Planning Committee. This was caused by the need to consider the Foredown Tower report prior to the Cabinet Member Meeting on 16 September 2008.

The Chairman outlined the events after the meeting, namely: a report detailing the Committee's comments and recommendations would be submitted to the Cabinet Member Meeting. The Chairman had been invited to that meeting to present the report. The Chairman will report back to the next meeting of CTEOSC on 25 September 2008.

14. FOREDOWN TOWER

- 14.1 CTEOSC committee received a presentation from the Head of Museums and Royal Pavilion on the history of the Foredown Tower and the plans for its future (for copy see minute book).
- 14.2 Committee Members asked a number of questions about the future plans. In response to a question on how the Sea Cadets came to make an expression of interest, the committee was told that the expression of interest originated in February through two Ward Councillors.
- 14.3 Following the Culture, Recreation and Tourism Committee's request for further information, a tender was put out to three organisations and the destination and marketing analysts Blue Sail were subsequently appointed. The Sea Scouts were not aware of the recommendations of the analysts' report when they came forward with their plans.
- 14.4 Members asked what is known about the financial viability of the Sea Cadets and were told that this would be fully explored, if the report was subsequently agreed at the Cabinet Member meeting. If the report was agreed, the Foredown Tower would remain open under the current arrangements until October 2009. This would give Officers a year to complete the detailed arrangements and ensure due diligence.
- 14.5 Following a question on advertising and marketing, the Director of Cultural Services explained that the Hove and Adur Sea Cadets were the only organisation to express an interest, despite Officers contacting a range of other organisations.
- 14.6 Members discussed the current visitor numbers and were informed that the admission costs were low (£3 adult, £1.70 children, concessions £2.10 - with family tickets available and free entry to schools).
- 14.7 The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid is to celebrate the centenary of the Foredown Tower and would not be a capital bid. There has been an early positive response from the HLF. The CTEOSC affirmed that they would wish to be informed of the progress of the negotiations with the Sea Cadets, in particular if these negotiations should fail.

14.8 Recommendations:

14.8.1 The Committee supported recommendations (1) and (2) of the Foredown Tower report:

(1) To Keep the Tower open until October 2009 on the current public opening times.

(2) To make an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for a Your Heritage grant to mark the 100th anniversary of the Tower in 2009.

14.8.2 An amendment was proposed, seconded and agreed to recommendation (3) to add “**mixed use**” after the word “a” and before “community “ and add onto the end the words “**to ensure access by the public and community groups to South Downs National Park**”.

(3) Recommendation (3) To instruct the Director of Cultural Services and Director of Finance and Resources to enter into discussions and negotiations with Hove and Adur Sea Cadets for a full repairing 25 year lease on a peppercorn rent for the Tower for community usage, in order to provide new opportunities for young people in Portslade and to ensure the long term future of the Tower as a **mixed use** community facility and **to ensure access by the public and community groups to South Downs National Park**.

14.8.3 A new recommendation (4) was proposed, seconded and agreed:

New Recommendation (4) To explore the possibility of setting up a community development trust to manage the Foredown Tower and, in the longer term, to pass the building into community ownership. This option should be discussed with Hove & Adure Sea Cadets and other interested community organisations.

14.8.5 Recommendation (4) **to become recommendation (5)** was supported by the Committee:

(5) To instruct that the lease agreement includes clauses that will ensure camera obscura demonstrations, educational opportunities for schools and opportunities for the use of the Tower by other community and interest groups including the Astronomers, as well as the caveat that the Cadets cannot use the Tower for band practice.

14.9 **RESOLVED** – to support the recommendations as amended above and to forward a report from this Committee onto the Cabinet Member Meeting.

15. ITEMS TO GO FORWARD TO CABINET OR THE RELEVANT CABINET MEMBER MEETING

15.1 A report detailing the discussion and recommendations would be sent forward to the Cabinet Member Meeting on 16 September 2008.

16. ITEMS TO GO FORWARD TO COUNCIL

16.1 There were none

The meeting concluded at 2.45pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of