

AGENDA ITEM No. 12b

NOTES OF THE MEETING of the HERITAGE QUARTER held on Tuesday 26th November 2024 at 11:00am.

In Attendance:

Representing Tavistock Museum- Tony Rose, Lesley Holliday.

Representing Museum of Policing in Devon and Cornwall- Alison Holmes.

Representing Subscription Library- Ruth Blowey.

Representing the Tavistock Heritage Trust- Geri Parlby.

Representing Tavistock Town Council/Guildhall- Wayne Southall, Tabitha Teale.

1. CONFIRMATION OF NOTES:

- a) No notes were circulated due to the cancellation of the previous meeting in February.

2. HERITAGE QUARTER ORGANISATIONS UPDATES

- a) Museum of Policing in Devon and Cornwall: It was explained that the intention was to hold a few exhibitions in 2025 within the Guildhall, dates flexible to work with the Guildhall diary of bookings. A display was planned for January, 'Men in policing/uniforms' and that one would be held in the summer with a theme around 'rural policing'.

The challenges around volunteer recruitment and retention were articulated. The intentions around opening for 2025 were outlined with the primary day now intended to be a Saturday (rather than a Friday), with the aim to open on another day during the week an aspiration within the new season.

- b) Subscription Library: The Subscription Library discussed their current opening times during December, with the library being open every Friday morning from 10-12. It was mentioned that they would again open for Heritage Open Days and would consider if resources allowed, opening on days where other heritage events were scheduled.
- c) Tavistock Museum: Representatives explained that they were considering aligning their opening times (seasonal) to that of the Guildhall, with the main challenge being scheduling volunteers to cover, with such aspects as split shift patterns being considered. For reopening, the museum was looking at developing additional displays on the theme of Tavistock Railways.
- d) Tavistock Heritage Trust: A request was made around having a Heritage Quarter noticeboard within the Guildhall to promote the partnership activities and events and it was agreed that this would be actioned.

It was explained that at present there were no concerns with the level of volunteers available at the VIC and that it would be closed from 21st

December until 14th January, aligning with the closure times for the Guildhall, to allow for a deep clean and property maintenance remedials.

3. ADVERTISING/EVENTS:

- a) A discussion was held around how best to co-ordinate advertising for the Heritage Quarter, to ensure there was a consistent approach between heritage partners, with it being suggested that a tri-fold leaflet about each organisation and its planned activities would be desirable. A discussion then led to resources and costs of such a production and it was agreed that this concept would be a medium-term aspiration due to limited funds being available, and how best costs should be apportioned based on the respective organisations needs.
- b) Following on from the above, a lengthy discussion was had relating to Heritage Quarter branding. It was agreed, after reviewing various options, that Fatcalf Media would be commissioned to create a brand for the Heritage Quarter, based on costings provided by the BID Manager for similar works to create a brand for the Charter Market. It was explained that it would be beneficial if this could be provided by mid-February to allow time for respective organisations to purchase such equipment as flag banners etc prior to 2025 re-launch. With a common branding, it was felt that when seeking possible grants from other bodies, demonstrating a co-ordinated partnership approach would assist in such applications. Relating to advertising/promotion, it was agreed to invite the BID Manager to the next meeting, especially pertaining to such aspects as development of the 'Visit Tavistock' website.
- c) Attendees discussed the possibility of delivering an event for the VE Day, 80th Anniversary on 8th May. The intention was to have a co-ordinated approach between the Heritage Quarter organisations, including the closure of the Guildhall car-park, to deliver an event on the day and to look into the availability of re-enactment groups, in addition to the already scheduled activities, e.g. Beacon Lighting on Whitchurch Down. It was agreed that the next Heritage Quarter Meeting would be a 'Focus Group' to discuss arrangements for this event and that Tavistock BID and the Market Reeve would be invited to attend.
- d) Following on from the above discussion around delivering events, it was then agreed that holding another Heritage Fair would be useful, provisional date suggested for 12th July 25 to allow for time to plan arrangements post the VE Day event, but not being too close to Heritage Open Days.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

- a) It was agreed that the next meeting of the Heritage Quarter would be held on 16th January, in the Guildhall at 11am.