

KEATS HOUSE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Friday, 1 October 2021

Minutes of the meeting of the Keats House Consultative Committee held at Keats House on Friday, 1 October 2021 at 2.00 pm

Present

Members:

Deputy Wendy Hyde (Chair)
Jeremy Simons (Deputy Chair)
Dawn Wright
Stephen Ainger
Steven Bobasch
Bob Hall

In Attendance

Officers:

Ben Dunleavy - Town Clerk's Department
Rob Shakespeare - Department of Open Spaces
Richard Gentry - Department of Open Spaces

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Anne Fairweather and John Tomlinson.

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

There were none.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that – the minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 May 2021 be agreed as a correct record.

4. MID YEAR UPDATE REPORT FOR KEATS HOUSE CHARITY 2021/22

Members received a report of the Executive Director of Environment in respect of the Mid-Year Update for Keats House Charity for 2020/21.

Members were informed that following the previous meeting in May 2021, Keats House had reopened to the public for three days per week, with four hour-long sessions each day. Capacity for further reopening has been impacted by staff constraints. These sessions were open to both booking and walk-up visitors. An online events programme was maintained throughout pandemic, and live events have been reintroduced.

In regards to future plans, the following areas of focus were noted:

- Programming live events through to Christmas, based on utilising the investment and experience of the Keats200 events, and looking forward to an events programme for Spring and Summer;
- Consideration of opportunities to widen engagement with both worldwide audiences, through the achievements of the online events programme, and the local community, by developing family and school programmes in partnership with stakeholder groups;
- Implementation of improved infrastructure around the property, including internal security systems, paving and lighting, and the replacement of the front boundary ;
- Investment in Keats House digital infrastructure, including new collections management database to improve access to the collections, along with consideration of potential for recording and livecasting events.

Members heard that the Keats Foundation had received agreement for a bust of Keats to be placed in the City, and a competition to find an artist had been launched.

It was noted that the renegotiation of the licence for Keats Community Library (KCL) was the responsibility of the City Surveyors Department. The Principal Curator of Keats House confirmed that they want to support KCL as it provides a complementary service to Keats House. The Chair and the Principal Curator also explained the impact of the Corporation's proposed new strategic destination review on the City's cultural offering. The Chair and an officer from the Open Spaces Department confirmed that these would not lead to any change in the Corporation's relationship with Keats House.

RESOLVED, that – the update be received.

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

There were none.

6. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**

There was none.

7. **DATE AND LOCATION OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Members agreed that that the next meeting would take in place in May 2022, and would be held at Keats House.

The meeting ended at 3.30pm.

Chairman

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