

Minutes of meeting dated 5 May 2016

BVADC - The Bull Inn, Battle

Present: Lesley Samms, Mary Midgley, Caitlin Wheatley, Margaret Kiloh, Vincent Matthews, Tina & Peter Greene, Debbie Noble, Jo Reeves

Tina gave Lesley some updated information on the Bayeux tapestry.

Updated statement of significance attached

Approved judging criteria form and guidelines attached

Review and approval of minutes of the meeting 31 March 2016

Caitlin Wheatley to chase up Ann Stewart/ BAS to send along a representative.

Jo Reeves to chase Claverham School regarding a representative for the committee.

Discussion around 7/4/2016 Questionnaire – **results and findings attached**

Voting on proposals was discussed at length and again it was agreed that voting on projects must represent Battle residents as a whole and not represent personal opinions from the committee. This was agreed to be the best way to gain a positive outlook for Battle town now and in the future - **Committee Mission statement attached.**

To this ends, it was agreed that each committee member would liaise with groups in the community so that the opinion of a cross section of the community could be taken on all projects. This would fall into line with the requirements of the trail funding. The trail funding which was put in for in April 2015 and has been subject to delays is now underway.

Each committee member has agreed to take on the following groups:

Vincent – Guides and scouts.

Tina – Yoga and University of the 3rd age

Jo – Cricket club, knitters, Baptists and schools – Resigned due to other commitments

Mary – Bonfire Boyes and masons

Debbie – Chamber and Battle marketing group

Caitlin – Abbey, Battle choral and horticultural society

Peter – Photographic society, museum, concord 1066 and Rother voluntary action

Margret – Historical society, BLAP and the Ramblers – Resigned due to other commitments

Lesley – St Marys and the nursery, WI, battle arts and all groups aimed at pensioners.

For standardisation, it was agreed that Lesley and Mary would put together a script **(attached)**, which is to be used in consultation with all groups in relation to every proposed project submitted.

Initial contact should be made with the groups utilising the survey **(attached)** by way of introduction, followed up with the script and Beautiful Battle proposal.

Survey results and proposal feedback to be sent to Lesley and Mary upon completion

The roundabout project was also discussed for submission to the groups but it was felt that there were flaws with the project process to date. Process concerns were raised in several areas, including winning artist consultation and community engagement and consultation. It was felt that when a project was being funded wholly or in part by public money, it was of the utmost importance that the community and groups be consulted and that all possible options be considered at once. As the winning artwork was not put out to tender, and there are not several sculptures for the groups to see and select from, it was decided that the committee advise the council that it would recommend the drawing be put out to tender and other artists given the chance to submit work. This will show transparency and demonstrate integrity on the part of the town council; to do the best for the town and its residents.

Debbie has produced a detailed handout **(emailed copy with these minutes)** of what Geotourist is and how it can promote the town.

A launch event was suggested to promote Geotourist and the town to all groups and town traders. The following was suggested:

1. The second trail is mapped and put on Geotourist with Steve Scott asked to do the next voiceover.
2. Each trader and club/group in Battle is to be given an invite for one representative and a guest to come to the launch event
3. **Caitlin, Debbie and Jo** to organise the launch event and date – venue Battle Abbey
4. **Everyone** is to think about people to invite to the launch.

It would be an ultimate goal if Battle had some volunteer tour guides who would be willing to run tours in line with Geotourist. It would be necessary to train the guides up, and necessary to garner expressions of interest. **Margaret** will ask the history society initially to see if there is any interest for seeking training in guiding tours.

Jo is to look into funding from America and ways into their tourist market.

London railways station adverts to be looked into in due course to encourage people to come to Battle.

It was felt that some of the pathways on the trails may need some work to improve their condition. Also it was suggested that signage for the 950 yrs should be improved. **Margaret** will find the relevant person to assist with this. It was also suggested that Kathryn Field and Keith Glazier will help with specific proposals.

Jo is keeping possible finance options for trails and projects on track.

Concern was raised that Battle high Street was shabby. This was one thing mentioned in the survey undertaken in April. **Vincent** is to consult Rother about ways of tidying up the buildings and road frontage. It was felt that to celebrate the town there should be signs denoting places of interest, (blue plaques etc) the town needs to be more attractive to visitors. **Jo** will highlight this to the environment committee.

There is still hope that Battle will be able to secure the Bayeux mosaic, which will be touring the country in 2016/2017. If successful; a site needs to be found for their permanent exhibition. **Vincent and Peter** are to do more research on this.

For 950th itself and the lead in to 950, it was suggested if banners could be displayed in the high street using the Christmas tree fixings on the shops. **Debbie** to investigate this.

Debbie and Tina will then liaise about the school children doing a banner competition.

Next Meeting 8th June at Nobles Restaurant