

CONFIDENTIAL

Margate Seafront Development Steering Group

Thursday 1 October at 12.00 pm – Turner Contemporary

Minutes of meeting

Attendees:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| Kent County Council | - | Mike Hill (MH), Paul Mawson (PM), Katie Stewart (KS),
Tony Witton (TW), Jo Weatherley (JW) (notes) |
| Thanet District Council | - | Cllr Chris Wells (CW), Madeline Homer (MHo) |
| Turner Contemporary | - | Karen Eslea (KE) |

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Barbara Cooper, Victoria Pomery and Donald Farquharson.

2. Minutes of meeting held on 12 March 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2015 were agreed.

3. Rendezvous Site

PM updated the group on the Rendezvous Site (a copy of the presentation is attached).

The market is changing in Margate. The Russian investors have bought a number of properties in Margate [REDACTED]. This has provided positive interest and private capital. Any competitive process will not go through until 2018. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] it was felt that receiving a revenue stream from the Rendezvous Site was an important requirement. Management capacity issues with the Russian investors have been highlighted.

The RNLI will be moving from the site and this will open up wider possibilities. MHo confirmed that a planning application had been submitted. It is hoped that the new site will be on the Margate sands. The general view is that planning will be granted. The existing building is owned by KCC. Margate Yacht Club is keen to take over the site of the RNLI but this is unlikely to be approved. KE to come back with the date for the RNLI exhibition of plans.

It is hoped that further developments will be ready by the end of this year to share with KCC/TDC.

4. Margate Lido

[REDACTED]

The Russian investors have been informed that they need to present their interest by the end of October. The next stage would be a presentation for KCC and TDC separately. A decision is then required. The planning application would need to be approved by TDC (in the autumn).

MH asked to be kept informed of any matters concerning the Lido. CW asked that the parking issues and community concerns are addressed.

This item will be discussed at the next meeting.

5. Visioning

Work has been done on visioning providing a more visual map for Margate. The Thanet vision has already been done. MHo will find out the final deadline and will share at the next meeting.

6. Winter Gardens

The condition survey has been completed. The report still needs to be shared with the TDC management team. [REDACTED] TDC may need to have some thoughts about what happens to the building. It is difficult for funding to be provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund as significant amounts have been invested in Dreamland (CW has discussed with HLF and does not feel additional funding would be granted). The Lido may also seek HLF funding. Market investment is required for the Winter Gardens. MHo to check if the building is listed. Your Leisure currently operate a full programme at the Winter Gardens. A separate discussion is required once the report has been shared to explore other options.

7. Dreamland Development

Work is continuing on the Scenic Railway. Seatbelts are being fitted in the carriages and this has caused a further delay. Visitor figures due to the weather in August have been lower than expected and the effect of Operation Stack has also impacted on visitor numbers. KS will look into whether any compensation will be provided by the Government for those business impacted by Operation Stack.

8. Margate Harbour

Mike Humber has contacted Donald Farquharson. It is very expensive for dredging to take place and this does not provide a long standing solution. There have been fewer instances during the summer months but the problem may still reoccur. A possibility is to try to find a different consultant subject to funding. Turner Contemporary has received a number of complaints regarding the smell. This item will be discussed at the next meeting.

9. Theatre Royal

Permission has been granted to go out to the market but this has not progressed as yet. It is still the intention to go out and explore what is out there. TDC has had issues with staffing capacity. MH discussed the Theatre Royal with the Arts Council (TW to chase response). KCC are no longer funding the Theatre Royal. Your Leisure is the company managing the Theatre Royal on behalf of TDC. The Theatre is a valuable asset for Margate but the approach may need to be revisited.

MH suggested re-establishing the Theatre Royal Steering Group (to include officers from KCC, TDC and the Arts Council).

10. Any Other Business

(1) Possible temporary uses of the Rendezvous Site were discussed. Work is required on the site in order for it to be safe, adequate lighting is required and the surface issue addressed. Further discussions are required. Any use of the site would need to be complimentary to the surrounding area.

(2) The housing market in Margate is improving. House prices have increased (including Cliftonville West) and new businesses have started in Margate. The market is still fragile but is moving in the right direction. There have been a number of good news stories and an increase in people moving to Margate from London. KE reported that a recent Japanese delegation visited the Margate Resort Studios. TW suggested using the Visit Kent/Visit Thanet figures to promote the success of the summer.

11. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be arranged for January and will be held in Maidstone. JW to arrange (the date of the next meeting is Monday 25 January at 3.00 pm in the Bewl Room, Sessions House).

Jo Weatherley
1 December 2015