

DRAFT MINUTES OF BERWICK COASTAL COMMUNITIES TEAM MEETING HELD 29th NOVEMBER 2018

IN ATTENDANCE

Julien Lake	Berwick Community Trust
Tony Kirsop	Northumberland County Council
Ros Lamont	The Maltings Berwick Trust
Philip Mawer	Berwick Archive and Museum Action Group
Jim Evans	Berwick Guild of Freeman
Stephen Scott	Berwick Chamber of Trade & Commerce
Zoreen Hill	Berwick Civic Society
Andy Ashcroft	Berwick Coastal Community Team

1. APOLOGIES RECEIVED

Rowan Brown	Woodhorn Charitable Trust
Alan Irving	Bhc Shipping

2. MINUTES OF CCT MEETING 11.6.18/MATTERS ARISING.

Subject to the inclusion of apologies received from JE the Minutes of the BCCT held on 11th June 2018 were approved by those members present.

MATTERS ARISING

Reflecting on the local results of the CCF Capital Round 5 submissions the Group welcomed a further opportunity to discuss developments relating to the CCF Round 4 Port of Berwick Project, with AI, and exploration of developing the Berwick welcome for visiting cruise ship passengers.

ACTION POINTS

Revise Minutes and publicise on CCT Website.	AA
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3. 'WELCOME VISITOR' PROPOSAL UPDATE.

JL introduced Jenna Shields, Welcome Visitor Project Officer, to the Group. With AA appointed as Welcome Visitor Project Manager the Trust had now secured staff for the delivery of the Project.

JL advised that the consultancy selection had been reduced to a shortlist of 2, interviews would be on December 14th and a final announcement would be made in due course.

AA reported that the initial work of the Project would focus on the delivery of the Berwick Branding exercise, delivered by appointed consultants, which would run from Jan-March 2019, the delivery of Phase 1 of the Wayfinding Scheme through a capital allocation, development work on business support measures and the development of a 'Destination Events' programme as part of the current events calendar. The project was looking to draw a number of these strands together in a local Tourism Event to be held during English Tourism Week (30th March-7th April) which would be supported by local business focused Familiarisation Trips.

PM questioned that given slippage to the Branding exercise was the Tourism Event date achievable. JL considered that the programmes offered by the consultants could be slipped and would still accommodate the completion of work required for the proposed Tourism Event.

Members reflected on the need to develop cross border activities which reflected the reality of the visitor experience. The politics around the National Border may provide challenges to this ambition. The Borderlands Initiative was identified as a potential route to further explore funding flexibilities across the National Border.

N.B Subsequent to the Meeting the Town Council amended the date of interviews with the selected Branding consultants to 13th December.

4. CCF ROUND FIVE CAPITAL PROJECTS.

JL reported that no Berwick capital projects submitted by local partners had been invited to make a Stage 2 submission to CCF Round 5.

JL also reported that the submission made to the Coastal Revival Fund had been unsuccessful.

Partners expressed their disappointment in the lack of success of the capital submissions and were puzzled and dismayed with the decisions made which encouraged Stage 2 submissions from elsewhere in the County.

5. FUTURE BCCT WORK PROGRAMME.

JL introduced the paper which had been previously circulated to partners and invited comments relating to the recommendations made.

PM commented that it would be a pity to lose the 'collective forum' as it had given partners the opportunity to exchange information and be informed of potential funding sources. He questioned how such a 'forum' is best provided going forward, the BCCT, Town Council or the BRC. There were some concerns over the level of commitment from the Town Council or the BRC to work in partnership and collaboratively with the community and voluntary sector.

TK as the Support Officer for the BRC commented that he would look for the BRC to develop a themed approach which would include approaches to the BCCT and the wider community and voluntary sector. Should partners not look to support the continuation of the BCCT he would invite the BRC to hold a regular engagement meeting with the community and voluntary sector.

JE reflected that similar funding issues were being faced by local FLAG's and expressed the need for local input to help shape project development activities.

JL reflected that the Trust had found the BCCT useful, he recognised the need to increase private sector involvement in the work of the partnership in order to progress the Investing in Business Priority Theme of the Berwick Economic Plan (2017) considering this had been postponed given the developing role of the BRC. As noted in the circulated paper, although the initial DHCLG funding for the BCCT was at an end the Trust would look to support the ongoing work of the BCCT if this was the request of the partners.

ZH reflected value in the BCCT continuing to meet.

SS questioned the continued role of the BCCT without access to funding and projects to deliver.

TK proposed to raise the possibility of reviewing the Berwick Economic Plan (2017) with the BRC.

PM considered that there was an obligation for the BCCT to continue to meet over the lifetime of the 'Welcome Visitor' project. Partners had been actively involved in the development of the project proposal, were named in the application and had an ongoing role to enable effective project delivery. This approach would allow sufficient time to shape a future 'community development forum' linked to the work of the BRC.

RL valued the open discussion of the BCCT partnership and the opportunity for partner networking and proposed to use the next two years of the 'Welcome Visitor' project to further strengthen community and voluntary sector collaboration and project development and delivery links.

JL, reflecting on the comments made proposed to maintain the BCCT partnership, meeting as required, whilst exploring the establishment of a 'community development forum' linked to the work of the BRC.

ACTION POINTS

Arrange BCCT meetings, as required, with invitations extended to the existing partner base.	JL
Explore the establishment of a 'community development forum' with strengthened links to the BRC.	TK

6. PARTNER/PROJECTS UPDATE.

PM reported that an application had been made to HLF/Resilient Heritage Fund to help develop proposals for the long-term sustainability of the Barracks and the establishment of appropriate governance arrangements. A response to the application is anticipated in early 2019.

JE reported that funding had now been secured which would enable the re-cataloguing of the Archives to take place.

TK reported that the BRC had held a recent open day as an initial public consultation on the redevelopment of the Leisure Centre. A further public consultation is planned for Feb/March 2019. The next BRC meeting would focus on town centre regeneration following the announcement of Government funding.

SS welcomed the town centre funding announcement and would attend the BRC meeting to give evidence.

RL reported that the Maltings were awaiting for a Borderlands announcement regarding the redevelopment proposal.

JL reported that BCT had submitted a HLF funding application for the redevelopment of the Old Brewery in Tweedmouth to create a modern training facility. The Trust were currently reviewing strategic direction and considering investment actions which will stimulate community development.

7. A.O.B

None reported.

8. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

To be confirmed.