

BDC Meeting - Sunday 7th January 2007

Present: Sheila Maxey, Roo Bull, David Williams, Steve James,
Trev Darley, Ann Froggatt

Apologies: Livvy Hodgson, Barbara Dyer

Opening prayer: Steve James

1. Report and update:

1. RB went through her BDC Review paper (see attached), and acknowledged the hard work done by many since September 2005 – and before. Andrew Pears and Trev on buildings, Rupert budgeting and finance, Roo on Business planning, Ann, Dave S and Barbara on background work on leaflets and youth and outreach. Many of the initial objectives had been achieved.
2. Ann recapped briefly on her paper (see attached), and emphasised that she thought it important to keep lines of communication open and transparent.
3. There was a discussion about the feelings and ideas of all members; Sheila was to take our thoughts and ideas to the January Trustees meeting.
4. The Buildings sub group of the BDC has been temporarily 'put to sleep' as they need to await the money being available before further choices and decisions were needed on the Bank. It was agreed that the sub-group had very good and relevant skills and they had already done a lot of work on plans and costs with the professionals, and would be reactivated in the future. This group has a communication line to the Trustees rather than Executive, and it will be dealing with large sums of money.
5. The Buildings sub group has no further role in the electricity project. This is part of the BDC's unfinished business, and to be dealt with through the BDC, reporting to the Trustees. The choice between three tenders would be made for the work on bringing in mains electricity soon.
6. Staffing was the other unfinished BDC business. They were to oversee the appointment of Manager, Deputy Manager and Cook/catering co-ordinator. So far we only have the Manager in post.
7. Roo is a paid officer of Othona - Bradwell Development Officer – for the next 6 months spending 80% of her time on pushing forward fundraising, mainly in finding funding from grant giving bodies.

2. Discussion:

1. It was generally agreed that when BDC has finished its job then it should end, and that there may or may not be felt a need for there to be another group doing similar over viewing or strategy work but not with the same remit. SJ made the suggestion that the BDC could be combined with the Executive, but this was not generally agreed with.
2. SM noted that there was a 24 hr facilitated Trustees Meeting coming up in March, when they would be considering the governance of Othona and looking at

the Trust Deeds. She thought we should be restrained about any changes until after then.

3. It was agreed that keeping lines of communication open was still important, and that this was being embedded by SM and Roo writing updates in Full Circle and the E-zine. A database of members and interested visitors was important. Some communication was official and some was word of mouth and personal contact – see fundraising. It was important to ensure that everyone with an interest, whether closely involved or not, had access to the same, correct information, and an official fixed point of reference.
4. The group discussed putting its minutes on the website for all to see, this was agreed. Members of BDC would be circulated with minutes and they were to let the Chair know if there were any alterations to be made and then within 2 weeks they would be sent to Gareth for him to put up on website as 'agreed minutes'.
5. DW said that when he first came he had thought BDC should merge with the Exec but now saw BDC taking forward the issues of mains electricity and staffing. He thought the Exec should have a seat specifically for a 'youth', and maybe try to co-opt a young person onto it.

3. Proposal: Roo agreed to put forward a proposal to the Trustees that the BDC be continued for another 6 months until it has completed its 2 outstanding jobs, staffing and mains electricity, with possibly another 2 or 3 meetings. All members were willing to stay on BDC for next 6 months.

SM would put this to the Trustees at their January meeting, but reiterated that Trustees had final say on the matter.

It was felt that there was no need for further combined BDC and Exec meetings, SJ could report back to Exec.

Date of next BDC meeting: – Monday 26th March 10.00am, at Bradwell.