

**“Catch Me Who Can” Bridgnorth Art Trail Meeting, 10 September 2018**

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| **Agenda Item** | **Discussion / agreed** | **Action** |
| 1.Welcome, Attendance & minutes | Cllr Julia Buckley, Cathy Fox, Cllr Ron Whittle, Cllr Carol Whittle, John Hart, Emma Spenser, Cliff Bassett, Cath Kimberley-Bassett  Apologies: Matt Snelson, Brian Jones, Cllr Richard Fox, Cllr Helen Howell, Chris Garside |  |
| 2. Project update: | Statues in place for 6 weeks so far: most recent feedback positive, fewer remarks about plinths. No theft, vandalism or graffiti.  Bishops Castle PC submitted funding bid to LEADER (EU) programme for >£100K for an “elephant trail” of 10 elephants, 1 “larger than life”. Awaiting result.  Seeking approval for Terms of Reference for working group, and delegated authority for expenditure.  Budget:  Final invoices for phase 1 were still coming in – but only small costs now (£40 wasps nest removal etc..) as all large costs accounted for and defrayed from BTC account.  This gave a realistic balance of £11,693. Despite some unexpected costs for plinth transportation, the final costs had come in within the contingency figures set out by the working group.  JB asked the group to make a decision on allocating an additional payment to artists, as per the group’s commitment at the start of the project. A figure of £200 (in addition to the £100 already paid for materials) was agreed by the group.  Several members of the group wanted to set aside more than the original £5,000 allocation for phase 2 upfront costs, as a mitigation against the risk of having to find new sponsors for logistics.  Terms of Reference:  The working group considered the draft proposal and sought approval to amend the text to enable the Vice Chair of the group to not necessarily be an elected Councillor and voted unanimously to endorse this approach. Rather, that in the event of the Chair not being present, another elected Member could chair the meeting, or not take any decisions binding to budget authority. The position of Vice Chair in this instance referred to the role of co-ordination amongst artists and other groups, which was central to the project’s success and deserved recognition.  The group also sought clarity as to whether “membership would be between 3 and 15” required a quorate of elected members to attend each meeting for decisions to be binding.  With these amendments, the group voted unanimously in favour of adopting the Terms of Reference.  Election:  For the position of Chair of the working group, both Cllrs Ron Whittle and Carol Whittle, declined nominations. Cllr Julia Buckley accepted a nomination and was unanimously re-elected as Chair.  For the position of Vice Chair of the working group, Cathy Fox accepted a nomination with the caveat of a “quiet year”, both of which were unanimously agreed.  These are subject to approval by full Council, given the amendment to the Terms of Reference above. |  |
| 3. Statue watch / Feedback | Statues 9 (G&W) and 10 (GBHS) were both slightly scratched. Neither artists had yet had chance to repair. CF had purchased paints, with permission of the artist to repair no.9, but felt it more appropriate to contact Bridgnorth & District Arts Society to seek advice, and possible assistance. Once touched up, they would need re-varnishing.  Discussion ensued as to the risks to statue 9 due to the use of masonry paint, and whether a further all-over coat of varnish could help to prevent any further chips. It was agreed to approach BTC to loan the plastic barriers when this was scheduled, and to use the statue watch volunteer army to assist.  Statue no. 5 (Fox Corner) continues to wobble due to the pre-existing flower bed under the concrete lid. It was agreed that JB would contact both James Gittins and Barry Ince to ask for advice as to any zero / low cost solutions.  Plinths: Some minor feedback against colour. CF pointed out how well the plinth white matches the plaque colour. We still had enough white paint left to complete the re-fresh of all High Town plinths, and this would provide another month before a decision to be made as to whether another colour was needed. Agreed to defer decision until Christmas, with a regular report back as to any ongoing feedback and specifically contact G&W / MCMT for their views.  JH suggested only painting the lid of the plinth, where most of the footprints were – which needed the painting. Discussion ensued as to whether cleaning with different materials (e.g. sugar soap) could remove these. CF confirmed that brushing removed most of leaves and seeds problems.  It was agreed to organise a regular Statue Watch painting session so that volunteers could plan ahead their diaries (even if have to be postponed due to bad weather on the night). Next date:  **Monday 17 September, 6.30pm – 7.30pm**  **Meet under the Town Hall**  **Bring an old paintbrush (to throw away afterwards), brush and a cloth**  **In case of rain, postpone for 1 week until Mon 24 September, same time, same place.** | CF  JB  JB  JB to send round an email to statue watch |
| 4. Competitions & Maps | Competitions:  Colouring Competition – These needed to be uploaded quickly to the website. JB apologised for delay and proposed producing a certificate, and inviting the Mayor to present at the library.  Anagram competition – this was to close today (10 September) with any further entries to be pushed forward to the next date (Easter – prize TBC). 104 entries were entered into the “hat”. The Mayor and other working group members drew out one winner, and two runners’ up:  1st prize: Pasco Reynolds  Runner up: Naomi Clayden  Runner up: Amy Bagnall  These would receive a certificate and the SVR family ticket (winner) and Tshirts (runners up) to be presented by the Mayor either at the Mayor’s parlour or at SVR Bridgnorth Station (JB to check with SVR how they wish to take forward)  It was noted how useful the feedback was from visitors’ competition entries. The library slip would be amended to reflect the emails, and a further date of a prize draw at Easter to be announced. JB to follow up with SVR as to whether they are able to donate any further prizes, or whether another sponsor should be approached for the Easter draw.  Competition feedback was read out to the group, and it was agreed to compile all the comments to send to sponsors and artists in their “thank you” letters at the end of phase 1. JB to follow up Rangers’ contribution as additional activities for youngsters.  JH noted that the Civic Society were planning a tour of the statues for Oldbury Wells’ students, as well as the free public walking tour planned for 10am on Sunday 23rd September by Derek Crockson, to celebrate 50 years of the civic society.  Maps:  ES reported that stocks remained high, with more than 4,000 of the last batch remaining, and requests to replenish calmer now that the summer holidays were over.  New distributors included “The Piano Practice” on Whitburn street roundabout.  Stockists encouraging to re-stock themselves by asking at library, to reduce demands on volunteers.  For the next map re-print:   * More info on Catch me Who Can – including link to replica at SVR * Weblinks on website to SVR, Civic society, Trevethick 200, History society, Library, local history volunteers, BTC events * Print statue no.8 onto the road “Friars’ Street” for clarity * No. 6 add the entrance road to the Severn Park * Print road names in darker ink * Add road name twice for longer roads * No. 1 show statue as at junction of Listley street – Railway street | JB  JB  JB  JB |
| 5. Update PR / Media plan | Good stories in the Bridgnorth Journal regarding the statue adoption and the installation process, with excellent photos of runners, dogs and newly-weds.  Requests for articles from Shropshire Tourism and Shropshire Magazine.  Sarah Stevens requested to continue posting photographs on the Facebook.  Kev Adams now leading on the Facebook and Website  Liz Roseblade also offered support on PR, including press and social media presence. |  |
| 6. Year 2 | It was agreed by the group to have a gentle year consolidating the hard work of phase 1. In particular, not pursuing any new statue sponsors before Christmas.  The group would work to support those sponsors who have already expressed an interest:  Freeman – still interested, pursuing permissions from Church Diocese  Fire station – funding not possible in lump sum, possibility to re-configure, maybe with police  Hope House – need meeting to discuss crowdfunding / memorial  RAF – awaiting update  In the meantime, the long process of applying for permission in Castle Grounds could be started.  CW reminded the group that the sponsors who worked with Sarah Stevens in year 1 to deliver the logistics would not be available to the project in year 2. CW and RW also reminded the group that clarity was needed from G&W and MCMT in terms of expectations and costs for casting future statues. JB to follow up with Matt Snelson.  CF wanted to contact the artists who have expressed an interest in year 2. It was agreed to update them that we would be facilitating the two sponsors most progressed for year 2, but additional sponsors would not be contacted before Christmas. This would help manage expectations.  The group agreed there was no requirement to add any particular number of additional statues – rather to respond to sponsors as they came forward (for now). This position could be reviewed after Christmas once everyone had had a rest from the hard work of delivering phase 1.  JH suggested that future statues could be added one at a time – as long as no loss of economy of scale. JB explained some trails do this as a promotional exercise: “can you find the new statue”? without explaining its location. | JB  JB  CF |
| 7. Tourism PR activity | C3 tourism leaflets – good quote from Bridgnorth Print, needed to consider content now.  Promotional Video. JB reported an excellent offer from Sky drones, a professional promotional film maker, with experience making similar films to promote Manchester, Liverpool and Birmingham. A very reasonable price of £500 was quoted for supporting the community project.  The working group agreed to invite the film maker to present their proposal to the next meeting, and show an example film. Discussion of a 2 products: a short “creeper” of less than one minute for facebook, and a longer film about the town for viewers. | JB |
| 8. AOB / dates of future meetings | ES would be removing the display from the library and JB offered to keep the materials.  Monday 17th September, 6.30 – 7.30pm, meet under the Town Hall for painting plinths  Monday 8th October, 6.30 – 8pm at Bridgnorth Library (location TBC)  Monday 12th November, 6.30pm – 8pm at Bridgnorth Library (location TBC) | ES to book room and JB to circulate minutes |