



Bridgnorth Art Trail Working Group Meeting 11th October 2021

1. Present: Cllr Julia Buckley, Cllr Nicky Cooper, Cllr Alexa Buffey, Brian Jones, Emma Spenser, John Hart

Apologies: Cliff and Cath Bassett, Robert Davies,

2. Minutes of previous meeting (Matters arising):

- Badges – Discussion confirmed we would not pursue
- Beer labels – Discussion confirmed we would not pursue
- Request for certificate of completion for children completing the trail (upon submitting filled in trail maps at library) this could achieve similar aim to the badges but almost zero cost. **Certificates could be printed in advance**, signed by cllrs / the Mayor? And ready for names to be added at the library.
- BJ visited every stop on the SVR and distributed 50 x copies of the new Art Trail map, removing out of date ones.

3. Halloween Half term competition

Group confirmed the proposed press release and photo. Deadline 31/10. The Mayor will be asked to judge the photos by 4th November, for presentation of prizes on Sat 6th November at midday at the library. **ES to organise display** of winning photos (3 prizes) in window. **JB to provide rosettes.**

JB to invite the Shropshire star photographer to prize awards.

4. PR / Marketing:

Visit Bridgnorth – Sam Cole completing the guide and **we need to confirm quickly** if any changes (e.g. 13 statues instead of 12) since last year print deadline.

ES to check distribution avenues of Shropshire leaflets for DL flyers.

ES working on Bridgnorth map with businesses plus Bridgnorth history project

5. Statue watch – repairs and maintenance

White plinths mainly good, except no.6 BRUFC under tree and may have missed cleaning / painting.

Could do with clean up and consider no.5 at Fox corner. **JB to ask the Bridgnorth Litter Pickers**

Statue no. 10 (Card Stores) Cliff Bassett has repaired as much as he is able without contacting the artist – need to get in touch now as considerable damage on the street side.

The Group agreed **to contact Rory and offer him payment of £100** to come and repaint any sections needed.

As agreed JB had ordered 3 x tins of varnish so we could put one layer of varnish on the statues before the winter. It was agreed that statues no. 2 and 10 did not need varnishing at this stage.

So the following statues would be varnished by volunteers:

John Hart: no.1, no. 7, no.9 and no.13

Alexa Buffey: no 3, no.4, no.5

Julia to ask Cliff & Cath Bassett if they might help with: no. 6, no.8, no. 11 and no.12

6. Budget

There is a surplus of £1,400 which could be available should the trail be kept on for a further year.

This year's maintenance budget (£400) only had expenditure :

£119 – varnish

£100 – grant to Rory for partial repaint

7. Post – 2022

The group are still interested in exploring if we could extend the dates of the trail to end of 2023 rather than 2022, to compensate for lost time in 2020 due to Covid.

First we need to check permissions with sponsors and artists, then BTC and SC. JB drafted a letter email which she had circulated to the group to see, then out to the sponsors and artists.

She produced a summary spreadsheet of responses (7/12 sponsors; 6/12 artists) all confirming YES to extend, with various comments.

It was agreed that the group would prepare a request of Bridgnorth Town Council and submit to the meeting of 2nd November (JB).

Discussions around statue removal – recycling of manhole covers? Also legacy if any funding remaining – could there be a grant scheme for young art students at local schools?

7. AOB.

Brian Jones – Trevithick engine not going into SVR shed this winter but they will move the engine Northwards so it is more visible to visitors.

BJ preparing a laptop presentation of the CMWC engine – to work with ES on history week

ES: History of Bridgnorth project, also glass cabinet to promote Bridgnorth museum in the library

AB: Working closely with the museum volunteers, accreditation. She took 50 x trail maps. Looking to identify younger volunteers with IT skills.

NC: BOHAT hoping to run again in Spring/summer 2022 – will make a decision in Jan re: covid etc.

Date of next meeting, 22nd November 2021, 7pm – 8.30pm online meeting (zoom)