

# BBWCVS ARTS & CULTURE FORUM



Arts & Culture Forum      22<sup>nd</sup> June 2005  
SPACE, Roundacre Townhouse

## *Minutes*

### **Present:**

Denise Gannon (Chair)	BBW CVS
Charlie Mead	Basildon Philatelic Society
Stef Parry	Cherry Tree Primary School
Sue Chapman	Basildon Stitching Club
Ann Coltman	Basildon Stitching Club
Celia Ebrahimi	Hilltop Infant School
Debbie Rogen	Wickford Church of England Infant School (Wickford Schools' Cluster)
Mike Peart	Basildon Theatre Company
Paul Nagle	Basildon Theatre Company/ Basildon and District Arts Association
Barbara Bowhill	Basildon Locality Youth Service, Essex County Council
Gina Stickings	Basildon Youth Service, Essex County Council
Fiona Cheek	BBWCVS (Minutes)
Vin Harrop	Essex Gallery
Peter Patterson	BAT

### **Apologies:**

Tim Balogun	Basildon District Council
Jennifer Gannon	Books & Booze Readers
Alan Morgan	Woodlands School
Tina Jeffree	Third Edge Theatre
Lyn Colderoy	Grange Primary School
Mike Harrington	START

### **In attendance:**

Clare Burrell	Basildon Locality Manager, Essex Youth Service
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### **Presentation – Young at ‘Art, Clare Burrell, Essex Youth Service**

To celebrate National Youth Work Week in November, Essex Youth Service in Basildon is holding a young person's art exhibition in the Towngate Theatre. Clare explained that the invitation is open to all voluntary organisations working with children and young people to exhibit. Flyers and application packs were distributed at the meeting.

Clare added that the exhibition would be open to the public.

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2005

Venue: Towngate Theatre, St Martins Square, Basildon

Time: 10am – 9pm

Issues were raised about subsidised transport for young people to get to and from the event – particularly during school time.

A suggestion was also made to Clare that she writes to Councillor Tony Hedley to ask for an extension of the exhibition onto the following day and the

possibility of waiving some monies due to put on the exhibition. The exhibition is supported by the Towngate Theatre Development Fund.

**AGREED:** that the Art & Culture Forum supports the event.

## **2. Minutes of last meeting/matters arising**

Councillor Hedley's presentation was viewed as good but lengthy. Most of the presentation was related to the Olympic 2012 bid. Members of the Forum were asked to feed their comments and ideas to Paul Nagle to put together a formal response to the development plans.

**Action: All/PN**

## **3. Taster Days**

Suggestions:

- An 'arts taster month' on the run-up to the Basildon Festival 2006.
- The taster day would be ideal for the new extended schools agenda (schools open beyond core teaching hours for community activities)
- A discussion took place about the appropriate role for BME groups in the Forum – it was decided that cultural groups should be approached to make connections, both for involvement in Forum meetings and participation in the taster events.
- Schools could be used for taster days. Weekends should not be a problem.
- It was felt that it was not feasible to plan effectively for a taster day in Wickford in Autumn 2005.
- It was proposed that the taster days are held throughout the district in May/June 2006 as an 'arts taster month' leading up to BasFest 2006.
- Workshop suggestions for taster days could include: Digital art, recording studio experience, media recording & editing, MC/DJ workshops, performances (jamming, poetry), exploring architecture & design, fashion, stitching and other crafts, DJ mixing sessions.
- Workshops should be free.
- Ideas about the locations for the taster sessions were suggested. Events should be taken to the community. Some activities would need to be carried out indoors, whilst others could be outside. Performances could be carried out in pubs, town centres, community centres, schools, libraries and possibly Festival Leisure Park.
- Capoeira Dance
- Exhibitions from various groups could be included. Wickford schools have art exhibitions in June that could be tied into.
- We would need to follow up with something afterwards to tie it all together.
- Marketing was important
- A publicity/research table at the Basfest 2005. To research local attitudes to arts and culture in the local area, to publicise the Forum and to gauge enthusiasm for the taster month.

The following comments had been put forward by people not in attendance:

- Alan Morgan had informed Paul that as Woodlands School now has specialist status in Performing Arts, part of their remit is to work with the community, providing workshops etc., so this could be tied in with the taster sessions.

- Jennifer Gannon had suggested a discussion of short stories and favourite books could be included in the taster sessions as an introduction to reading groups. She also suggested that workshops could provide kits for participants.

### **5. Funding**

Paul Nagle is putting in a funding application to BDC Grants to Organisations regarding admin costs in the next few weeks. Other funding, particularly that concerned with young people, may also be appropriate.

**AGREED:** to have a taster month.

#### **ACTIONS:**

<b>ALL</b>	Submit suggestions for Gloucester Park development to PN
<b>PN</b>	Formal response to Gloucester Park development plans
<b>ALL</b>	Start thinking of a snappy title for the taster month
<b>PN/FC/DG</b>	Start formulating ideas into a strategy and begin approaching relevant people
<b>PN</b>	Work on a budget for 'taster month'
<b>FC</b>	Approach Norman Redican to see if survey/stand at BasFest is feasible

### **Any Other Business**

The forum is getting a web page on the BBWCVS website. There is now an email address for the forum – [artsandculture@bbwcv.org.uk](mailto:artsandculture@bbwcv.org.uk)

Towngate Theatre. Reports have been circulating in the Echo that the selling off or bulldozing of the theatre is being considered. There is to be some regeneration of the St Martins Square area and the future of the Towngate may be incorporated into this. There is a possibility that if the Towngate is demolished that a new arts centre may be built in its place.

### **Date of next meetings**

Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> July	7.30pm	Studios 2, Bardfield School, Basildon
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	7.30pm	Hilltop Infants School, Wickford