

## **Chambers Institute Beneficiaries**

### **Meeting held 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023 on MS Teams**

#### **Present:**

Cllr Robin Tatler, SBC (Chair)  
Lorna McCullough, Borders Community Action (Minutes)  
Cllr Marshall Douglas  
Cllr Drummond Begg  
Cllr Viv Thomson  
Cllr Julie Perone  
Cllr Eric Small  
Sam Coe, Peebles Civic Society  
Frank Drummond, Tweeddale Access Panel  
Laura Scott, Peebles Pensioners  
Jim Boyd, CAB  
Debbie Smith, Eastgate Theatre  
Helen Lewis, Eastgate Theatre  
Geoffrey Hamilton  
Gareth Smith, SBC  
Peter Maudsley, PCC  
Ian Buckingham, JBSM  
Crick Carleton, PCT

#### **1. Welcome, introductions**

Introductions to be made as attendees speak.

#### **2. Apologies - Fiona Colton, Live Borders**

#### **3. Notes from meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> September**

Action – Robin & Lorna to work out how to share documents all can access.

#### **4. UK Government Levelling up funding award success**

£4.1M investment, government deadline 4 weeks time for further information needed to secure it, to define the project and costs demonstrating the community response. The project that the funding will support will require to be delivered by end of March 2026. Consultation carried out earlier this year will support this. Sam Coe, Cllr Robin Tatler and Cllr Julie Perone will form the project team.

Trimontium Chair recommended Jason Dyer who has vast experience in leading other similar projects in the Borders (Trimontium £3M, Abbotsford House £12M) and currently working with Edinburgh University. Robin has met with Jason and he is very enthusiastic about the project. Daily rate is £250, proposed to hire Jason for initial 10 day pulling together business plan to date into format needed with financial forecasting, projects aims and public consultation and benefit to assist in securing the funding from UK Government. Agreed – will be put to trustees meeting to approve. Assuming Jason is appointed, he will be asked to attend the next meeting and provide a brief presentation on the initial piece of work.

Crick Carleton offered to provide data and information gathered during the Place Making process that PCT in support of the bid for the Levelling Up Funding. This will be very helpful and the project will form an integral part of the Place Making process.

## **5. Burgh Hall**

### **Acoustics and lighting**

- Stage curtains being fitted next week.
- Mark Neal (acoustics consultant) has completed a report, in summary it confirms stage curtains and curtains on side windows will make a huge difference, also side acoustic panels on the rear and side walls, can be painted to blend into the walls.
- Trustees to approve £8500 budget tomorrow for side panels, meeting agreed. Sani in SBC to approve.
- Side window curtains quote £16500 in total, includes install scaffolding, curtain plates & painting etc.
- Gareth will program all work to be installed together. Caretaker has provided Gareth with hall calendar and he will work around this, timescales likely to be in January 2024.

### **Burgh hall Lobby**

- Gutter is holding, no further leaking.
- Painting work due to start next week, will be scheduled around the hall calendar.
- Lights to be replaced internal and external, quote £1632+508 cost to be approved at trustees meeting tomorrow, meeting approved.
- Heating, fans need to be on with the heating to push the heat back down after it rises, don't appear to be getting used. Gareth has visited the hall to switch to manual and will check again in the morning. Mark Neal (acoustics consultant) to consider with and without fans on and impact on acoustics.

### **Artwork**

Gareth needs information on how the artwork is to be displayed in order to get quotes for shelving and/or casing. Agreed to put Gareth directly in touch with artist Susan Mitchell to discuss requirements e.g. UV glass, measurements. Aim to provide update/quotes for next meeting.

## **6. Discussion with John Reid of Trimontium**

National Lottery Heritage fund application. Status of the trust, suggested looking at Tullie House in Carlisle, Ian Buckingham knows it and is happy to visit to find out how they are set up and funded.

There are items the Chambers Institute has that the Trimontium would like to display while not being displayed here currently. Meeting agreed to arrange via Live Borders but will want them back once regeneration complete. Elgin marbles issue could be used as a media hook in future!

## **7. Page/Park – update on Burgh Hall Mezzanine Study**

Still no update on feasibility study, to be discussed at trustees meeting tomorrow.

## **8. Business Planning Group – update**

Information gathered scoring board used and looking at public consultation. Vision outlined and being developed. This will be handed onto project team and Jason Dyer to develop in order to secure UK Government funding bid.

Draft place plan includes public views to review public indoor spaces and buildings in Peebles, open to contribute to business plan. Consultants will be working on final plan over next 4 months and carrying out further public consultation on the results to ensure it's focussed on the right things. Crick to pass to Kenny Harrow in SBC for inclusion.

Will be meeting with current tenants separately and liaising with Live Borders with user groups to ensure fully involved.

## **9. John Buchan Museum**

Needs to made more attractive as a tourist attraction. Visit Scotland rated it as 4\* and commented externally it could be improved, particularly signage. Suggested moving street furniture around, permanent signage instead of temporary banners and boards, clean windows etc. Need to consider what can and what cannot be done due to it being a listed building. Large picture windows not in use, these could be used with signs. To be discussed at trustees meeting to consider options.

All signage to be reviewed including in the archway, particularly the tenants to direct visitors clearly to individual services. Suggested including in the first phase of the project as this falls under accessibility.

## **10. Building Condition Survey**

Building surveys needed quickly. Possible to get from community benefits through Peebles High School build/BAM.

## **11. Bonnie Peebles, slabs in memorial garden**

Can slabs that Tommies are sitting on be removed to carry out planting, will be replaced in time for Remembrance Day next year. Agreed.

## **12. Summary of actions**

- Robin, Sam & Julie to form project group
- Jason Dyer to be hired on draft business plan and consultation
- Approved spend on acoustic panels
- Approved spend on curtains
- Obtain report on art work display – Peter Maudsley and Gareth Smith
- Agreed letter from JBSM to trustees to consider how to improve external look
- Building survey to be funded by BAM
- Slabs to be removed by contractor when Tommies removed after Remembrance week and replaced when Tommies are back to allow for planting.
- Meeting with tenants to discuss plans - Robin
- Crick to liaise on place planning to business plan
- SBC Heritage officer to approve curtain work and acoustic panels installation.

**13. AOB - None**

**14. Date of next meeting – January 2024 tbc**