

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

Report: Y Gaer (cultural hub, Brecon)
For: Brecknockshire Committee
Date: 11 October 2017
Report produced: 04 October 2017

Progress Update / Overview Report (PUOR)

Planning & progress / key update notes

PROJECT MANAGEMENT UPDATE (Client side – LB)

General

- Main contract ongoing
- Steel frame construction and site development well underway.
- Museum stonework underway & stripping out of museum and structural work in train
- HLF progress reporting meetings held quarterly aligned with payment request application and report submissions.
- Ongoing regular 1-2-1 update meetings with local funding partners.
- Quarterly reporting to Programme Board.
- Tues 12 Sep 2017, Cabinet report regarding funding – accepted.

Café

- Positive progress made with NPTC Group at meeting on 30 Aug 2017, confirming that NPTC refectory services will take on the running of the café to include providing work experience opportunities and limited training (e.g. Barista, customer service) for young people. Work stream supported by PCC Commercial Services. Detailed discussions on café layout & fit-out design taken place, incorporated into programme and progressed.
- Wider discussions about other partnership opportunities between NPTC and PCC in Brecon underway. LB liaising with Natasha Morgan (Property Services) and Regeneration over wider Brecon property to ensure a consistent message is understood and communicated.

TIC & future tourism information provision

- Positive second meeting held (13 Sep) with Brecon Town Council (BTC), Chamber of Trade, Brecon Beacons Tourism and stakeholders re: future tourist information provision post TIC closure. BTC to produce an options report looking at them leading on providing a future business based partnership model. BTC to meet with Portfolio Holders to discuss opportunities. Next scoping meeting planned - 09 Nov 17.
- PR produced explaining the work that is being done, issued following the Town Council having met with Portfolio Holders.
- Chamber of Trade currently seeking match funding for funded Town Manager post () – opportunities for joint working.

Stakeholder Group update

- BCH Stakeholder Group continues to meet bi-monthly.
- *Topping Out Ceremony* planned – Fri 27 Oct 2017 hosted by Kier. Great improvement in engagement with Kate Ellis of Kier. Invitees limited to 100 – list produced; invites being designed, due to be issued electronically w/commencing 25 Sep. Event schedule - bunting to be hoisted and a Yew branch placed at uppermost point, as is traditional. Propose the Council’s Leader and a local young person rep be lifted to the building peak in a cherry picker. Kier providing refreshments in the library. Entertainment e.g. Town Band yet to be secured. Exploring possible use of drone film footage of event via Comms.

Public Art

1. Wording transcription for recessed band running through building above historic boundary wall produced by Christopher Meredith, approved by Leader / Project Board; fabrication design initiated.



Longsection through Atrium along historic garden wall - feature artwork/text band
1:100



2. Christopher Meredith has also provided ideas for text on the main panel at Glamorgan St entrance. See attached script, in long and shorter versions, for consideration.



C M Wall panel
words idea - long ve



C M Wall panel
words idea - shorter

Project Board approval to progress design based on concept proposal.

Captain’s Walk

- Harry & David Rich of Rich Landscapes (www.richlandscapes.net) produced second draft design for landscaping layout conceptual design for Captain’s Walk to

accommodate requirement for fire tracker & maintenance equipment access around perimeter of building. They are producing a cost estimate for works, expected early Oct 2017.

- Fundraising underway, based on speculative estimate of approx. £150k
Project Board approval to advance pursuance of funding for this work element.
- Captain's Walk Park Creation Group set up tasked with realising an improvement plan for Captain's Walk as part of the Brecon Cultural Hub development. Input required on fundraising & resourcing development of area, planning and implementation. Considered important as area sets off building and is well used as a right of way. Not met formally yet, will meet in Jan 2018 once position on achievability is clearer.
- Cllr Liam Fitzpatrick, as Portfolio Holder for Highways, has requested a meeting to discuss plans.

Communications Group update

- **PR** – Current featured items: i) new name for hub; ii) commissioned wording; iii) highlighting upcoming Topping Out event.
- **Branding** – BS&MF & local trusts funding support of £6k for branding exercise for the hub, DesignMap museum fit out designers appointed, will work with library fit-out designers - Opening the Book, Communications Group and stakeholders in providing an identity for the facility, taking into account PCC Corporate Style Guide, usage / location / destination themes.
Brief agreed includes naming of hub – now concluded (as below).

The name chosen by the Council's Leader, Cabinet Portfolio Holders and the Project Board is – 'Y Gaer'.

The word Caer is a place name element in Welsh meaning 'fortress', 'rampart', or 'castle' and can also be interpreted as meaning 'stronghold' or 'citadel'.

*Y Gaer originates from Caer being mutated to Gaer following the prefix **Y / The**.*

*Y Gaer will be the overarching name for the hub and used along with a strapline such as: – **Museum – Art Gallery – Library***

The name has been arrived at following consideration of the many suggestions provided through a public call via the Library, the undertaking of in-depth discussions and consultation workshops with a wide range of stakeholders, the public, staff and Council leaders, ultimately being selected from a short list of options by the Project Board. The process has also involved the specialist knowledge of Welsh language speakers & writers and the branding expertise of DesignMap who are working on this aspect of the project.

For further reference, please refer to the attached document (Appendix 1 - Caer information V01) produced by Cllr Myfanwy Alexander, the Councils Portfolio Holder for the Welsh language, which provides background context around this term.

For an audio pronunciation example: - <https://forvo.com/word/cy/caer/>

The allocated name is meeting with broad approval and enables the promotion of the

co-located services in a building with a clear identity pertinent to where it is located, it's architectural uniqueness and for what it represents to the community and visitors.

Meetings and discussions with members of public at events. Branding workshops with Members, stakeholders, staff and project team held on 02 July (1st branding ideas presented) and 01 September 2017 (2nd batch of developed branding proposals).

- Brecon Museum – proposal for John Lloyd Gallery naming – not concluded
- CR leading on updating the PCC webpages with support from service colleagues; ongoing social media presence dealt with by service managers & officers
- VIP Grand Opening event autumn 2018 – scoping & event planning (in discussion - Powys wide collaborating male voice choirs, flash mob family disco delivered by Powys Dance).

Fundraising Group update (next meeting 15 Jun)

- Working Fundraising Plan produced, research ongoing; limited officer capacity, however Fundraising Group extremely supportive and proactive.
- Fundraising invitation letter produced for use of BS&MF and BAT in approaching potential funding bodies and individuals.
- An **EVE** (Enhancing the Visitor Experience) package of items requiring additional funding valued at approx. £370k has been worked up and launched on-line and at an event held on Friday 15 September 2017 hosted by BS&MF and the BAT. EVE items include digital interpretation; technology; public art; museum conservation and restoration items; library items.
Pledges of funding amounting to over £10k have already been received.
- Library though the Brecknock Art Trust are seeking Welsh Government funding (via Kirsty Williams) for Raspberry Pi coding & programming project.
- Project *Illumine* – currently re-modelling budget (project value £92,250 Arwain / RDP funded). Project delivery planning underway with Arts Alive Wales, meeting scheduled with architect to design technical specification. Continue to pursue additional funding sources / sponsorship. Involvement of Youth Service & Schools Service in engaging young participants.
(See appendix 2 – Project Illumine – outline plan).

Appendices



1. Appendix 1 - Caer information V01.doc



2. Appendix 2 Project Illumine - outline pr

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