

BATTLE MUSEUM OF LOCAL HISTORY

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Dear Councillors

Battle Town Council and Battle Museum: a joint agenda?

I write as Chairman of Battle Museum of Local History, one of the town's longest established community charities, to raise a few areas where we think we can work constructively with the new Battle Town Council for the benefit of the town over the next few years. Some Councillors will be familiar with Museum issues but new Councillors may not.

We promote the town and its heritage to 14,000 visitors a year and to 50,000 who use the Museum's website annually. We would be happy to share heritage materials for use on the Council's website. We would welcome discussions about how the Museum's promotional role will mesh in with the Council's new tourist information office. Guy Portelli has recently asked the Museum to help out with publicity for the 1066 sculpture.

We work successfully with local schools, especially Battle and Langton, to organise tours of the Museum. We sometimes use rooms in the Almonry as part of the arrangements, free of charge. It will be beneficial, in the context of the well-publicised and parlous state of school funding, if this continued, assuming that in the redeveloped Almonry there are suitable facilities.

The Museum also works closely with Battle's elderly community, the recent sell-out Museum book "Battle at War 1939-45" being an example of our work with this age group which has been recognised by the Rotary Club of Battle as helping to tackle loneliness. A photographic exhibition in the Library in August and September, will build on this.

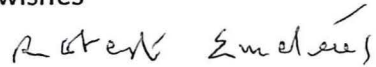
When the project is decided and the details clearer, we would like to discuss with the Council the progress of work on the Almonry and its likely impact on the Museum. We gather there is a willingness to schedule the heavy disruptive work during the Museum's closed season from November to March.

We would appreciate the Council coming back to us on our 2018 proposal for an extension of our peppercorn lease extension, currently due to end in 2027 on a basis agreed at the time with the HLF. Long term investment in the quality of our exhibitions to attract visitors

to the town, requires us to be able to demonstrate a long term perspective in occupation of the building. We are writing to Carol about this.

Perhaps when the new Council has had time to settle down, I on behalf of the Museum, could have an informal meeting with the Mayor?

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert Emeleus". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R' and a long, sweeping underline.

Robert Emeleus

Chairman

Battle Museum of Local History