

Runcorn Town Team
Tuesday 28th January 2014 at 6pm
Boat Club, Victoria Road, Runcorn

Agenda

Start 6pm

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Minutes from previous meeting (*5 minutes*)
3. Presentation 'Recommendations for the future of town centres, and how we can go forward in Runcorn' by Cllr Norman Plumpton Walsh (*10 minutes*)
4. Review of work to date and moving forward (*90 minutes*)
5. High Street Innovation Fund
 - a. Discussion of grant applications (*10 minutes*)
 - i. Business Start-Up Scheme
 - ii. Commercial Property Renewal Scheme
6. Any Other Business (*5 minutes*)
7. Date of Next Meeting

End 8pm

Runcorn Town Team – Achievements to date (20th January 2014)

What we want to achieve (taken from terms of reference)

Establish Runcorn Town Centre as a unique destination for everyone.

We shall deliver this by:-

- *Establishing a more family friendly destination based on its historic character.*
- *Offering what the big shopping mall and supermarkets cannot by providing for the day to day shopping needs of its immediate catchment area as well as a wider focus for local independent niche retailers and service providers.*

We want to sustain and future-proof our existing town centre offer, whilst developing new markets, uses and businesses in a safe, accessible and attractive environment.

Funding and initiatives

High Street Innovation Fund: £100,000 awarded in May 2012 and allocated to the Town Team. Table below summarises the initiatives the Town Team has taken forward and funds committed to date.

Initiative	Allocated (£)	Committed (£)	Remaining (£)
Environmental Improvements	10,300	10,300	0
<i>Grot spots</i>	<i>2,000</i>	<i>2,000</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Public art</i>	<i>6,000</i>	<i>6,000</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Graffiti removal</i>	<i>2,000</i>	<i>2,000</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Bench relocation</i>	<i>300</i>	<i>300</i>	<i>0</i>
Signage	1,000	0	1,000
Commercial Property Renewal Grant	50,000	43,106	6,894
Business Start Up Grant	25,000	8,600	16,400
Market Support	5,000	4,375	625
Fake shop fronts	3,000	3,000	0
Christmas Festival	2,738	2,738	0
Contingency	2,962	200	2,762
Total	100,000	72,319	27,681

Summary of each initiative:-

Environmental Improvements (committed spend £10,300)

Grots spots – One off treatment of over grown areas of vegetation in the town centre

Public art – Public art programme planned for 2014. CO3 dance event in Spring, plant pots with Hazlehurst over the summer and Suitcase Ensemble drama production in Autumn

Graffiti Removal – annual contract with Youth Graffiti Solutions for adhoc graffiti removal in the town centre. Will be renewed in April 2014 for another year.

Bench relocation – bench on High Street turned to face mural.

Signage (£1,000) – initial scheme of general improvements turned down by Highways. Funding kept aside in case an opportunity arose.

Grant Schemes

Commercial Property Renewal Grant stats (£43,106)

- 16 grants awarded
- 4 withdrawn (Booze Buster, Power In Partnership, Wild Rowes, Sheek Boutique)
- 8 completed (Jake Alexander, Sefton House, Hazlehurst Craft Studios, Hair Bern, Runcorn Angling Centre, Sweet Memories, Taylor Hair and Beauty Spa and 67 Church Street)
- 4 on going – Wat Phra Singh, 62-64 Church Street, Chameleon and 79 Church St/1 Regent Street (a.k.a Synergy)

Business Start Up Grant stats (£8,600)

- 7 grants awarded
- 3 complete and trading (Sweet Memories, Taylors Hair & Beauty Spa and Hair Bern)
- 1 on-going (Chameleon, property purchase hoping to complete end of January)
- All awarded frontage grant too
- 3 withdrawn (Style Factory, Sheek Boutique and Wild Rowes)

Market Support (£4,375)

- Mural painted
- Canvas bags produced and distributed
- Minibus branded to promote market for 12 months

Fake shop fronts (£3,000)

3 properties (see below) identified for a fake shop front to improve appearance. Theme will be museum/gallery relating to the history of Runcorn. City Dressing will be working with All Saints CofE Primary School on designs.

- 19-23 Church Street (Former Senga Furniture Building)
- 69 Church Street (Washington Upholstery)
- 63 High Street (Springers)

Christmas Festival (£2,738)

Funded new concrete tree base for Church Street, paid for 2013 Christmas tree and covered costs associated with highways licences for Christmas Market and light switch on.