

Heritage Network for the town

1. Purpose of the report

1.1 To propose and agree to set up and facilitate a support network for all the Heritage and history groups in town.

2. Background

2.1 There are a number of groups in Malmesbury, which were set up to either raise awareness of the history of the town, or to engage in activities that the public can access (like talks, seminars, musical events, etc) and to educate the public.

2.2 These groups include the Civic Trust, the Museum, the History Society, the Wessex Week group and the Thomas Hobbes Society.

2.3 At the moment they pursue their activities largely independently of each other, and may end up replicating the same pieces of work or tasks, possibly incurring costs as a result of working in separately.

3. Proposal

3.1 That the Community and Town Promotions Committee agree to set up and facilitate networking meetings for these groups, so that they can talk about their projects and help each other if appropriate.

3.2 That C&TP host the meetings in the Town Hall.

3.3 That there is no charge to the participants for this meeting.

3.4 That the cost of the meeting for the Town Council is limited to tea and biscuits.

3.5 That the meetings be held twice a year.

4. Costs

4.1 The loss of revenue for the room booked to host the meetings

4.2 The cost of hot drinks and biscuits

5. Risks

5.1 That the current history groups in Malmesbury won't engage with each other and make best use of the network.

6. Recommendation

6.1 That the committee agree to set up such a network and allocate a Councillor to facilitate the network, and further agree on communications to the relevant groups.