

Madeley Living History Management Group

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 6th June, 7.30 at Jubilee House

Present: John Powell (Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust), Jane Siddons (John Fletcher Junior School), Marilyn Higson (Madeley Library), Francis Jones (Workers Education Association), Ben Whittle (Local Studies Group), Kath Petty (Madeley Parish Council), Councillors Rob Breeze & Gill Green.

Apologies: Councillors Ian Baker & Peter Taylor

1. Aims of the Project

Kath Petty distributed the previously agreed aims of the project to all new members, to ensure that all were familiar with, and supportive of its aims.

Marilyn Higson expressed concern over the aim 'To provide a centre for local archivists and historians and to act as a central repository for their work'. She pointed out that the archiving of historical documents was a specialist function and ought properly to be carried out by the Library Services, Records and Research, in Shrewsbury.

Kath Petty explained that the inclusion of the aim was to ensure that work carried out by the project i.e. the collection of taped materials, photographs on disc etc. should be easily accessible to local people. The wording of this aim to be clarified at the next meeting.

2. Living History Project Manager

The Job Description and Person Specification for the proposed Living History Project Manager were distributed to the group for comment. Several small amendments were made to each document and agreed by the group.

3. Advertisement

A draft advertisement was presented to the group for approval.

It was agreed that the post be advertised locally, to save expense, but mainly to respond to the view expressed in the consultation document, that a local person should manage the project.

4. Interview Panel

Members of the group volunteered to assist with both the shortlisting and the interviews:-

Shortlisting – Jane Siddons, John Powell, Kath Petty, with additional representation from Madeley Parish Councillors. Shortlisting to take place on Tuesday 10th July, 4.30, at Jubilee House.

Interviews – Ben Whittle, John Powell, Rob Breeze, Kath Petty, with additional representation from Madeley Parish Councillors. Interviews to take place on Thursday 19th July. All members of the interview panel will be contacted prior to the date to discuss the format of the interviews.

5. Expansion of the Management Group

It was explained that it is the wish of Madeley Parish Council that, in the long term, the project functions as an independent organisation. The Parish is committed to the project

and has made funding available for three years, but would hope that by the end of that period, external funding would have been secured. The Parish also holds the view that an independent organisation could possibly serve the community more effectively. Advice had been taken from various sources (Telford and Wrekin CVS and Paul Chaplin Consultancy) and it had been previously agreed that the best option for the development of the group (and therefore the project) was to look at becoming a Registered Charity.

Kath Petty had a draft constitution that is acceptable to the Charities Commission and asked for suggestions as to which organisations could be approached for representation on the LHP Management Group. There would also be a need for community representation, many people had expressed an interest and this aspect of the management make up could be returned to at a later date.

It was agreed that input from the Church would be beneficial. John Powell thought that there is a Madeley area ecumenical group that could be asked to send a representative, and offered to check.

Other suggestions were:- Officers from Telford and Wrekin Council - posts connected with the World Heritage Site and Youth Work (to ensure a connection with young people in the area). Kath Petty to check.

Representation from the Unitary Councillors. Kath Petty to check

Meeting closed at 8.30.

The date of the next meeting will be announced following the appointment of the Living History Project Manager.