

JOINT MUSEUMS COMMITTEE 9 NOVEMBER 2016

TICKENHILL TRUST

Recommendation

1. **The Museums General Manager recommends that:**
 - a) **the commissioning of further work to develop the potential of the Tickenhill Trust be approved; and**
 - b) **the commitment of up to £3,000 from the Museum Reserve be agreed for this purpose.**

Background

2. The Tickenhill Trust was established in the 1950's to manage and care for the collections of JF Parker who lived at Tickenhill Manor, Bewdley, in the early 20th century. JF Parker and his wife amassed several collections of importance and owned a private museum at Tickenhill. They were central in the movement to record the ways of rural life and work as it went through significant change in the early 20th century.
3. The collection was declared a charitable trust in 1958 with the following purpose:

"the care and conservation of the objects, records and associated information from the Tickenhill Collection and the use of that collection for public benefit through display and educational activities"
4. Following Mr Parker's death, a home for the collection in the North wing of the Bishop's Palace at Hartlebury was offered to the County Council as the base for a new County Museum, which opened in May 1966. In 1970 the responsibilities of the Tickenhill Trustees were transferred to the County Council, which then became the sole trustee.
5. Since that time the County Museum collection has continued to grow but with the Tickenhill collection at its core and with the Tickenhill Charity still in place.
6. A preliminary report has been commissioned to assess the operation of the charity, in the context of Museums Worcestershire and its current and future operations and requirements, specifically in relation to fiscal benefits and fundraising. This report identified some key issues to be addressed as barriers to the Tickenhill Charity assuming a more active role in the development of the service and the County Museum.
7. The tasks include clarifying the extent and location of space occupied by the Tickenhill collection and reflecting this area of occupation, and the relationship between the County Council, the Trust and Museums Worcestershire, in a formal management

agreement. There are also issues identified in relation to governance, accounting and branding which require further action.

8. In view of the potential financial and operational benefits arising from the Tickenhill Charity playing a more active role, it is proposed that further exploration of these issues be undertaken through the commissioning of specialist advice and support. The resources for this are not available within the services' current revenue budget. It is therefore proposed that a sum be approved from the Museums Worcestershire Service reserve, up to a limit of £3000, to commission the work as an "invest to save" project. A further report will be presented to the Joint Committee on completion.

Contact Points

Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765

Email: worcestershirehub@worcestershire.gov.uk

Specific Contact Points for this report

Iain Rutherford

Tel: 01905 361821

Email: irutherford@worcestershire.gov.uk

Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Museums General Manager) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Museums Worcestershire – The Tickenhill Collection report (2016)