



Swindon Culture and Creative Group

Minutes of meeting held 1st May 2008

Present:

Mike Pringle (MP) (Chair)
Carole Bent (CB)
Stuart Webb (SW)
Vanetta Joffe (VJ)
Linda Kasmaty (LK)
Sinclair Brown (SB)
Kathleen Day (KD)

Apologies:

Steve Causer (SC), Anne Dixon (AD), Peter Snowman (PS), Judy James (JJ)

1 Minutes and actions from last meeting

Group looked over previous minutes.
As per actions the open studios event is now underway.

2 Membership

(MP) Potential new members to the group include Linda Kasmaty and Judy James.

3 Culture and the Vision for Swindon

a) Event now taking place 30th May. 9am –12pm at the National Monuments Heritage Centre.

b) For the Culture Vision document- please see
<http://www.creativeswindon.org.uk/new/ten.html>

There will be a strong council presence so will be a good opportunity to ensure culture is also part of the Council's overall Vision.

The new cultural hub (the Promenade) is part of the regeneration plan for the town. Such a site could include studios, theatre space, music venues and offices for creative industries. And could even provide new green space to the town centre. The hub is still under discussion and will not be widely promoted until more concrete ideas have been developed.

4 **Open studios**

VJ, LK, CB AND SC been organising event. Planned date 13th/14th September 08.

Email has been sent out inviting Artists to take part with a closing date of May 9th (This will be extended as discussed)

ACTION: LK to forward e mail to SB who can then forward on invites to business contacts.

ACTION: Group - Any names for 'Art Trail' e-mail to LK or VJ asap

Will have the Studio in Old Town as central location for event- Leaflets, Maps.

ACTION: MP/LK/VJ to organise booking of venue.

5 **Music venues**

Mecca Bingo Closed- Opportunity for a Theatre Venue in town centre.

ACTION: MP to contact music promoters representing different eras.
Group: Any contacts for above to MP.

6 **Future meetings**

Next meeting Wednesday 11th June 4pm at Liddington Manor (click below for map).

<http://maps.google.co.uk/maps?f=q&hl=en&geocode=&q=51.531554,-1.699201&ie=UTF8&t=h&z=16&iwloc=addr>

Appendix

Role and purpose

To develop and unite the cultural offer

Background

The Culture and Creative group has developed through the recognition that economic growth must include extensive, high-quality leisure provision for the staff and families of the businesses in the Borough. The Group is run in collaboration with the Swindon Cultural Partnership and works across many of the outcomes of the Local Area Agreement, as well as providing liaison with cultural bodies in the region and at a National level.

Priorities

Established formerly in 2006, the Swindon Cultural Partnership has identified a number of areas where culture plays an important role in Swindon. In response, the Culture and Creative Group is currently developing specific aims and objectives to support both the cultural offer and the needs of local businesses, particularly in regard to changing the external perception of the town. In outline, the Group's aims includes:

- Championing cultural diversity across all levels of Swindon
- Working with the regeneration partners to ensure cultural infrastructure
- Provision and circulation of information and knowledge sharing
- Identifying and developing positive opportunities for business
- Developing strategic links with other partnerships and regional bodies
- Liaison with local, regional and national media
- Planning for a National Innovation Expo in Swindon in 2010
- Developing workspaces for creative entrepreneurs

Underlying all the Group's activity is an aim to create a positive cultural identity within Swindon, with the widest possible definition of 'culture'. While art, drama, music, heritage etc. are clearly important, the Group also supports the many alternative leisure activities that take place throughout the Borough's many and varied communities.

Membership

The Group is composed of several layers:

Patronage – the Group is gradually building up a list of Patrons

Board of Directors – the Group takes strategic guidance from the Board of the Swindon Cultural Partnership, which includes the Leader of Swindon Borough Council, the Editor of Swindon Advertiser, as well as representation from the Arts Council and a number of local businesses and organisations.

Culture and Creative Group – champions from business and the community who both inform and implement cultural plans and activity at a tactical level.