

Issues that arose during discussion with the Chair and Vice-Chair considering the content of the draft scoping document for the New Towns Heritage Centre

- This review is perhaps something that could be done in stages the first stage is about supporting the vision/bid stage up to Dec with draft recommendations/report
- Officers (Jo/Geoff/Annie) to prepare a brief presentation to CSC Members for 21 September meeting on what the bid process and visioning stage is about and where CSC Members input can help
- First stage is about the type of Heritage Centre would be envisioned for Stevenage – a destination place for the story of the New Towns but also relevant to everyday people of Stevenage – the detail of what would be in it the who and the what would be to follow
- It's not just about the building but about approaches to Stevenage and how can we build interest and entice people to visit it – QR codes on approaches to the town, interactive experience, holograms in open spaces/on buildings in the town square. Push the boundaries of the physical museum
- Tell the story of the New Towns and what it was like for the pioneers from London – oral histories
- Members would like to be engaged in asking residents what they would like in a Heritage Centre? Simple survey? What is unique and quintessentially associated with Stevenage? Make use of Facebook pages or other social media to engage (Check with SBC Communications team to see if they can assist?)
- Build a digital heritage/local history map – 'who lived here?' – crowd sourcing to edit and fill
- Consider using an advertisement in the Comet to engage local people (Rob to investigate?)
- Consider involving the Comet re their digital archive?
- In terms of the Scoping document – (i) alongside the aspiration to engage young people in this project – ask Schools how they would like to be engaged? (ii) How are we using what we already have at the Museum? (iii) What do residents want? (iv) Access to Stevenage's cultural heritage – how to promote it? (v) confirm that the legacy aspiration for the project is to build something long term

Timeline for first stage of the review:

- CSC Meeting on 21 September – receive presentation, agree scope, engage members in lead roles for their own research
- Carry out a couple of site visits to other Heritage Centre Museums (Sep/Oct)
- Some of the CSC Members to work informally together outside of the main formal Committee meetings to progress the review – Scrutiny Officer to assist and co-ordinate following the 21 Sep meeting (Sep/Oct)
- Late October (date to be advised) main CSC Committee to meet and report back on progress from site visits and informal working group
- Tuesday 30 November – early recommendations/draft report
- Thursday 16 December – Report and recommendations for first stage of the review

An early action for the Museum Manager is to advise on 2 or 3 possibilities for a site visit suggestions for CSC Members to visit a Heritage Museum? It is hoped that these visits can spark ideas etc. They would need to be done in Sep/Oct so would have to move fast to do this. This maybe something we offer and can sort out rail tickets (depending on the venues)? Some Members may choose to go under their own steam if they can't make any suggested visit dates re work commitments etc. It is hoped that by the 21 September meeting officers are able to advise on a few suggestions at the meeting.