

Cyngor Tref
Rhuddlan
Town Council

Minutes of Library Working Group Meeting

Held on 11th July 2024 at Rhuddlan Library

Present:

Cllr Gareth Rowlands (Chairperson)
Cllr Val Simmons (Mayor)
Cllr Mike Elgin
Cllr Mike Kermode
Mathew Baker (DCC Libraries)
Deborah Owen (DCC Principal Librarian)
Richard Polden (Rhuddlan Local History Society)
Carly Davies (DCC Museums)
Steve Wilson - Clerk

1. Apologies

None

2. Declaration of Interest

None given

3. Discussions

Cllr Gareth Rowlands welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

The following items were identified and discussed in relation to the project:

1. Whether this will be actually be museum as a museum must have a core collection of items it cares for/preserves/makes available/builds up? The core collection can be started but the museum will need to be active in collection and will need to have a collection strategy and policy & procedure. A better route would be a Heritage display/exhibition.
2. Building would need to be of museum standard if it was going to loan artifacts from other museums for display. This would include a secure storage facility.
3. Group needs to explore the "National Museum Standards" as these would need to be met to become an accredited museum. It is worth seeing which part of these standards could be built into the construction without affecting the costs.
4. Potential to use "Micro-museum" which is essentially a case within a case.
5. Corwen and Llangollen are volunteer run accredited museums. Also worth looking a Rhyl museum and Denbigh's "Wireless in Wales" Museum which is also accredited.
6. Solid insulated floor
7. Security, fire protection and CCTV
8. Heating – upscale existing library heating system/renewables such as solar panels
9. Ownership of new building DCC/RTC/Local Trust? – could impact grants

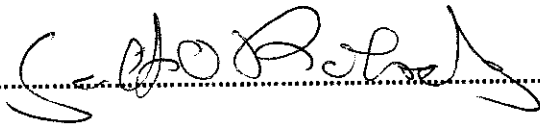
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10. Future maintenance – who is responsible
11. Complexity of requirements, e.g. do we need humidity control etc?
12. Opening hours outside of normal library opening hours – could volunteers open it up for pre-booked groups?
13. Who are the museum potential visitors:
 - a. Residents
 - b. Local and other schools
 - c. Visitors
 - d. Tourists
14. Does the library have a theme (like Rhyl) or is it a flexible space?
15. Outside as well as inside?
16. Shared entrance with existing library and shared staff and utilities
17. Available rear building space is 25.3m long by 9.5m width at widest point and 8.1m width at narrowest point
18. Side space is 21.3m x 16.5m
19. Impact of life span of existing library building
20. Freestanding as bolt on could be difficult due to maintenance of existing library, conclusion was we would investigate and determine best solution
21. Single storey
22. Maximise available wall space for displays
23. Use of electronic displays as these are easier to change
24. Possible permanent displays with remaining area being a flexible space
25. Opening hours and impact on potential grant applications
26. Importance of sustainability of the existing library
27. Consultation with potential users such as schools (important to demonstrate for grant applications)
28. Fund a consultancy report on the feasibility of the project
29. Stakeholder group? School/cadw/local businesses
30. A café could help sustainability
31. Exhibition programme to keep fresh and sustain visitor numbers
32. Link with Rhuddlan Castle.

The next steps are as follows:

- Ensure no planning issues regarding location and construction. Need to ensure it is doable.
- Meeting with Gary Richards Principal Architectural Manager at DCC
- Visit Corwen, Mold and Llangollen Museums
- Investigate "Museum standards"

Date of next meeting Thursday 12th September at 9am at Rhuddlan Library.

Signed  Cllr Gareth Rowlands

12/09/24