

# COMMUNITY SERVICES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

## MEMBER REPORT

<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION/BODY</b>	Museum in the Park (Stroud District (Cowle) Museum Trust)
<b>DATE OF LAST MEETING ATTENDED</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> February 2021
<b>BRIEF REPORT</b>	<p>Following the November lockdown being lifted the museum team resumed opening as they had prior e.g. booked visits, managing numbers, tours only of mansion. The essential deep-clean in January was not possible due to the national lockdown. All staff reverted to working from home, aside from supervising contractors and weekly checks of all sites.</p> <p>Visitor figures are low due to restrictions (and as a consequence earned income). However, the Museum team have continued to deliver and produce a range of online content, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ‘Meet the Curator’ on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.</li> <li>• A social media campaign using the Wilf Merrett postcard collection.</li> <li>• Promoting Try at Home Craft Activities including the Big Green Draw Climate of Change.</li> <li>• Launching a new monthly blog series, as part of the Council’s 2030 Strategy, featuring objects that relate to environmental sustainability/ climate change.</li> </ul> <p>The museum created an eye-spy trail that could be undertaken from outside the museum and hosted a ‘Wishing Tree’ created by a local artist in the courtyard, this being visible from the gate.</p> <p>Following the success of the first online talk series, the museum is running a new series during Jan-Mar 2021.</p> <p>The remote learning project continued with a few enquiries for the new term before the national lockdown. The museum initially committed to working with half a dozen primary schools, but ended up engaging with 13 classes in 10 different schools (around 360 pupils). The programme provided schools with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a Covid-secure topic-based loans box for use in the classroom</li> <li>• digital resources for the teacher to support the topic (and especially to give it a local dimension)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the possibility of a video call between the class and the museum: a 'meet the expert' session with Q&amp;A. This is a chance to show objects in the museum which cannot be loaned, but also a chance for children to relay what they have been doing and what they thought of the objects.</li> </ul> <p>The walled garden volunteers continued to undertake essential works during the lockdown, albeit in reduced numbers. Two of the volunteers worked with the museum's learning and access officer to create digital content (a talk on You Tube, historic audio recordings and a webpage about the Giant Snowdrop Company). This was complemented by a series of short artistic videos for social media created by one of the museum's visitor assistants.</p> <p>As ever, the Museum team have continued to stay on top of changing guidance and adjusting provision as required. The new national roadmap to ease restrictions was launched after the Governing Body meeting so was not discussed. However, the Museum Development Manager informs me that they are planning to undertake essential deep cleaning before opening the garden only, followed by indoor areas from 17th May, subject to the ongoing situation. This opening will most likely be under the same approach as it was at the end of last year e.g. booked visits, tours.</p> <p>Again, shortly after the meeting, I was delighted to be informed by the Manager that the museum had been successful with their revised application to Arts Council England for the new free-to-join Supporter Scheme. This award of £35,000, alongside the Council's own commitment, the Garfield Weston Foundation award and funds held by Stroud District (Cowle) Museum Trust, means all funding has now been secured. This gives an external investment of £3.83 for every SDC £1. This year-long implementation project will create the scheme, providing audiences with new and exciting opportunities to engage with the museum, extending community reach to new audiences, and ensure the long-term sustainability of the museum particularly as it recovers from the impact of Covid-19. This is part of the museum's forward plan, the Community Resilience and Well-Being Workstream and Fit for Future programme.</p>
<b>REPORT SUBMITTED BY</b>	Cllr Nigel Prenter
<b>DATE</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> March 2021