

Runcorn Town Team Minutes
Wednesday 4th June 2014
6pm All Saints Church, Church Street

Attendees

Name	Organisation
Town Team	
Cllr Ron Hignett	HBC Physical Environment Portfolio Holder
Wesley Rourke	Operational Director Economy, Enterprise and Property
Gary Shaw	Trader
Graham Wallace	Runcorn Locks Restoration Society
John Egan	Market Trader
Tony Collacott	Wat Phra Singh UK
Ann Turner Culverhouse	Resident
Cllr Pauline Sinnott	HBC Mersey Ward Cllr
Cllr John Gerrard	HBC Mersey Ward Cllr
Syd Broxton	T H Brown Trust
Rev Vicki Schofield	St Michael & All Angels
Cllr Norman Plumpton Walsh	HBC Mersey Ward Cllr
Si Swanick	Resident
Guest Speaker	
Claire Pitt	Hazlehurst Studios
Halton Borough Council Officers	
Jennifer Carr	Regeneration Officer
Sara Munikwa	Regeneration Manager

Apologies

Town Team	
Claire Bradbury	Power in Partnership
Alison Gleave	Halton Voluntary Action / resident
Gary Buckles	PCSO
Brian Lunt	Trader
Neil McLoughlin	Market Trader
Maria Tarn	Hazlehurst Craft Studios

1.0 Introductions

Chair, Councillor Norman Plumpton Walsh (NPW), welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2.0 Minutes from previous meeting

The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

3.0 Guest Speaker – Claire Pitt, Hazlehurst Studios

Claire (CP) provided a summary of the Old Town Bloom project. The project is looking to position painted tin cans potted with flowers around areas of the Old Town. Hazlehurst are working with HBC to identify suitable areas around the Old Town.

Tin cans will be painted by members of the community and some will be painted with images of famous people from the Town. Going to try and link the project in with WWI anniversary on 4th August and the Todger Jones statue launch. Looking to eventually have a community garden established, maybe even grow veg in the future.

NPW asked how the Town Team can get involved.

CP – need the team to help sign post to people who can help and will want to get involved.

Wesley Rourke (WR) offered help with PR through the Council and suggested CP see if there are contact details held by HBC for the allotment societies in the borough.

Jennifer Carr (JC) JC explained a market stall has been offered to Hazlehurst to set up for the day and encourage passers-by to paint tin cans.

Graham Wallace (GW) will speak to members of the Boat Club to see if they are interested in painting some tin cans.

CP explained the Canal Boat Adventure Project are involved and have volunteered to help maintain the tins.

If any members would like to contact Claire her email address is crpitt@gmail.com

4.0 Grant Applications

NPW explained no applications were received but an enquiry had been made regarding the availability of a start-up grant for a new cake business on High Street in the former fancy dress shop but no further information had been received before the meeting.

Gary Shaw (GS) explained the gentleman had spoken to him about the difficulties he had had downloading the information from the Town team website. GS therefore asked if an email consideration of an application from the gentleman could be considered. This was agreed.

5.0 Walk Around

JC confirmed a summary note has been produced which focuses on the overall walk and then the key points in each section. Cllr Hignett confirmed this will be shared with HBC senior officers.

WR added that there is a possibility of identified priorities being incorporated in the Runcorn BID strategy which Karl Clawley spoke about at the previous Town Team meeting.

A proposed action plan of tasks the Town Team may be able to implement will be brought to the next meeting.

Action: HBC officers to review walk around feedback and produce a costed action plan for the next Town Team meeting

6.0 Updates

JC provided an update of live projects

6.1 Grants

- Chameleon (tapas restaurant) – work is progressing with the internal improvements. Start Up grant has been claimed following completion of the electrical works and majority of the plastering in the property. The frontage grant will be claimed when works are completed hopefully at the end of June.
- HAFS have completed their works and claimed the grant. They have also offered their meeting room as a possible venue for a future Town Team meeting.
- Mersey Bridge View – preparing a planning application for the sign at the side of the building. Awaiting further information (further quotations for signage and external painting) before grant can be confirmed.
- Halton Carers – they have submitted their planning applications. Any surplus in the funding pot will be given to Halton Carers towards the new doors to the property. This figure currently stands at £2,742.91 (the cost of the doors is estimated at £12,000)
- Roof on 62/64 Church Street is complete and the majority of grant has been claimed.
- Intuition Spa and Training – In the process of signing the lease for the property
- Synergy – approaching completion.

6.2 Runcorn Market

JC explained the market leaflet is awaiting final design amendments and will go to print in the near future. Plastic bags have been delivered to be sold by the Markets Team to Runcorn Traders at £10 per 1000 bags.

JE asked when they will be sold and can they be sold to traders on Widnes Market.

Action: SM to raise question with Markets team.

6.3 Arts Programme

- **Old Town Bloom:** Update provided by CP
- **CO3:** New Roots which is a dance and poetry performance will take place on Saturday 14th June. Workshops have been held with volunteers from the Runcorn community to take part. The performance will move around the Old Town from one place to another and all are welcome to attend. It will start at 1pm. Likely start place is the Brindley but this is to be confirmed.

GS questioned promotion of this and other activities. Need to be more proactive in promoting events. JC to chase a poster for the CO3 performance to circulate.

Action: JC to speak to CO3 for a promotional poster and confirmation of starting place.

Suggestion made for an events list to be shared at each Town Team meeting for upcoming events. This can then be displayed in the noticeboard once this is put in place by Iceland (noticeboard will replace existing out of date map). The Town Team will be in control of what is placed in the noticeboard to monitor use and keep it up to date with relevant information.

Action: HBC to produce events list for future meetings

An article for Intouch has been discussed at the Council. This will feature in the Autumn edition promoting the work and achievements of the Town Team and what the Old Town has to offer.

- **Suitcase Ensemble:** their performance will take place in October/November. Work to develop the idea is ongoing

JC is also working with Louise Hesketh at the Brindley to see if an exhibition of images and poetry from the 2014 Runcorn Town Team Arts Programme can take place at the Brindley in December.

6.4 Fake shop fronts

All Saints have produced art work for the Senga building this is now with City Dressing to complete the design work.

NP explained that because City Dressing has not been able to identify the owners of both Springers and Washington Upholstery, there is a risk that the owners will

appear after the work has been done and ask for it to be removed. The Town Team need to decide if it is willing to take this risk

SB believes the Camden buildings are the biggest eyesore in the Old Town.

Tony Collacott (TC) suggested seeing what contact details business rates are charged to.

CP raised that she has recently seen children climbing over the back of the Camden Building.

WR explained for the Council to take action against the owners of any building there needs to be a building control issue. Gas Store and Open Kitchen are the only open occupiers. The Council owns the properties at either end.

Ann Turner-Culverhouse (ATC) suggested the Team begin an internet pressure group for a 380 degrees petition. Set up a page for supporters to register on, gain over 100k signatures and the issue has to be discussed by parliament. The position of empty premises with owners not taking responsibility for developing or leasing/selling property is something which happens nationwide.

SM shared the Oliver King Foundation which campaigned for defibrillators in public places following the death of Oliver from a cardiac arrest. This gained the require signatures and led to defibrillators now being located in schools, shopping centres etc.

GW asked if the English Partnerships interest was past to Homes & Communities Agency? Do they still have any interest in any of the properties?

Action: HBC to see if EP/HCA have an interest in any of the Camden Building.

JC shared draft mock ups of the heritage trail frontages. Group agreed not to take the risk associated with the original properties and instead locate the heritage trail on the Council owned ends of the Camden Building.

Action: JC to work with City Dressing on design for the Council owned properties either end of the Camden Building.

6.5 Map and noticeboard

HBC in house design team can design a basic map, once drafted this will be shared with the Town Team to agree. It will include key places, transport facilities, road network, shopping areas etc but specific shops will not be listed to minimise the risk of the plan going easily out of date.

The map will be put in a new noticeboard which will replace the old map currently in place outside of Iceland. As well as the map, there will be an area for community posters. The contents will be controlled by HBC and nominated members of the Town Team.

JC has spoken to the manager at Runcorn Train Station, Tony Caldwell, and he is happy for the Town Team to put a map up in one of their external display boards by the entrance to the station.

Action: HBC Officers to draft map for the next meeting and identify a proposed noticeboard design

6.6 World War I Events

Town Team has committed some money to support a series of events over the summer. JC has seen a list of potential events. Up to Council colleagues to decide which will happen and when. Decisions depend on budget and availability. Hope to have events on market days and weekends over August.

PS highlighted that the female councillors have a choir and they will be planning to sing at events to raise money for charity.

ATC is a member of Wednesday Woolies who meet at The Brindley. They have begun to knit poppies in preparation for November. They could be involved in events.

Action: JC to flag up PS and ATC suggestions for involvement in WWI events.

7.0 A.O.B.

7.1 HBC Contact

Town Team thanked JC for her help since its inception. JC will be leaving her post in the Regeneration Team at HBC on 24th June and thanked the Team for their enthusiasm in helping to drive forward change in the Old Town. Until JC's replacement is in place, the main contact for the Town Team is Sara Munikwa (Regeneration Manager).

Action: JC to circulate contact details for all Town Team members to the Team so they are able to circulate information to each other.

7.2 Grant support

PS asked the group to consider asking those who has and will receive grant from the Town Team to display something to say they have received grant support in their windows. All agreed.

Action: JC to produce 'certificate of support' and circulate to recipients of grant.

7.3 Post Office

GS explained the Post Office has been given approval to move to Church Street. It will operate 6 days a week.

8.0 Next meeting

The next meeting will be held at **the end of September 2014. Time, date and venue to be confirmed.**