



Le Quesnoy Sister City Committee Minutes

Time: 5.00pm
Date: Monday, 15 August 2016
Venue: Committee Room, Cambridge Service Centre
Waipa District Council
23 Wilson Street, Cambridge

1 PRESENT

Members

John Bishop, Acting Chairperson

Elwyn Andree-Wiltens, Julie Epps (Cambridge Community Board), Sue Pickering, Tom Pickering, Toni Eames, Miriam Farrell, Brian Farrell, Sebastien Lemercier

RESOLVED

That due to the absence of the Chairperson, John Bishop to reside as Acting Chairperson at this meeting.

Epps/Andree-Wiltens

Visitors

Paul Murphy, Cambridge Brass Band

Marie Coles, Business Development Manager, The Innovative Travel Company

In Attendance

Noelene Barr, Committee Secretary

2 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED

That the apologies for absence from Delysse Storey, Sue Milner, Linda Robinson, Mike Pettit, Grant Middlemiss and Philip Coles be received.

S Pickering/Epps

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

File: 180-06-05/3

Minutes of the Meeting held 20 June 2016 were included in the agenda.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held 20 June 2016, as circulated with the agenda, be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

Andree-Wiltens/Eames





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Matter Arising

3.1 Bastille Day – Thursday 14 July 2016

Julie Epps thanked everyone for their involvement in “Bonjour Bastille Day” which included the information stall, a display at the Cambridge Library, Customer Support staff dressed in French attire at the Cambridge Service Centre of the Waipa District Council, the Cambridge Town Hall and clock tower lit in French colours, cafes offering French food and restaurants involved in the progressive dinner in the evening; good feedback was received from those involved. The town now has a petanque court for use at the Cambridge Bowling Club.

John Bishop thanked Julie Epps and Grant Middlemiss for organising the event which is contributing to raising the profile of the Sister City relationship within the town.

Bastille Day 2017 – Friday, 14 July

Paul Murphy queried if the committee would like the Cambridge Brass Band to hold a concert to commemorate Bastille Day next year.

An evening concert would suit the band members which could commence at 7.00pm, preceded by nibbles at 6.00pm with dinner to follow the concert. Paul also offered two opera singers as part of the concert.

St Andrew’s Church would be an ideal venue as it has good acoustics and an historical link to Le Quesnoy. Committee members agreed the concert was a good idea and confirmed the booking with the Cambridge Brass Band.

Julie Epps said that 4 November is a significant date for Le Quesnoy which needed to be commemorated in some way again this year; last year a lunch was held.

4 INWARDS CORRESPONDENCE

4.1 Resignation / Alliance Francaise de Hamilton Representative

A letter from Anne Lee resigning from the committee and recommending Linda Robinson as the future representative of Alliance Francaise de Hamilton was included in the agenda.

RESOLVED

That the letter dated 19 June 2016 from Anne Lee be received and recommend to the Cambridge Community Board that Linda Robinson be appointed to the committee as representative of Alliance Francaise de Hamilton.

Eames/Andree-Wiltens





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Julie Epps said that she had met with Linda Robinson and the President of the Alliance Francaise de Hamilton. Further discussions will be held how the two groups could work closer together in the future and queried if anyone else wished to be involved.

5 LE QUESNOY NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION – VISIT TO CAMBRIDGE, FEBRUARY 2017

The delegation from Le Quesnoy will be visiting Cambridge from 17 to 20 February 2017. The delegation arrives in Christchurch on 8 February 2017 and depart from Auckland, 23 February 2017; the itinerary was distributed separately to the agenda.

The list of delegates and hosts, which was distributed separately to the agenda, was confirmed at the meeting. The working group consisting of Sue Milner, Linda Robinson, John Bishop and Mike Pettit will meet to compile an itinerary for the delegation during their visit to Cambridge.

6 PROPOSED VISIT TO LE QUESNOY 2018

Paul Murphy, Cambridge Brass Band

Paul Murphy outlined the band's proposed trip to Le Quesnoy in 2018 to take part in the commemorations of the 100th Anniversary of the liberation of the town on 4th November and Armistice on 11th November. The travelling party could potentially consist of 50 travellers who would pay their own fares; the band is currently fundraising for the trip to cover other costs. The band intends to arrive in France on 1st November and between 5th and 8th November will be available to play concerts at schools and rest homes; the band will return to New Zealand on 13th November. Chartering a plane has been suggested and booking accommodation is a priority.

There will be a strong presence of New Zealand Defence Force staff in Le Quesnoy along with members of the New Zealand Government.

Marie Coles, Business Development Manager, The Innovative Travel Company

Marie Coles provided an overview of her role and The Innovative Travel Company which is based in Christchurch and has been in business for 26 years. The company specialises in battlefield tours with destinations such as Crete, Beersheba, El Alamein, Monte Cassino, Gallipoli and the Western Front. Included on their staff are French nationals who have valuable knowledge and contacts.

Private charters require a large deposit in advance which will depend on the numbers attending. Previous group trips have indicated that travellers flew on different airlines to fit in with their individual plans. Marie offered to put together a package including air fares, accommodation and sightseeing; booking accommodation should be a priority. Day trips can be organised on the days between the 4th and 11th November with groups having different itineraries.





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Paul Murphy said that the band could be split into two or three groups on each bus and could play concerts along the way and be available to play the Last Post.

Herb Farrant organises Battlefield Tours each April and would be an excellent tour guide, however it is unknown if he's planning to be in Le Quesnoy in November 2018.

John Bishop suggested that a programme be compiled including the price to enable expressions of interest to be gained. Bookings for accommodation in particular, should be done as soon as possible due to the large numbers of people expected in the area.

Details relating to commemorations planned in Le Quesnoy can be obtained from the Le Quesnoy delegation visiting in February.

Marie Coles to compile a group package departing from New Zealand and a land only group package to provide flexibility.

To enable the travelling groups to be coordinated and for ease of communication, Paul Murphy to be appointed to the committee.

Paul Murphy asked for suggestions regarding music that could be played in Le Quesnoy and for Bastille Day next year.

7 GENERAL

7.1 Government Subsidy – Descendants of New Zealand Soldiers

Brian Farrell queried if there were subsidies available for descendants of New Zealand soldiers who fought in the Battle of Le Quesnoy as these were available for descendants of soldiers who fought at Gallipoli.

The New Zealand / France Friendship Fund could be another avenue for funding.

7.2 Liberation of Le Quesnoy – Friday, 4 November 2016

A picnic or barbeque and petanque was suggested to commemorate the liberation of Le Quesnoy on Friday evening, 4 November 2016.

This could be included with Alfresco Bites which is held in the Leamington Domain on Friday nights during the summer months; it could include a French theme. Julie Epps to enquire.





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7.3 100th Anniversary of the Liberation of Le Quesnoy – November 2018

The Armistice in Cambridge Committee has obtained funding for projects and activities to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the liberation of Le Quesnoy in November 2018. Julie Epps queried at what point does the committee became involved to assist with organising some of the events and advised that there is a shortfall of funds.

As a lot of people intend to be in Le Quesnoy for this occasion, both committees needed to work together to organise the event. To be discussed further at the meeting of the Cambridge Community Board.

7.4 Sculpture for 2018 Celebrations

An email from Liz Stolwyk of the Armistice in Cambridge Committee was circulated at the meeting which suggested that during the visit of the Le Quesnoy delegation in February 2017 that either the site or the materials for the sculpture are blessed which would be the start of the sculpture project.

RESOLVED

That the Le Quesnoy Sister City Committee recommend to the Cambridge Community Board that the site for the sculpture, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the liberation of Le Quesnoy, in the oak arboretum be identified by council staff to enable a blessing to take place in February 2017 during the visit of the Le Quesnoy delegation.

Epps/Andree-Wiltens

8 NEXT MEETING

To be held on Monday, 10 October 2016.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.13pm.

CHAIRPERSON _____

DATE _____

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

