

KEATS HOUSE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 22 September 2015

Minutes of the meeting of the Keats House Consultative Committee held at Keats House, 10 Keats Grove on Tuesday, 22 September 2015 at 2.45 pm

Present

Members:

Vivienne Littlechild (Chairman)
Graham Packham (Deputy Chairman)
Ann Pembroke
Barbara Newman
Jeremy Simons
Nigel Steward
Steven Bobasch

In Attendance

Officers:

Julie Mayer	Town Clerk's Department
Vicky Carroll	Culture, Heritage and Libraries

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Jim Burge, David Kitchen, Martin Humphery and Diana Gore.

2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Meeting held on 2 February 2015 were approved.

4. KEATS HOUSE PROGRESS REPORT

Members received a report of the Principal Curator, Keats House, in respect of developments at the House since the last meeting of the Consultative Committee in February 2015.

The Curator reported a successful launch in May 2015, by Ms Nancy Dell'Olio, of the new displays for the re-interpretation project. Lord Melvyn Bragg (Honorary Patron) had recently confirmed his attendance in November. Members suggested approaching Ms Dell'Olio about becoming a patron, as she is both a Hampstead resident and Keats enthusiast.

Members agreed that the atmosphere had been preserved and there had been some good feedback from the visitor survey, with qualitative data expected in October.

Members noted that the Grand Committee would receive a report on price increases on 23rd September and made the following comments:

- There had been some decline in visitor numbers but this might be attributed to ceasing the link with the National Trust in January 2015.
- Dickens House charged £8.00 and other London Houses charged for children and/or for visiting the gardens.
- The fee for 'London Pass' was currently under negotiation and Members supported this, as this would be more suited to the tourist market and therefore reach potential visitors who might not otherwise have been aware of Keats House. Members agreed that a collaboration with Tower Bridge would be helpful and the Curator agreed to speak to the Head of Tower Bridge.
- Due to various logistical problems, Members noted that there was currently no scope for separate exhibitions, which could be chargeable. There was scope for using the gallery area at the top of the stairs but Listed Building Consent would be required to erect a picture rail and the area would be fairly small (around 9sqm). If Keats House could provide temporary exhibitions, they would be able to advertise in 'Time Out' listings.
- The Library would be unsuitable for exhibitions, as it had a lot of windows and strip lighting and was already being used as a children's library 3 days a week.
- Members understood the objectives of the Service Based Review and the need for the City of London Corporation to generate revenue, wherever possible.
- Keats House had recently hosted a number of private parties, dinners, charity and corporate events but it was understood that this would need to continue and increase.
- It was suggested that the use of the venue for Weddings be revisited.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

5. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no questions.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

Members were disappointed at the delay in repairing the ceiling damage in the library. The Curator advised that she would be able to reinstate the lighting as the recent damage from water ingress had been repaired.

There was further concern in that the external decorations were deteriorating but Members noted that the funding for this project had been diverted to the library roof.

The meeting ended at 4pm

Chairman

Contact Officer: Julie Mayer
tel. no.: 020 7332 1410
julie.mayer@cityoflondon.gov.uk