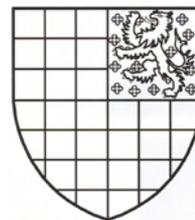


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**LEWES
TOWN
COUNCIL**

MINUTES

of the meeting of the **All Saints Centre (ASC) Steering Group** held on **Wednesday 16th September 2015**, in the **Yarrow Room, Town Hall, Lewes** at **7:00pm**.

PRESENT Cllrs Addecott; Burrows; Catlin (Wischhusen); S Murray, R O'Keeffe.

In attendance: S Brigden (*Town Clerk [TC]*); Miss L Zeyfert (*Manager, All Saints Centre*); Ms M Burke (*Chairman; Lewes Film Club*)

ASCSG2015/01 **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN:** Cllr Susan Murray was elected Chairman.

ASCSG2015/02 **QUESTIONS:** There were none.

ASCSG2015/03 **APOLOGIES for ABSENCE:**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Bolt, who had a family commitment; Cllr Chartier, who had a Trustee commitment; and Cllr Milner who was working.

ASCSG2015/04 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were none

ASCSG2015/05 **MINUTES:** The minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2015 were received and signed as a correct record.

ASCSG2015/06 **BUSINESS OF THE MEETING:**

1 *Film@AllSaints* performance statistics were presented for the full season, September 2014 to July 2015. Sixty-nine films had been shown over 111 screenings and average audience numbers continued to rise, as previous constraints had recently eased. The community cinema operation overall was showing a financial surplus from film tickets and kiosk sales. The season had yielded an operating surplus of £3,589. This was the third full season and analysis of the 'performance' of each film title, together with audience feedback, confirmed that the typical audience was not sensitive to the length of time elapsed since first-release, but appeared to prioritize the convenience and atmosphere of All Saints. There followed some discussion as to the anticipated effects of the proposed Depot Cinema, now understood to be opening in mid-2017. Members were interested to learn whether Lewes Film Club intended to relocate, but Ms Burke stated that there were no plans. It was believed that the Depot intended to address a different market, and would not directly compete for all Saints audiences, although there were some indications that it might also offer more generalized community facilities such as meeting-rooms for hire. Members who had been engaged since the start of the *Film@AllSaints* community cinema proposed that there was now a case for the installation of Digital Cinema Projection equipment (DCP); a project which had been deferred while the service 'settled' and external factors became clearer. DCP would allow a wider range of films; earlier showing after release of popular mainstream titles; 'niche' screenings including the potential to show live broadcasts from high-profile ballet/opera/theatrical performances *via* satellite/internet connections; significantly improved overall sound and picture quality, and lower operating costs. It was estimated that appropriate equipment would cost around £27,000 and Lewes Film Club were offering to contribute their savings of £10,000 towards this sum. There was some counter-argument, suggesting that a cost to the Council of £17,000 was not appropriate, and that there was a competing cinema in prospect in around two years' time. Supporters of DCP installation argued that the life expectancy of the equipment was far in excess of two years, and that this was a natural evolutionary step continuing the gradual improvement of the facilities

continues...

offered at All Saints and the funds were available from existing earmarked Reserves. It was also by no means certain that The Depot would negatively affect the operation at All Saints, and there were no plans to cease the cinema operation at the Centre, which should continue to offer an additional dimension to film in Lewes. In answer to a question the Centre Manager outlined her priorities for improvements to facilities, although there was provision in agreed annual budgets to programme many of these. Cllr O’Keeffe volunteered to work with LFC to research grants for DCP equipment, although Ms Burke indicated that these were unlikely in her experience. It was proposed that Council be asked to approve the expenditure of *up to* £17,000 to match the contribution of £10,000 from Lewes Film Club to purchase and install suitable DCP equipment, thereby recognizing that the actual amount would be lower should any grants be forthcoming. This was agreed by a majority vote.

2 Cllr Milner had agreed to assist in surveying the centre and drafting a specification for potential improvements to stage lighting provided at the Centre, based upon his professional expertise, but time had not yet been available for this. In the interim Ms Zeyfert had researched the order of costs for a range of options, and she described the benefits that could be derived from these. It was agreed that the research into technical options and possible phasing of this prospective major project should continue, with further details to be considered at a future meeting.

3 There followed a general discussion, including the usage levels of the Centre and the type of activities currently seen. Members acknowledged that All Saints represented, as an average, roughly 10% of the Council’s overall nett expenditure and provided a very well-regarded facility for a wide (and growing) range of users.

ASCSG2015/07

RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCLUSIONS:

It was agreed that Council be asked to approve the expenditure of up to £17,000 to match the contribution of £10,000 from Lewes Film Club to purchase and install suitable DCP equipment, thereby allowing for the potential to reduce the amount needed should grants be forthcoming. This sum to be drawn from the existing financial Reserve identified as R2 in the accounts.

ASCSG2015/08

There being no other business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed and thanked everyone for their contribution.

The meeting closed at 8:33pm