

Report to the Heritage Arts and Culture Committee 30/01/2020

Weston-super-Mare Town Council Grant Development Report

Written by the Development Officer, Molly Maher

Blakehay Theatre

Sensory Theatre Project

An application to Arts Council England is due to be submitted by the end of January 2020. The previous deadline of Christmas was delayed slightly due to more urgent applications with deadlines.

An open funding plea to the Sainsbury Family Charitable Trust received no response, signalling that we would not be granted funding.

An application was submitted to the Theatre Trust GDS Front of House Fund which would enable us to adapt the theatre front of house lighting to make it more suitable for SEN audiences. We have still not heard back from the funders, and will be chasing for a response in February.

Weston Museum

Quartet Community Foundation

An opportunity has arisen to apply for a grant from the Quartet Community Foundation grant which would provide funded learning sessions at the Museum for local schools. We have been informed that an application would stand more chance if coming from a charity. It was felt that this may be a good opportunity to work with the Friends of Weston Museum.

Know Your Place

The third quarterly report has been completed.

AIM Hallmarks

An application to the AIM Hallmarks grant scheme was returned unsuccessful. It was noted that this scheme was more than five times oversubscribed.

Museum signage

The remaining budget for museum signage needs to be spent by the end of the financial year. We are now working with the Grounds Team to get the spray painted signs installed. We are following up with North Somerset Council regarding brown signs and still envisage this being completed by the end of the financial year.

Wedding license

The options for a wedding license at Weston Museum is being explored. The two areas up for consideration are the main courtyard and the former pottery gallery. When progress has been made with the former pottery gallery this will be explored further.

Members are requested to:

1. Note the report

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2. To arrange a meeting between the Development Officer, Deputy Town Clerk/RFO and the Friends of the Museum

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Weston Museum Redevelopment Report

Written by the Development Officer, Molly Maher

Buy a Block

A second block stand has been purchased for the museum as the first has been filled. This stand will now house just over 100 blocks and allow us to take more orders to support phase 2.

Clara's Cottage

As per the Committee's resolution, the Clara's Cottage refurbishment is now due to take place first. We are looking at working with the South West Heritage Trust on Clara's refurbishment, with Sam Astill having already discussed the project with officers from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) and Arts Council England. We are now looking at setting a meeting up with officers from both to discuss the project moving forward. The NLHF have asked that we submit a project enquiry prior to this meeting. This is being formulated, taking into consideration conversations that have taken place with key stakeholders, including the Committee. It is hoped that this meeting will take place in February and will enable us to progress with the planning stage of the refurbishment.

Consultation

Consultation for the phase two, now phase three, refurbishment is still underway. This consultation will be kept live until a time when the information is required.

Members are requested to:

Note the report

**South West Heritage Trust (SWHT) Report
Heritage, Arts and Culture Committee
30.01.2020**

Staffing:

We are delighted to welcome a new member of staff to the museum curatorial team. Michele Green joined the South West Heritage Trust on 8 January 2020 as Assistant Curator on a twelve-month fixed term contract.

The main focus of Michelle’s role will be on providing curatorial advice and support to Weston Museum and caring for and managing the North Somerset museum collection. She will be working three days a week (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday) and will work at Weston Museum for one day every two weeks on alternate Thursdays.

Michele joins us from the Royal Albert Memorial Museum in Exeter where she worked as Assistant Curator, focusing on the Fine Art collections. She has worked in the museum sector for 15 years and brings a wealth of experience of caring for, managing and curating museum collections as well as specialist knowledge of art and social history objects.

Temporary Exhibitions:

From Village to Town: Weston-super-Mare’s Built Heritage
(in-house exhibition in partnership with North Somerset Council and Historic England)
2020 Slot 1: Saturday 9 February 2020 to Sunday 10 May 2020
Project Lead: Amal Khreisheh (Curator of Archaeology)

This exhibition brings together objects, images and film to tell the story of Weston-super-Mare’s architectural development over the past 250 years. It expands on Historic England’s new publication ‘Weston-super-Mare: The Town and its Seaside Heritage’.

The exhibition celebrates a complex and remarkable heritage which reflects Weston’s transformation from a small village to a busy seaside resort.

We’re currently in the process of installing this exhibition in the William Mable temporary exhibition gallery. There will be a private view of this exhibition on Friday 14 February 2020 from 6.00 to 8.00 pm.

Wild Hares and Hummingbirds: The Natural History of an English Village
(in-house exhibition developed in partnership with Stephen Moss)
2020 Slot 2: Saturday 23 May 2020 to Sunday 13 September 2020
Project Lead: Sarah Cox (Exhibitions and Programme Manager)

A multi-sensory, interactive exhibition for families based on the best-selling book of the same name by Stephen Moss, one of Britain’s leading natural history writers, broadcasters and wildlife television producers. The exhibition brings together Stephen’s celebrated nature writing with beautiful, original illustration by the graphic artist Stephanie Cole.

The exhibition focuses on the natural history of the village of Mark in Somerset and encourages visitors to explore how it changes with the seasons and learn about its animals and plants.

Art Exhibition (working title)

(in-house exhibition)

2020 Slot 3: Saturday 26 September 2020 to Sunday 31 January 2021

Project Lead: Michele Green (Assistant Curator)

This exhibition will showcase a themed selection Fine Art objects from the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society, Somerset County Council and North Somerset Council museum collections.

Spotlight Loan:

Clevedon Torc:

The Clevedon Torc, an Iron Age neck-ring made of gold that was found near Clevedon, is now on display as a star object in the centre of the Landscape Gallery. The torc is on loan from the British Museum for an initial period of three years.

On Thursday 28 November 2019 we held a very successful event at Weston Museum celebrating the loan of the Clevedon Torc. The main feature was an engaging talk from Julia Farley (Curator of British & European Iron Age Collections at the British Museum) followed by an opportunity to view the torc on display in the Living Landscape gallery. Over 60 people attended and feedback was very positive.

We have begun work to improve the interpretation of the Clevedon Torc by creating and installing a large banner that highlights its presence. The banner sits to the left of the staircase and is immediately visible to visitors entering Weston Museum. We are now working with Weston Museum to commission either illustrations or a short film that will be placed or projected onto the side of the Clevedon Torc display case to highlight this important object. We are also in the process of setting-up a meeting to review invigilation and security arrangements for the Clevedon Torc.

Visitor Insights:

Staff and volunteers at Weston Museum achieved their target of getting over 380 Visitor Insights (general visitor) surveys filled in by members of the public! 463 surveys were filled in over the last year. The data contained in these surveys is now being collated by the South West Museum Development team who will analyse it and produce a report in the coming months.

Recommendation:

Members are requested to note the report.



1 Great Weston Heritage Action Zone- update report January 2020

Over five years (Sept 2017- August 2022), the Great Weston Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) aims to boost economic growth and keep Weston-super-Mare on the map as a great place to live and work in.

2 Awareness raising / engagement programme update

2.1 WH Smith has gained Grade II listed building status

2.2 Work January- March 2020

- **Hans Price Walk-** launch Feb 2020
- **Chamber of Commerce awards:** awards 07 Feb 2020.
- **Museum 'Built Heritage' exhibition** engagement programme in partnership with the Museum: 08 Feb- 09 May 2020.
- **Built Heritage exhibition-** private View 14 Feb 2020
- **Series of lectures with Civic Society-** March/ April/May to link with exhibition
- **Culture/ Health/ Heritage weekend in Weston:** Friday 03-Sunday 05 April

In February 2020 I shall make an application to Historic England for further funding for 2020/21.

2.3 Heritage Open Days 11-20 September 2020: Theme- Hidden Nature

"We want Hidden Nature to encompass the broadest possible spectrum of events, opening up areas of the countryside that aren't normally accessible to the public and revealing the hidden history of not just our natural landscapes, but also gardens, green spaces, urban parks, orchards, vineyards, farms and forests. Nature isn't just found in the great outdoors and our theme could also give you the opportunity to explore the Hidden Nature within our urban spaces and buildings - from the animals that live within our walls and under our feet to the origins of the timbers in our roofs, the possibilities to connect with our natural world are endless." From Heritage Open Days web site

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/organising/hidden-nature>

3 Shopfront Design Guide

- The shopfront design guide was adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document on 24th September
- The guide also covers guidance on conversion from shops to residential.
- We are keen to promote this widely and ensure retailers know about it. Any help that WTC can give in promotion of the policy is welcome.

4 Shopfront enhancement grants scheme for Weston

- The shopfront enhancement scheme for Weston was launched October 2019. To date Walker & Ling (High Street) has signed up. 8, -12 South Parade and 3-9

Meadow street, as well as a few other properties have confirmed an interest and we are awaiting feedback from them.

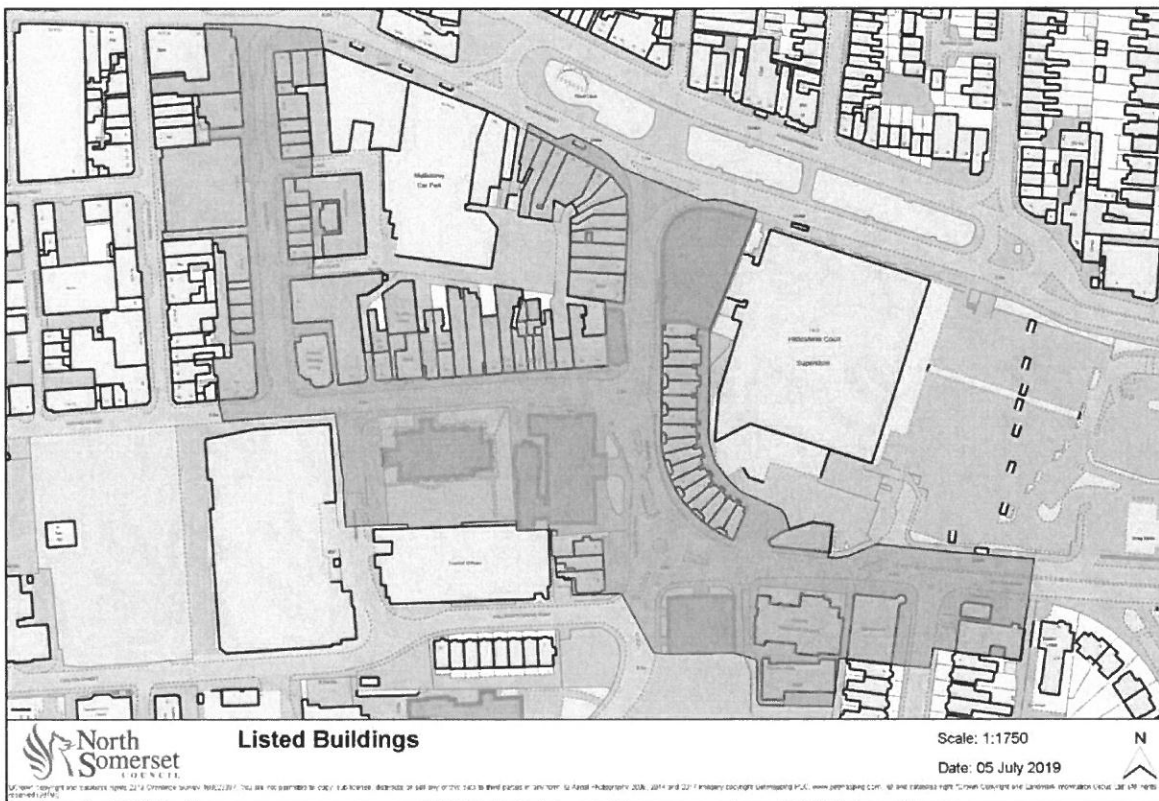
- We are procuring contractors for the works through a Dynamic Purchasing Solution (developing a list of preferred contractors, who will then tender for work on each building)

5. High Street Heritage Action Zone funding application

We have been successful in our Expression of Interest for up to £1,201,000 to gain High Street Heritage Action Zone status.

We submitted a full project delivery plan in December 2019. We will hear mid to late March the result of our full plan and how much funding we will gain. The scheme will launch April 2020. Although due to the lateness of hearing back from Historic England we may not have staff in post until September 2020, as we are unable to recruit until we have an offer letter/ signed agreement with the funder.

Below is a map of the High Street HAZ area with listed buildings highlighted.



6. Wider picture update

- North Somerset Council has embarked on a consultation exercise to develop a 'Placemaking strategy' for Weston. The consultants are Turner Works. They are hosting consultation events in Weston Sovereign Centre on Friday 31 Jan and 06 and 07 February.
- Link to Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SuperWestonMare/>

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