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|  | **Chain Bridge Forge**  **High St**  **Spalding**  **Lincs**  **PE11 1TX** |

**Response to areas of improvement from initial Accreditation**

**Chain Bridge Forge Museum AN2297**

**Status - Full Accreditation.**

Areas for improvement (2011 Standard) and response

**1.2 Governance:**

* consider registration as a charity with the Charities Commission when financial threshold is achieved

*Chain Bridge Forge have reorganised there offering so that The Friends of Chain Bridge Forge are primarily responsible for delivering Blacksmithing and oversight of a new charity called South Holland Life which is responsible for Art in the community. Online local history and Innovation in a museum context.*

* review section 19 of the governance document to explicitly define the form of remuneration permitted and exclude collections from this, based on the clear policy direction of the existing collections development policy.

*Governance documentation updated to comply with requirement.*

* in the event of the collection of Geoff Dodd being gifted to the museum, review governance arrangements to ensure long term protection of the collection, including the addition of powers to hold and develop a collection of material associated with the Chain Bridge Forge and Blacksmithing in Spalding, and/or the development of a separate collections holding Trust to support the existing objects.

*The Forge have purchased these items and they are now in the ownership of The Friends of Chain Bridge Forge. Local history items have also been included and they are under the management of South Holland Life.*

**1.3 Succession planning**: develop succession planning in support of constitution and forward planning, linking with strategies to increase membership and participation from the local, and wider interest community.

*Succession Planning is an ongoing issue post COVID. The creation of South Holland Life has brought in new Trustees to the organisation and in the coming year we will develop each strand of the organisations. M*

**1.4 Forward planning:**

* in support of sustainability objective, develop a longer term (3-5 year) overarching museum plan/strategy, to support current annual planning, and provide the longer view.

*The Forge is an agile organisation reacting to the changing environment to reflect the volatility of a voluntary organisation. The Forge has survived COVID in good shape and we have created a plan attached which reflects our planning.*

* consider including summary of consultation and analysis of views within body of forward plan. *During the period we have had two consultancy projects National Trust and LORIC. Both have reports which are available for review.*
* report activity to develop a sustainable business model following HLF investment.

*The Forge this year are celebrating 10 years since its inception. The unique selling point for the Forge is the building and our Blacksmithing. The Forge markets this capability and offer restoration, repairs, commissions and tasters.*

* consider registering for GIFT AID as part of the development of a sustainable business model

*Various Finance Directors have looked at the process involved in Gift Aid and the potential return, all have concluded that it isn’t worth the work involved.*

**1.7 Workforce:** include safeguarding as a specific element of the induction checklist.

*Safeguarding has been incorporated into personnel procedures*

**1.10 Environmental policy:** review current statement to connect it to the collections care and conservation policy.

*The environment policy has been updated to reflect the environment at the Forge which is open to the elements and has extremes of temperature and other environmental factors on a daily basis as it has since the late 1700s. As we have no method of controlling the environment, controls and monitoring become irrelevant.*

**2.2 Collections development policy:**

* review criteria relating to items with no provenance, consider associated risks and related collections management costs

*1) We have listed our collection for accession purposes and have identified items with no provenance. The Forge also recognise we have a handling collection which is used Blacksmith and volunteers for active demonstrations. We have now have in place an acquisition and disposal policy which through the use of object entry forms prevents any further material entering the Forge without Provence*

*2) WE have a Collection Development Policy (Acquisition and Disposal) which has been agreed by the board.*

*3) Future developments of eco friendly Blacksmith workshop to minimise the need to burn fossil fuels will again modify how the collection is displayed.*

* reconsider policy to not collect archaeological remains, particularly considering the stated identification of pre-17 century foundation remains, and the likelihood that material may be forthcoming in future years.

*The items have been added to the eHive online database*

**2.5 Documentation:** confirm completion of stage four backlogs (accession register, security copy, marking and/or labelling, location/movement control and indexing) by 30/06

*The collection has evolved since its inception in part because we now have an offsite store and the emphasis on commercial work has resulted in a thinning of the artefacts. The Forge is an agile space reflecting the business needs. Currently we have had to move our off site store and the catalogue needs updating to reflect this new location.*

**3.1.5 Access assessments and response:** collate all existing access assessment activity and review to ensure broad coverage and that all appropriate and practicable adjustments have been made, or can be planned for.

*Due to COVID we have been restricted in our assessment of customer needs. However we have commissioned two studies.*

1. *Working Together- The plan was to bring a number of small attractions together and share management and marketing. The consultants were National Trust. Sadly this didn’t work.*
2. *LORIC – Bishop Grosseteste have conducted a study into marketing.*

*Reports are available to support this work.*

*Our Access Plan is always under review as we try to juggle the demands of a commercial workshop which preserves the craft of Blacksmithing with that of a visitor attraction. As the Blacksmith has become more successful these issues have worsened. So we are in the process of gaining approval to build an Eco workshop for the commercial work and return the Forge to just a heritage attraction which offers demonstrations and tasters.*

**3.2.2 Orientation:** investigate methods of improving external signage to the museum, particularly walking access from the station.

*Attempts to get the map altered have failed and some of the brown signs have been removed. We have included a map on our leaflet, the website includes a map and active use of social media to promote the Forge seems to bring rewards.*

*We have also successfully delivered an arts project funded by Arts Council which has created an art feature at the front of the Forge. The project also installed art features at Moulton Mill and Pinchbeck Pumping Museum.*