REPORT FOR INFORMATION BULLETIN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject:</th>
<th>Elmbridge Museum Update</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Lead Officer:</td>
<td>Head of Leisure and Cultural Services</td>
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<td>Portfolio Holder:</td>
<td>Councillor Janet Turner</td>
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<td>Link to Council Priorities:</td>
<td>LCS2, LCS4</td>
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<td>Exempt information:</td>
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<td>Delegated status:</td>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report provides an update on some of the recent partnership projects the Museum has developed, and the rotating programme of exhibitions/displays for 2017/2018.

REPORT:

1. Background

1.1 The Museum aims to use its collections more actively to produce positive impacts with and in the local communities. Our ambition is to ensure that people of all ages across the borough have access to the Elmbridge Museum collections.

The museum team is working in different ways to take the collections out into the community and making them more accessible to the residents. To that effect, we have expanded our community engagement programme by acquiring 2 new permanent display cases and 2 mobile display cases, and developed a scheduled and rotating programme of exhibitions/displays for 2017/2018. A copy is attached at appendix A.

1.2 Officers have been working towards the vision of ‘bringing heritage to the heart of our community’ and the current position is as follows.

2. Partnership projects

2.1 The team has secured a new permanent museum display case at Brooklands College. The Museum will be working in collaboration with design and art students, and the first partnership display project will be about changes in design and brands’ packaging. The display will show how design and advertising has changed through the years, and be in place from June 2017. It poses the question –‘What is it that adverts are trying to sell? The image of the packaging or the prestige of the product?’

We will be developing a rotating exhibition programme with subjects relevant to, or suggested by the students. We will be working together with students on joint projects/pop-up events/curating exhibitions etc. linking our collections with subjects such design, art, and fashion.
2.2 The Museum will start a trial programme of rotating displays in some of the Community Centres. We will begin at **Weybridge Community Day Centre** where we will have a mobile display for a period of 2 months, from July to August.

The intention of the display ‘Weybridge High Street, Past and Present’ will be to excite the curiosity of everyone that will look at the items. This will spark curiosity and start conversations amongst people and stimulate memories. The associated events will be a way of exploring together answers to their questions and stimulate a discussion about the themes; as well as providing a time where people can meet each other, have a chat and at the end feel stimulated and connected through the session and the objects.

2.3 Exploring the idea of wellbeing and trying to encourage new audiences to engage with our collections, from October 2017 we will have a museum presence at the **Medicine Gardens, Cobham**. This partnership project will start with a display of Miss Harting’s watercolours in two museum mobile display cases. We will also be working together on events with other artists based at the site, and try to link our collections to their favourite objects, from ceramics to jewellery and fashion.

2.4 One mobile case will be placed at **Xcel Leisure Centre, Walton**. Outreach sessions will be developed to accompany the display ‘Swimming Clubs in Walton’ so that both the Museum and the Xcel can work with school on shared activities.

2.5 The museum team is also working in several partnership projects with **RC Sherriff, RiverHouse Barn** and **EBC Arts Development**. Projects include;

- *Moving Art* with a display of artists’ works at the Civic September,
- *WW1 postcards* working with schools,
- *Walton Walking Map* – using our collections as information and illustration

3. **Programme of rotating exhibitions**

3.1 Following on the idea of a museum brochure for the exhibition and learning programme, the Museum has now published an online and a hard copy version of the new brochure for May-Aug 2017. A copy is attached at Appendix B.

3.2 From May to September our latest exhibition at the Civic Centre, **Everyday Heroines** explores the lives of eight Elmbridge women, showing what a diverse, long-lasting, and impactful influence these women have had on Elmbridge and the wider world. Objects from our collections illustrate the stories of these women; from princesses to militant suffragettes, and the supporting legend associated with them.
This exhibition is part of the Surrey Museums Month 2017, which this year celebrates Surrey women and their impact on their local area.

3.3 **THE Write On!!** exhibition in Walton Library until September 2017 shows how our ways to communicate with each other have changed through time, from Victorian writing slates and gold plated pens to the birth of computerized word processing.

3.4 **Youthful & Truthful** is running in the Dittons Library until October 2017 and takes a fresh look at children’s literature to see how it has influenced different forms of story-telling.

3.5 **Changing Domestic** on at Cobham library until July 2017 charts the ways kitchens have been equipped and used through the ages.

3.6 On the 10th anniversary of the UK smoking ban, Elmbridge Museum unlocks its collection of smoking equipment and paraphernalia. **Puffing Along: 10 years on** will be up in Cobham Library from August 2017.

3.7 At the Civic Centre in the stairwell space next to the Elmbridge Borough Map we will have a **Museum Highlights** display taking place from the end of May 2017.

**Financial Implications:**
None for the purpose of this report.

**Environmental/Sustainability Implications:**
None for the purpose of this report.

**Legal Implications:**
None for the purpose of this report.

**Equality Implications:**
None for the purpose of this report.

**Risk Implications:**
None for the purpose of this report.

**Community Safety Implications:**
None for the purpose of this report.

**Principal Consultees:**
None for the purpose of this report.

**Background papers:**
None for the purpose of this report.

**Enclosures/Appendices:**
Appendix A – Display schedule 2017-2018
Appendix B – Museum Brochure May – August 2017
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