

Workington Town Council

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9 July 2019

To Members of Culture Committee

Cllr C Armstrong (chair)	Cllr S Melton
Cllr H Briggs	Cllr S Stoddart
Cllr R Briggs	Cllr P Scott
Cllr H Harrington	Cllr W Wilkinson
Cllr J Holliday	Cllr L Williams

(Copy for information only to other members of Workington Town Council)

You are summoned to a meeting of Workington Town Council Culture Committee on Tuesday 16 July 2019 at 6.30pm at the Town Hall, Oxford Street, Workington.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Bagshaw'.

Chris Bagshaw
Town Clerk

AGENDA

1. Apologies

To receive and accept any apologies. If accepted, apologies will be considered to be for reasons approved by the Council under the terms of Local Government Act 1972, s85.

2. Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations of interest relating to matters which appear on this agenda, but which have not been previously declared on members' declarations of pecuniary interest and other interests.

3. Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

To consider whether there are any agenda items during consideration of which the press and public should be excluded.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

To receive the minutes of the meeting on 4 June 2019 and affirm them as a true record.

5. Funding and Grants Proposals

Proposer: Active Cumbria

Project title: Workington on Wheels primary programme

Aim: To develop participation in cycling with young people

Amount proposed: £2,500

Suggested budget heading: Sport

Note: Further supporting documentation has been requested.

6. Curwen Historical Fair

To receive a Presentation from David Park on his proposal for a Curwen Fair.

Background

David Park is an experienced Events practitioner and has a proposal for a new event in Hall Park. He is pitching this to the Town Council and has also been in discussion with staff at Allerdale Borough Council, the landowners in Hall Park.

7. Black Sabbath Plaque

To receive an updated report from a member on the proposal to erect a plaque commemorating the 'first gig' of the band Black Sabbath, in Workington in 1969.

8. Ballad of Lucy Sands

To consider if the Council can offer any support to the film-makers of The Ballad of Lucy Sands.

Background

A letter from the Director explains the details of their requirements (appended to this agenda). The Council has powers to support the arts in a fairly broad sense, which would cover this project (s145, Local Government Act, 1972). It is unclear however, what current budget heading the Council would use to fund a venture of this nature.

9. Workington and District Twinning Association

a) To receive an update from the Association on its Council-funded activities.

Background

The Workington and District Twinning Association receives a grant of £5,000 in the current financial year to support the promotion of the town's twinning relationship with the community of Val de Reuil in France and Selm in Germany. Both twinings are now over 20 years old. Additionally the Town Council gives administrative support to the association, currently through the Town Clerk, since the departure of the Assistant Town Clerk in 2018.

b) To appoint delegates to the Association's Executive.

Up to their agm on 11 July, the Workington and District Twinning Association was theoretically run by a 12 strong Executive Committee, six members of which were Workington Town councillors, plus various ex-officio current and past mayors and deputies. However, in reality the committee has very seldom had that many active members (only four councillors were appointed in 2017), and the Association is proposing to reduce the size of the Committee to match existing circumstances. They are proposing to reduce the ordinary councillor membership to two, with the serving Mayor and Deputy continuing as ex-officio.

Nothing will preclude serving councillors from taking up other Executive slots, they just won't be council appointees. The Association currently has a membership of around 50 people from around Workington, Seaton, Maryport and Cockermouth.

10. Events Programme 2019

To receive a brief verbal update on the Events Programme for 2019.

Background

Events remaining this year include family fun days, the Festival of Running, the Harrington Kite Festival and the Town Green celebration. The Council is also involved with the Walking for Health Initiative in Vulcan Park, in conjunction with Cumbria County Council.

11. Events Programme 2020

To consider ideas for the Events Programme 2020.

Background

Following the continued success of the Shakespeare performances in Hall Park, the Committee should consider whether the Council wishes to book Oddsocks again for 2020. Currently they are available for the similar Thursday/Friday slot on 25-26 June 2020. The general cost of the booking is around £2.5k per performance.

The last meeting asked for other suggestions for the coming year.

12. Jane Pit Miners' Memorial

To receive a brief verbal update on the project to establish a memorial to the Mineworkers of Workington at Jane Pit.

Background

The Application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund was unsuccessful in its second part (the first part had been successful in attracting funding of over £30k to develop the project). Lottery staff are planning to visit us again in August 2019 to look at the Council's options, as they appeared fairly happy with the content of the bid, but felt it did not have enough elements to win a very competitive bidding process. The June funding was awarded as follows:

- Show Town: The Museum of Fun and Entertainment in Blackpool: £4 million
- Bradford Live – just under £1m to help transform Bradford's Odeon into a world-class commercially sustainable 4,000 capacity entertainment venue
- Stockton Town Centre Northern Gateway – just over £1.8m to 'complete the jigsaw' of heritage-led regeneration and redevelopment in the town centre.
- The Whitaker Experience – just over £1.7m to re-imagine a key museum for Rossendale as part of its tourism and regeneration strategy
- Dippy on Tour - £159,000 to see the North West play host to the Natural History Museum's most famous dinosaur

- Durham Woodland Revival: restoring woodland habitats in Durham - £434,200 grant
- Seeing the North with Sankey: Rescuing, sharing and celebrating a unique photographic archive. Signal Film and Media, Barrow-in-Furness - £234,700 grant
- Windows to the World: St Mary's Church, Barnard Castle - £320,500 grant

The capital works element of the bid was for around £190k. This is the minimum amount of money we would require to stabilise and renovate the pit head buildings. As show, it would have been the smallest of the 'large' capital grants, but was too large to be considered 'small'.

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Appendix A

Ballad of Lucy Sands

The following text is from an email from the Producer/Director of the film from July 2019:

Here's what we are proposing to do if we can get the funding for filming in Workington.

We would need 5 days in the town to complete the block of on location filming, this would involve various locations around the town and evening shoots in the grounds of the Helena Thompson Museum for the more sensitive murder scenes. Using the museum as the backdrop to the Harrisons household. It would involve a couple of public areas needing being cleared of vehicles, and the odd road being closed when we film on it, but these areas would be only needed for a few hours maximum, except the Square near to Christian street which may need to be used for a good half day. We can remove new road signs and yellow lines in post editing but cars tend to be a little harder to remove successfully.

Obviously we would be needing actors and locals to help with background movement, we would draft them in a day or so before each planned shoot,

We have full EL and PL insurance cover will be able to reccie any sites we plan to use and formulate a risk assessment for each beforehand and provide copies of these to the council.

In return for any investment from the local council or local organisations we would be planning on holding 4 x specialist workshops per day - from 11am till 1pm over the course of the week we would be on site. We have the ground and rooms of the Helena Thompson Museum open to us for these activities.

Our actors and Crew are planning on giving workshops on the following:

Ideally we'd like a core of 60 people to swap and change the courses each day so that a strong core of around 60 people could learn 3 of the skills we are offering workshops in, Leaving the younger children to just one days session, so we'd probably be looking at having 80 different children in for those classes over the week,

The workshops would include:

Hair, Make Up and SFX - Michele Bromley SFX and make up for films. (aged 16+)

My session would include some basic sfx, bruising, cuts, character transformation with hair for male and female - Victorian style to be in keeping with our characters. and a demo of an injury using prosthetics which I'll pre make. this will be a hands on session with all materials provided.

Improv drama and acting - lead by Tamsin and Abby (from very young to 16)

Improv Drama and acting for the younger attendees- which would include the use of costume, props and locations, along with acting classes and playwriting.

Scriptwriting, and formatting your ideas to work with stage and screen - Steve, Millie and Olivia (aged 14+)

A workshop where we can show people how to get access to free scriptwriting software, how to format and then write up an idea, based on ideas, characters and locations. The only limitations would be your imagination, A laptop or tablet would be needed for each person in attendance - we would ask each person to bring their own.

Camera, Lighting and Filming and editing - Kieran, Max and Millie (aged 16+)

This workshop would start at the very beginning of filming process, showing a group how the camera works, how the lighting can change the mood of a subject, and how to film the piece like a pro. We can then go onto showing the basic editing techniques for the pieces that the participants have shot. We are happy to work with anyone who wishes to learn how to use their own cameras for video, a Canon EOS 50 will record video to a decent standard and costs in the region of around 150.00 nowadays, and also we can advise on phone video making, Film making doesn't have to break the bank.

We would have at least 2 chaperones on site at all times for the younger audiences.

The cost of the trip to Cumbria is not cheap.

We would be bringing along a dozen actors and crew and putting them up in a hotel close to Workington where i have already secured some very good rates for double occupancy rooms.

Here's the full breakdown of costs etc.

As this shoot would be kept to a smaller than usual sized crowd and cast to keep expenses to a manageable level. We would arrive with a minimal crew of two cameramen, one make up artist and I myself would double up as director, occasional sound recordist, and clapper board operator, but we should be able to bring in two final year students from Gloucester to help here and with the workshops.. If any locals would like to garner some on set experience, then we would be more than willing to enlist them and give them training, expenses and credits on the film.

Our 1st AD would be on site too, but as she also plays the part of Jane Shannon - a friend of Lucy's who lived in the grapes yard back in 1882, we would be utilising her eyes and ears and expertise in background during the course of this proposed shoot. The cast would consist of around a dozen actors, half of whom would be coming and going over the course of the 4 - 5 days we would be filming in the area. Only a core of around 6 actors would be on set full time during the period.

So we anticipate that we would need to book 6 rooms for accommodation for the duration of this shoot, which I have secured a firm figure of £60 per double occupancy per room per night plus breakfast from the hotel (a family run one) at Broughton Craggs near Workington. The hotel (although not central in the town) allows us the space to spread out and gives the cast the time to use the hotels lounges and grounds to remove themselves from modern day trappings and rehearse and enact their pieces out in relative privacy. It also gives us ample car parking and the safety of leaving equipment inside the vehicles overnight, plus we have been given full permission to use their grounds and premises at no extra charges for filming in. The costs for the hotel would run to no more than 1800.00 for the week we would be in attendance. The cast and crew would be working on a basis of expenses only for the duration of the stay. We anticipate that this would be in the region of around £1000 - £1200.00 covering fuel and train costs for actors to get to and from the location. We would also need to cover the catering for the crew and cast. Both on set and off. This would run to around £120.00 per day, between. £500 - £600 for the duration. We have also to factor in costs for locations. We know that our kind friends at the Helena Thompson museum would be willing to waive any fees, but as we would be using electricity and their facilities during our shoots there, a donation would be made to cover these expenses. Some locations would

charge for the use of their premises, and we may need to increase our insurance for this shoot, as our equipment will not be kept in its usual place. So for this we have added in a further £500 to cover such contingencies. For local people who wish to get involved, we are offering various roles over the course of that week. From helping with the crew - depending on experience? We would be able to offer roles from simply being a runner, to more advanced placements. These placements could be offered to existing film students or to locals who wish to find a foothold in the filming industry. The pay would be the same as our existing crew, expenses and catering, but IMDb credits and use of footage plus their names in the production list would be available to them. When it comes to cast, we have a number of male and female speaking parts available. We need to bring in more Cumbrian accents, there is no better way of doing this than drafting in local talent to play certain speaking roles, and locals to help play in the background roles too, an essential part of filming to animate the towns backdrop in this film. As with the main cast these actors and supporting artists would be paid expenses and be fed and watered during their sessions on set. The background sessions would be open to all ages and sexes, so this opens up a whole new avenue for both budding and experienced actors who are trying to get a foothold in the filming industry. Children under 18 would need to have their chaperone on set with them at all times. Our insurance covers all people employed on set, and safety inductions are given to each and every person we bring into this film. We also ensure that our child protection policy is provided to each chaperone we bring on set. The expenses for these people could easily run into £500, food, drink, specialist costume hire etc. We will also have to costume some supporting artists so this may also cost us in the region of around £500.00. The total including a contingency fund of a further 500.00 to cover any unforeseen circumstances would be close to £5600.00. It would not go over this figure, and any residue funds gathered from within the area of Cumbria we may find ourselves with after the filming, would be apportioned to various charities around the area. We don't believe that one counties contributions to the filming should fund the filming in a different area, we want to ensure that this film has been fair to its contributors. All the money spent would be spent in local amenities around the vicinity, we would be supporting the independents over the chains, so any costume hire would be sought from local theatre groups and payment would be made straight to them, rather than to a company such as Angels in London. As with food, local establishments will benefit from this, not major chains. We are an ethical production company who prefer to leave a very green carbon footprint and wish to support as many of the local independent establishments during the course of our filming as possible. The aim of this film is to primarily bring the case of Lucy Sands murder in 1881 to a close, it has been left unsolved for over 137 years and justice needs to be served, and her restless soul needs to be allowed to rest. Through my research I have uncovered enough evidence to see the murderer and his accomplice hang. Sadly they are both long since dead, so the only way of clearing this case is by bringing her sad story back to the now, and telling it as it happened that night in a factual and respectful (to her memory) manner, in short, we aim to tell her story and finally give her the justice she was never given in 1882.

I do have some funds left from my original investment of £15000.00 which I set aside for kickstarting this film. I am a firm believer in putting my money where my mouth is and showing what we can do on a strict budget with a crew and cast who firmly believe in what we are doing here. We are not in this to make money, nor for fame or ego, but to bring Lucy's story to the world and finally name the perpetrators who did the deed 137 years ago. The filming to date is approximately 56% completed, I have spent around £13000.00 to date, filming in the areas of Cornwall and Devon. There are 3 more shoots planned for Devon before we come to Cumbria, this will bring us to around the 68 - 70% completion mark. Workington scenes and locations will add a further 20 - 22% to that total, so it would be bringing the films completion to just under 90% - a further 7 days spent on pick ups and final scenes would then bring this to a close. and then the editing starts! Once completed, this film will go on general release, if at first we don't get it picked up by the distributors we would take the film on tour around independent cinemas and hire the cinema for special one off

screenings. We have a growing network around the country who support independent filmmakers already interested in this idea.

We firmly believe that the story of Lucy Sands can make the grade and could be picked Up by the nationals, in which case we have already decided that 40% of all profits raised from this film will be set aside for a community charitable trust in Lucy's name, no payments will be made to its directors, it will be run on a voluntary basis and all counties that have supported this film will be in line for funding from its coffers of local community projects. This I believe would be a fitting end to this film, keeping her memory alive for generations to come. I hope this information is of use to your committee?

Regards

Steve Baldwin
Director - *The Ballad of Lucy Sands*

[The text of a subsequent email is shown below in answer to a number of queries.]

I have been in touch with Creative England and unfortunately none of their current programmes support what we are doing. There are a couple of regional offices around the country, but typically, they don't exist where the filming is taking place. So they can't help out with any funding unless we are using the midlands or Yorkshire as our backdrop. and thats not on our agenda.

Cumbria LEP I'm still waiting to hear from? I will give them a nudge today to see if there is any development on their side? But I would have thought that thy'd have jumped on this had it been of interest to them?

Sellafield community Grants - tried them too, but they aren't funding anything to do with the arts, just community projects which we don't come under.

BFI - looking at applying to them but am awaiting the necessary forms from them - and that's going to be quite hit and miss due to the fact that I've started filming and am past the half way mark? You'd think with a track record like mine and the investment I've made, they'd be more interested in looking into what we are doing and how we've done it on such a small budget and consider helping? but they seem to want to throw money at projects that haven't even started and which may never get off the ground? I'm still trying to figure the logic in all of this? its not computing at all? But this show will go on. With a cast and crew now totalling over 150 people we are all determined to make it happen... one way or another?

I'll let you know how I get on with Cumbria LEP and the BFI, but I'm not holding my breath for any cash injections, I'll remain optimistic about it all, but thats all I can do.

Regards
Steve Baldwin
The Ballad of Lucy Sands