

Friends of Bewdley Museum Report for Annual Town Meeting

Securing the Museum's Future

Plans have been outlined to establish Bewdley museum as a fully independent trust. Wyre Forest District Council is considering the move in an effort to secure the future of the award winning attraction. The plans include transferring the town's Guildhall and QEII Gardens to the new trust.

The proposals would see a museum trust set up on a sustainable financial footing and would include a grant agreement for the new trust. This would be worth several hundred thousand pounds a year. The plans would also see any collection items owned by the existing charity or by the council transferred to the new museum trust.

Councillor Helen Dyke, Wyre Forest District Council's Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Community Protection said:

"We know what an important asset Bewdley Museum is to the district as a whole. In 2019 it attracted more than 200,000 visits. The site is also home to a tourist information centre and the town's art gallery and provides a venue for many activities.

"As the economic pressures on Wyre Forest District Council continue to increase, we are looking for the best way to make sure the museum, Guildhall and QEII Gardens remain key features of our district. We believe by creating a museum trust with a board of trustees with the relevant skills we would be giving the museum the best chance to develop further."

The Friends Committee will work closely with the District Council to support and assist all possible ways to secure the new future.

Membership Renewals 2021

The Friends of Bewdley Museum are offering free membership until the end of March 2022.

To keep in touch with developments and receive email correspondence please visit <https://www.bewdleymuseum.org.uk> and follow the links to join or contact info@bewdleymuseum.org.

Penny Griffiths

Vice Chair - The Friends of Bewdley Museum.