

**First Art & Culture Forum Meeting**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> February 2005**  
**Studio 2, Bardfield School, Basildon**

**Notes**

***Present:***

Denise Gannon (Chair)	BBWCVS
Paul Nagle	Basildon District Arts Association
Fiona Patterson	BBWCVS
Jennifer Gannon	Books & Booze Readers
Delia Ffitch	Essex Handicrafts Association
Maria Hartnett	St Margaret's Primary School
Tina Jeffree	Third Edge Theatre Company
Ann Coltman	Basildon Stitching Club
Sue Chapman	Basildon Stitching Club
Alison Preedy	Felmore Primary School
Penny Keys	Basildon Library
Debbie Rogan	Wickford CofE Infants School
Suzette Kuhn	Felmore Primary School
Stef Parry	Cherry Tree Primary School
Mike Harrington	START
Sue Randle	START
Robert Cole	START
Lucy Regan	Schools Arts Community Dev. Officer
Peter Patterson	Basildon Arts Trust
Celia Ebrahimi	Hilltop Infants School

***Apologies:***

Laura Tutty	Castledon School
Moira Brock	La Danse Fantastique

**1. Welcome**

Denise Gannon welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Introductions**

Introductions were made. Paul Nagle, Denise Gannon and Fiona Patterson of the CVS have planned the Forum.

**3. Terms of Reference**

Paul explained the terms of reference in more detail. He highlighted the history of arts involvement in the District. He then went on to outline what the terms of reference is looking to achieve. The Arts and Culture Forum will feed into the umbrella Voluntary Sector Forum that meets to discuss relevant issues and business in the voluntary and community sector through the support of the CVS. The Basildon District Arts Association would be a key partner in developing arts and culture with Basildon, Billericay and Wickford.

The main objectives of the Arts & Culture Forum are:

- to get more people involved and develop local interest in arts
- to run funding workshops

- to create a database of arts and culture related funding
- to compile a list of local venues/rehearsal rooms/studios & local clubs & groups etc
- to consult the public re: arts and culture
- Raising awareness through publicity (council are not publicising arts widely)
- Develop an arts and culture conference for Basildon district in 2006
- To look at how arts and culture can be integrated into the proposed new Gloucester Park sports & leisure development

## **5. First steps/future plans**

During the meeting, the following points were raised:

- Celia Ebrahimi and Debbie Rogan, head teachers from Wickford schools, raised issues about diversity. They suggested this should be included in the terms of reference. They pointed out there are very specific issues in Wickford relating to multi-culturalism and diversity, particularly in relation to travellers.
- A discussion took place on the best way to get cultural groups along to meetings. It may be better to go to them.
- The need for an arts noticeboard in the Basildon community was discussed. It was pointed out that there was no longer a notice board in Basildon library. Basildon Council would be asked if it would be possible to use one of the boards in the foyer specifically for the arts.
- It would be helpful if there was a flow-chart to show links with BDAA, CVS and other organisations.
- There is not much going on in Wickford and arts development in that area needs to be developed.
- Our objectives need monitoring in order to achieve consistency, and a strategic plan needs to be in place.
- Penny Keys from Basildon Library suggested using libraries as venues for one-off events.

## **6. Actions**

It was agreed that the Arts & Culture Forum should be taken forward. Actions suggested included:

- Pressuring the Council to take arts more seriously
- Launch the forum with publicity
- Get information together (funding, venue listings, people)
- Invite Cllr Hedley at Basildon Council to talk about the Gloucester Park development (Centre of Excellence)
- Develop short term objectives
- Information sessions by groups for groups
- Alternate daytime and evening meetings
- Develop a web site with on-line message board and accessible database
- Invite press to next meeting
- Information sharing to be encouraged
- It was agreed that meetings should be alternated between daytime and evenings. Debbie Rogan offered Wickford Church of England School as the next venue.

## **7. Any other business**

- 'On the Wall', an exhibition of art from Basildon, which was displayed in London last year, would be on show on the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor of the Towngate for 3 days from 6<sup>th</sup> April.
- Peter Patterson from Basildon Arts Trust told the Forum about an exhibition of the paintings owned by the Trust at Harlow. Members of the Council would be visiting the exhibition.
- Paul Nagle informed the Forum about work that was being done with young people in a series of workshops and initiatives.

## **Date of the Next Meeting**

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2005. 7pm at Wickford Church of England Infants School, Mount Road, Wickford.