

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CABINET**  
**25<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2005**

**Bewdley Museum**

<b>Open</b>	
<b>COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME</b>	Enhancing Cultural Life
<b>CORPORATE PLAN THEMES:</b>	Local Heritage
<b>KEY PRIORITY:</b>	Museum
<b>CABINET MEMBER:</b>	Cllr Nathan Desmond
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:</b>	Head of Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	Kay Higman 01562 732902
<b>APPENDICES</b>	Appendix 1: Bewdley Museum Management Committee Discussion Paper for Consultation - Membership Of The Committee

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To consider a recommendation from the Bewdley Museum Management Committee to make changes to the representation on their Committee.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

**The Cabinet is asked to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that:-**

- 2.1 the revised committee structure as detailed in Appendix 1 be agreed and referred to the Charity Commission for the necessary approvals.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Wyre Forest District Council became Trustee of The Bewdley Museum in May 1975, and operates the Museum as a local service under powers contained in the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964.
- 3.2 Bewdley Museum Management Committee is purely of an advisory status with no powers to expend money other than within council policy and budget or set admission fees, etc. It is composed of Wyre Forest District Council Councillors, together with representatives of the Friends of Bewdley Museum. Non voting advisory members of the Management Committee are also appointed by Worcestershire County Council,

Bewdley Town Council and the West Midlands Regional Museums Council are occasionally represented as required.

- 3.3 The Constitution has not been reviewed since 1975.
- 3.4 The Museum continues to support the revival of traditional and contemporary craft practices with a changing programme of courses and workshops each year.
- 3.5 Currently there are five resident craftspeople with studios on site, including a textile artist, a furniture maker, a fine artist, a ceramicist and a wood turner. An additional craft unit was opened during the 2004 season.
- 3.6 31,699 visitors attended last season compared to approximately 11,000 prior to free admission
- 3.7 Significant improvements have been made on site, including extending the provision of the small refreshment outlet, supported by volunteers from the 'Friends of Bewdley Museum', and the development of the exhibition programme. Membership of the Society has significantly increased and help from the volunteers is invaluable in continuing to improve the quality of service on offer.
- 3.8 Funding was obtained from Opportunity Bewdley which was added to the Liveability Fund to provide ramped access to the disabled toilets and entry into QE2 Gardens. A green theatre has also been developed.

#### **4. RATIONALE**

- 4.1 The Rationale for the proposed changes is as follows:-
  - the Museum Management Committee has suffered from being inquorate
  - the proposed representation is more inclusive and democratic with additions from Opportunity Bewdley, Worcestershire County Council and Bewdley Town Council.
  - previously Bewdley Town Council was represented as an invited guest. The proposals include for a voting attendance.
  - the Cabinet member for Community & Leisure Services will have six votes which reflects the Council's status as sole Trustee.

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no additional financial implications.

#### **6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The proposed amendments to the representation of Bewdley Museum Management Committee will be sent to the Charity Commission for approval.

## **7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 7.1 There are no risk management issues, however, the proposals are more inclusive and democratic and the chances of the meetings taking place and being quorate will increase dramatically.

## **8. CONSULTEES**

Head of Legal & Democratic Services  
Leader of the Council

## **9. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Bewdley Museum Management Committee Constitution

**BEWDLEY MUSEUM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE****Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2005****DISCUSSION PAPER FOR CONSULTATION****MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE**

The Committee currently comprises:

- Cabinet Member, Community & Leisure Services (Cllr Nathan Desmond)
- 4 other District Council members
- 3 members Friends of Bewdley Museum
- 1 member from Guild of St George
- 1 representative of Worcestershire County Council (non voting, advisory)
- 1 representative from Area Museum Service (non voting advisory)
- 1 representative of the Museums Association (non voting advisory)

(Invitees currently include Cllr M Keen for Bewdley Town Council and Opportunity Bewdley)

In order for these meetings to be quorate currently, 3 voting members of the Committee must be present and 2 of these 3 must be Wyre Forest District Council Councillors.

**Proposal**

- Cabinet member, Community & Leisure Services
  - 2 other District Council members
  - 3 members, Friends of Bewdley Museum
  - 1 Member from Guild of St George
  - 1 member from Bewdley Town Council
  - 1 member from Opportunity Bewdley
  - 1 member from Worcestershire County Council
  - 1 member from Regional Council for Museums, Libraries and Archives (MLA) (non voting, advisory)
- } total 8 votes

In order for future meetings to be quorate at least 5 of the 10 voting members should be present, this to include at least one District Councillor. Therefore, Councillors and other voting representatives should provide substitutes if they cannot attend whenever possible. Committee will make recommendations to Council in their role as Trustees.

**Structure of meeting**

- Action Plan to form the focus of the meeting and to be added to where necessary. Targets to be added and tasks allocated at meeting
- Meeting dates to be set a year in advance in February, April, June, August and October.

KH/JHL  
16 August 2010