

Hayle Area Plan Partnership
HERITAGE, CULTURE & ENVIRONMENT DELIVERY GROUP
Held at Passmore Edwards Institute on 7 April 2009

PRESENT:

John Bennett	Chair	Jane Sharp	HAPP Manager
John Pollard	HAPP	Claire Casey	HAPP
Georgina Schofield	Archive	Margaret Tanner	Hayle in Bloom
Tom E King		Ray Wyse	
Derek Elliott			

1. Apologies

Ian Toy, Laura Christon, Bob Mims, Mick Hanley

2. Chairman's Welcome

The chairman welcomed those present and pointed out that the meeting was to be concerned with history in connection with the Ladysmith Garden and Hayle's connection with the Boer War.

3. Hayle Connections with the Boer War – links with Harvey's of Hayle activities in South Africa and current plans to replant the Ladysmith Memorial Garden

John Pollard said that he was representing Laura Christon who was unable to attend.

A general discussion ensued regarding the Boer War and Hayle's connection with it which at present is uncertain as there was no specific entry in the Book of Cornwall Infantry of any Hayle men who died at Ladysmith. It is known that the Harvey's had connections with South Africa and that their pumping engines had been supplied for use in the mines. Cornish miners also migrated to pass on their expertise. The reason behind the naming of the Ladysmith Memorial Garden in Hayle is unclear although it is thought that it was so named in remembrance of the nephew of ?? who was wounded in the Boer War (1899 – 1902) and that it was felt that, in fact, it was a memorial to all the people involved in the war. John Bennett suggested that there should be a plaque for the garden. He also spoke of the terrible loss of life at Ladysmith due to the incompetence of the leadership and that it was towards the end of the War that the British had the first ever concentration camp. It was thought that perhaps there might not have been many men from Hayle involved but that relatives of those involved might have been living in Hayle. The Title Deeds for the land at Ladysmith Memorial Gardens might be of some use in ascertaining the connection. It was suggested that Brian Sullivan be contacted to ascertain his knowledge of the facts.

Georgina pointed out that names from the mines in South Africa had filtered through to Hayle with the naming of Terraces and houses, eg Luke Terrace, Beatrice Terrace.

It was suggested that perhaps the Masonic Lodge might have some information as a "father figure" helping people who came back from South Africa.

John Bennett mused as to where the name "Ladysmith" in South Africa originated and it was agreed that this be researched. John then asked Margaret to speak about Hayle in Bloom's connection with Ladysmith Memorial Garden.

Margaret spoke of the neglected state of the garden and how it needs a lot of things to put it right including money. John Bennett pointed out that it had been discussed at Hayle in Bloom meetings and it was decided not to do anything this year. Margaret explained that she was raising the matter as she had been approached by Laura Christon with regard to reinstating the garden because of its significance with the Boer War. It was clarified that this had first been muted by a contact from Hayle in Bloom to Laura at Harvey's Foundry Trust and not instigated by Laura.

Ray Wyse suggested that first the site needed clearing perhaps by volunteers from the County Probation Service and for a survey to be undertaken to establish which plants could be saved. It was also put forward that Marshall Hutchins of Duchy College be contacted for advice on landscaping and perhaps utilization of some of the students to help with the project using plants from South Africa. Permission would need to be sought of Hayle Town Council with regard to clearing etc. With regard to Britain in Bloom competition the judges would be satisfied with seeing that this was a future project rather than it having to be completed this year. It was agreed that if Marshall was willing to come along within the next month then some work could possibly go ahead this year.

John Bennett stated that it was an area of land that greeted people on their arrival at Hayle Station but that they could not really see it and that it was in need of renovation.

Georgina thought that there were no old photographs of the garden and it would be good if perhaps one with someone sitting on the bench could be found. It was suggested that the Archive group might be able to help.

Jane Sharp said that she or Tatia Mitchell would look at the Small Grand Awards for All which might pay for the design and plants, and possible for a plaque.

John Bennett closed the discussion saying that it was hoped that the restoration of garden would progress.

4. Any Other Business

- a. It was noted that with the change to the Unitary Authority it has not been possible for anything to be prepared for the discussion Copperhouse Dock but that the officers would now be able to get the research done ready for the next meeting.
- b. Ray Wyse raised the issue and importance of the old railway cutting at the back of his house and the sand run off which he thought was probably the only one of its kind in the British Isles. John Bennett informed the meeting that with regard to the land he had had a letter from the solicitors that the application for the Village Green was not within the time scale for applying as it was three months short of the 20 years usage required. He felt that it was unlikely to be successful. The history of ownership and its future potential as a Village Green was discussed. The significance of the sand trap was emphasized and the fact that it was listed in the inventory by the archivist archaeologist. It was agreed that a railway expert was needed to investigate further.

Jane Sharp pointed out that Railtrack did not like the area being crossed to get to the road and that it was noted that it was only closed a couple of years ago. John Bennett said that ING needed it to be reopened for their works.

Georgina stated that the building next to the swing bridge still housed all the mechanism for the swing bridge and that it was a shame that this was not to be retained or restored.

- c. Ray Wyse put forward the importance of the very early cross section rail track on the North Quay and that some of this should be preserved. John Pollard thought that the track was not of great importance but that he would look into it. It was suggested again that railway expert and a representative from the archaeological service come and record details before it gets covered up and that perhaps a section could be retained and placed in the museum.
- d. Margaret Tanner reported on the entrance to Hayle opposite Jewsons and the need for the edge of the ING car park to be tidied up as the gorse was messy. She also described the dilapidated state of the planted boat at the entrance on Jewson's side. It was remarked that this was in fact a green planting area and that the boat had been chosen for its disintegration capability. She suggested that perhaps the Probation Service could provide volunteers to repaint the boat.
- e. Ray Wyse reported that the high wall on the western approach to Hayle, which belongs to Hayle Town Council and has been maintained by Penwith District Council, is in a dangerous state of repair and wondered who is now responsible for its upkeep with the new One Cornwall authority.

5. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting is to take place on Tuesday 2 June 2009 at 7.30 pm. The Agenda will be passed around and actions reported back on. John Bennett thanked all present and closed the meeting.

Meeting Closed 8.30 pm

Actions

- 1. Brian Sullivan be contacted to ascertain his knowledge of Hayle's connection with Ladysmith**
- 2. The Masonic Lodge be contacted to see if there are any records of their helping people who came back from South Africa**
- 3. Marshall Hutchins of Duchy College be contacted for advice on landscaping Ladysmith Memorial Garden and the use of some of the students to help with the project using plants from South Africa**
- 4. Jane Sharp /Tatia Mitchell to look at the Small Grant Awards for All with regard to the design and plants and possible for a plaque.**
- 5. A railway expert to be contacted regarding:**
 - a. The Sand Trap**
 - b. The cross section line on North Quay**
 - c. The Swing Bridge mechanism**
- 6. John Pollard to look into the history of the railway track on North Quay**