



TRANSPORTED

Transported Open Meeting Minutes Wednesday 22 April 2015

Dennis Bell, Chair of the Transported Management Group, introduced a performance by Rhubarb Theatre of "Bookworms", which will be on the mobile and at some static libraries, and at some community events this year.

He says this is the second of the open meetings to be held.

Dennis talks through a set of slides (Transported Open Meeting Statistics 04-2015 PDF)

A film is shown about a project Transported undertook with local company Elsoms last year:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DFcsnjKFQTQ>

Simon Hollingworth introduced himself as chair of the panel, and asked the panel to explain their involvement with Transported:

Paul Floyd Blake, artist who worked on a Transported project at Fenside Community Centre where portraits of its users were put on the side of the building. Described his project in Fenside. Initial drop in sessions at the Centre didn't work so he went out into the community instead. He photographed seventy people, and they told him their histories. It was a lovely, warm experience – any assumptions about the area were dispersed as everyone was so welcoming and engaging. It has definitely had an impact, as there have been lots of comments.

Mick Taylor from Taylor Itex – Taylor Itex took on the management of the Fenside Community Centre. Fenside has a bad reputation but actually it's a great place to be. They have made improvements but people didn't know they were there. People said art would get trashed but there has only been one small piece of vandalism – and they now have a centre which has a real community in the fabric of the building itself.

Liz Kelleher, head of art at Spalding High School – approached by Elizabeth Bergeron, Transported Arts Engagement Worker. She describes how the dance group from Elsoms Seeds went into the school so students could get an understanding of the creative process, which was really beneficial to them. There was also a Feathers Workshop with the year 10s as part of ongoing project with the RSPB and the maquettes from artists applying to do a piece of art for a Spalding Art Trail had also been displayed in the school. A short film from the school is shown:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-FQloemYal4>

Annette Coddington, participant – talked about her participation in the Taster session workshops, and more. She has persuaded her friends to join in as well. She would love to be able to carry on with more arts activity.

Simon asks Melanie Ebbage and Katie Baxter of Elsoms what difference Transported made to their company:

Melanie – It has left staff more open-minded. They have plans for another project this year. The staff are keen, it wasn't as scary as expected when they realised it was about their contribution not them contributing by being in it.

Katie – It was a real talking point as people were involved from all aspects of the company. They have learnt about the history and what other people in the company do. It has brought them together.

Simon asks Mick what specific things have happened for him and the Centre. Mick says there has been positive publicity, and that's nice. The centre now stands out. It opens up new questions when people come to the centre, and it leads to storytelling. It is valuable and it has given it a new life, as is not just any community centre now.

Paul – He didn't want to impose on the community. He wanted their voices to come through. He put together a photo album with their own old photos and new photos, elevating their voice and creativity, and showing the validity of what they do.

Annette – Activity being in more local areas really encourages people to get involved, and because the workshops are going to different places it helps the villages.

Liz – it is important for the students to engage with stuff on the ground: great encouragement as well as being fundamentally important as the students are the next generation.

Simon asks "What are the main challenges to keep the momentum going?"

Katie says time is a challenge. Easier if people can get involved during work time, as that is a good route in.

Mick – people want to know how they get involved. How do we continue that involvement? What continuation can we plan for?

Simon asked what they would say to people considering getting involved but who are tentative about it.

Melanie – just give it a try.

Katie – Let people know that they can contribute what they want, even in just a small way. It's so rewarding. I'm still playing violin [after playing in the Elsoms performance piece] and my husband even bought me a new bow for my birthday!

Liz – needs to become part of the culture, part of daily life. We need to find opportunities to keep the momentum going.

Simon thanked the panel for their contribution and handed back to Dennis.

Dennis says that Transported is a journey:

Phase I was consultation.

Phase II was taking good experiences out to people, taking art to unexpected places.

Phase III is happening now. The project was funded for 3 years. The programme has shifted its focus to involve activities which stand the best chance of being sustained. Transported needs clear values,

partnerships and the opportunity to empower people. We have simplified the programme, cut back on admin and are working hard at evaluation with MB to demonstrate that we are having an impact.

Funding will finish at Christmas but the Arts Council have put money aside for 3 more years. There is a pot of money which we can apply for. We will have to wait to apply until early to mid-May after Purdah to find out more. Applications will need to be submitted in July. We will need to put a substantial bid together quickly and will consult with people like yourselves as much as is possible in such a tight timescale. The results will be announced in October. We will also need to put money in ourselves so we must generate more funding to keep Transported going. It will take 6 years to see real results. Thousands of people have seen great art in Boston Borough and South Holland and we look forward to the rest of the year.

Dennis introduces Nick Jones and Elaine Knight, Transported Programme Directors, and James Urquhart from Arts Council England:

James hopes the audience have been impressed by the activities. He talks about Grants for the Arts – a rolling programme with open access. Anyone can put in an application. He says one of the measures of success of a CPP project is if there has been an increase in the number of GFTA applications in our area. He gives details and the criteria and says anyone can talk to him later. They can fund almost any art activity except film or formal curriculum education.

Dennis reads out a question: Whilst there have been some music events why do they seem to be aimed at the young? Elaine responds by saying it is difficult with resources and time scale and a big geographical area to do everything. What we have provided is based on the Consultation Phase, and there wasn't the same level of response to music as other artforms. However, we hope to compile a directory of professional and voluntary arts groups this year who can signpost people to the appropriate place, as there is already a lot out there. An audience member says that the Spalding Links website will post the finished directory. James suggests that any interested parties could stand as a promoter in villages for the Rural Touring Network. Elaine says that Fen Boy will be returning in the autumn so there will be opportunities for anyone wishing to be a promoter there too.

Liz mentions networking, promoting and music. She talks about the upcoming event to unveil the new mural artworks at the Holbeach Cemetary Chapels on 16 May, which is a Transported project but which she has organised bands to be at to add to the event.

Dennis reads out another question: Are there gaps for performance poetry in the community? Elaine says that not many people in the consultation responded to this niche area. Nick adds that one of the Taster sessions is creative writing so there is potential for it to be set up as a group.

Music in quiet places is also suggested. Nick says we have already planned this year but could put people in contact with other groups that may be interested in this.

Dennis says we will put things on with partners to make Transported more sustainable.

An audience member talks of events in other parts of Lincolnshire, such as arts events in pubs. Elaine says that list would be included in the directory. James asks if there is a public appetite. He suggests talking to Transported.

Elaine talks about the Voluntary and Professional Arts meetings coming up in May and June.

Mick asks how does Transported plan to sustain itself if the funding isn't available? Nick replies by saying we will sustain the consequence of Transported rather than Transported itself. Mick asks what

happens if Fenside want to use arts skills to help employment in the arts. Nick says we haven't anything like that in the programme at the moment but partnerships will be really important. Elaine says we have had internships and work experience opportunities to help young people gain skills. Mick says he wouldn't know where to send someone to get work experience in the arts. Elaine says there could be opportunities in T2.

Liz says there is a gap for young people to develop their skills after school. She wants to bring together a group of people to form an arts centre. Liz says that Spalding could be a centre for the arts. There isn't that culture or the facilities at the moment. Elaine says it is difficult to get people to apply for jobs and move here.

Mick says it is a fabulous idea to teach people how to promote events.

Dennis thanked everyone for attending and brought the meeting to a close.