

Bridgnorth Art Trail Working Group Meeting 17th January 2022



1. Present: Cllr Julia Buckley, Cllr Nicky Cooper, Brian Jones, Cath Bassett, Cliff Bassett. Apologies: Cllr Alexa Buffey, Emma Spenser, John Hart, Robert Davies.

2. Minutes of previous meeting (Matters arising):

- Thank you to the Bridgnorth Litter Pickers for repainting the plinths
- NC confirmed she had raised and despatched the cheque to Rory McCann for £100

3. Valentine's Half Term Competition

It was agreed that the group would be better focused on preparing for the tourist season to re-open at Easter, on account of covid rates and preparedness. SVR will not re-open until Easter.

So, the photo competition could be bumped from February half term to Easter instead. This would provide a deadline for plinth cleaning and touch up of statue damage. Instead of "which statue do you LOVE most" we could have an Easter Bunny photo at a statue..

4. PR / Marketing

JB had been approached by Malvern Tipping of the Cliff Railway, keen to sponsor the Art Trail map again, as it was a good fit for them. The Group discussed whether we could respond offering him the option of being the main (only) sponsor with a larger image, rather than sharing with another company with 2 smaller pictures. **JB to propose option to MT for the next, and final (2022-3) edition of the trail map publication.**

5. Statue Watch / Repairs & Maintenance

More large scratches were noted along the statue outside Card Stores. Group discussed whether this was deliberate damage (vandalism?) and if so, possibly first episode since the trail began, over 3.5 years ago. Rory McCann is booked and paid to come back to Bridgnorth to repaint sections of the statue. **JB to check dates of proposed visit.**

CKB to email all statue adopters to help with cleaning and/or painting of statue plinths before Easter.

6. Budget

NC reported no change in the budget situation.

7. Post-2022 situation

- Next steps are for JB to seek permission from Shropshire Council and Historic England, then seek removal quotes for 2023.**
- BJ reminded the group that we had written to BTC and BRFC regarding the land upon which the Hazeldine Foundry was based, and the current statue no.7, seeking clarity of ownership in the light of the BRFC planning application. Now the application has been passed (albeit in a different location further away from Hazeldine foundry) we would still like some clarity on the ownership / protection of the space going forward. **JB to follow up with BTC and BRFC.**

8. AOB

Date of next meeting, Mon 28th March 2022, 6.30 – 8pm provisionally online