



Report to
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

17th April, 2013

Report of
Councillor D.Kershaw

Title
Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies – Albany Theatre Trust

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report sets out details of the work of the Albany Trust over the preceding twelve months and details of attendance by the City Council's representatives

2 Recommendations

Councillor David Kershaw should continue to be nominated as a Director of the Albany Trust, to ensure active representation of the Local Authority in this critical area of cultural and educational developments in the City of Coventry. Also to oversee the continuing effective use of Local Authority grants.

3 Information on Work of Outside Body

Since its formation the Albany Trust has achieved the following :

- The theatre has been re-opened – over 80 volunteers have donated over £100,000 worth of time and expertise.
- £30,000 worth of labour of love donated by an experienced group of electricians – the electrics were in part unsafe and needed upgrading.
- Three groups per week of former offenders (eight per group) on 'Community Payback' supervised by the Probation Service since the start of December (twelve weeks). As a result a couple have been inspired to get involved in their own time.
- A grant of £38,000 from Coventry City Council and £30,000 from MCD (Coventry) Limited
- Matched by donations of materials and equipment from local businesses and friends of the theatre.
- Over 200 local business people, civic leaders and Friends of the Theatre attended our launch event, hosted by Coventry and Warwickshire First, on February 1st 2013.
- Box Office system installed.
- Website launched – www.albanytheatre.co.uk
- Conference Venue package working with Premier Inn
- Started with four founder Directors; three have moved on – now have eight Directors: David Meredith; Diana Dodd (both members of Earlsdon Labour party btw0; Laurence Moore (owner of Prime Accountants; James Wadey (North Europe Sales Director, Cummins Generators Limited); Derek Wanley (H&S professional); Claudia Temple (also fundraising); Jason Culverwell (also Acting Theatre Manager) and Councillor David Kershaw (Local Authority).

What the Albany Trust want to do in the near future.

- Securing entertainment licence.
- Negotiating charitable status with Commission – application lodged.
- Negotiating lease.
- Planning for a bar/café – this is a self-contained project.
- Developing a management and support system for volunteers – Front of House, Box Office etc.
- Planning to offer graduate trainee positions.
- Programming Advisory Group – led by Steve and Sarah Boden (Image Theatre – they run the Belgrade panto) .
- Developing a model for the long term sustainability of the Trust – probably a ‘membership’ that allows people to vote for Trustees.
- Develop a policy and strategy to become ‘the theatre for the community we create’: raise sponsorship to support the arts in the community and in education. This is going to be the really exciting part of the work.
- Develop a film club.

In the pipeline

Imminent shows

- Brendan Shine - March 12th
- Spon End’s Got Talent - March 30th
- Gala Performance - March 23rd/24th
- Central School of Dance - April 3rd/4th
- Guildhall – Oliver! - April 23rd/27th

120 + nights now booked in the next twelve months (average use before closure – 110 nights).

What we need

- Director with HR experience.
- To employ staff (on permanent contracts – all salary estimates include ‘on costs’):
 - * Theatre Manager (c. £36k)
 - * Technical Manager (c. 28k)
 - * Deputy Technical Manager (c. 20K – initially may be part- time/freelance)
 - * Marketing (c. 23k)
 - * Fundraising (c.23k)
 - * A community manager
- To raise 130,000 in sponsorship to pay for the first year salary of these staff.
- Sponsorship for specific activities, eg:
 - ‘Green’ the theatre
 - Projector for films
 - The bar project
 - To support our work in the community

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

A Theatre saved for the cultural and educational benefit of the people of Coventry but with a focus on young people.

When Coventry City Council, responding to a powerful local campaign led tirelessly by Alan Biddle, the former Head of Coventry’s Centre for the Performing Arts, included a Section 106 condition in the planning permission to redevelop the site of the former Coventry Technical College, the Albany Theatre was saved. Claudia Temple, employed part-time by the Council, kept the flame alive during the dark days. She pulled together a Shadow

Board that met and plotted, talked, planned and then formed a Limited Company – The Albany Theatre Tryst. That was just over a year ago. Three of the original four Director Trustees stepped down during that year. They have been replaced, the Board has grown: we now have eight Directors. We have indeed re-opened. From the outside, it might look like a simple job well done. But this is a gargantuan task. The Trust has only just started.

5 What Financial Contribution Does the Council Make to this Organisation

In 2012/13 Coventry City Council contributed £38,000.

6 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

6.1 Coventry City Council's representative on the Albany Theatre Trust is Councillor Kershaw. From March, 2012 Councillor Kershaw was entitled to attend eight meetings of which he attended three.

6.2 There is no remuneration associated with this appointment.

List of background papers

Proper officer:

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None

Papers open to Public Inspection

Description of paper

Schedule of City Council Appointments to outside Bodies

Location: CH59