

Runcorn Town Team Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 2nd October 2018 at 6pm

Education Room, The Brindley, High Street, Runcorn, WA7 1BG

Minutes

Attendees:

Name	Organisation
CLlr Pauline Sinnnot	HBC Mersey Ward Cllr
CLlr Rosie Leck	HBC Mersey Ward Cllr
CLlr Norman Plumpton Walsh	HBC Mersey Ward Cllr
CLlr Ron Hignett	HBC Physical Env Portfolio Holder
Wesley Rourke	HBC Operation Director Economy, Enterprise and Property
Claire Bradbury	Power in Partnership
Tony Collacott	Wat Phra Singh Temple
Alison Gleave	Halton & St Helens Voluntary Community Action/Resident
Claire Pitt	Hazlehurst Craft Studios
Ann Turner Culverhouse	Resident
Graham Wallace	Runcorn Locks Restoration Society
Chris Featherstone	Community Engagement Officer
Gary Buckles	PCSO

Apologies:

Maria Tarn	Hazlehurst Craft Studios
Vicki Schofield	St Michael's & All Angels
Sara Munikwa	HBC Regeneration Manager

HBC Graduate Regeneration Officer – Natalie S - took minutes below

1. Welcome and Introductions from the Chairwoman

CLlr Pauline Sinnott welcomed everyone back and the town team introduced themselves around the table.

2. Terms of reference recap and the last meeting minutes

- Terms of reference to be reviewed with any changes discussed in the next meeting
- Last year's minutes given to all to review to refresh their memories of last items
- Any new members to be approached – HBC Business improvement team can assist
- To send out previous Town team member list for information

3. Finance table – previous expenditure

A table of the town team's expenditure for the last two financial years which funded the town centre Christmas tree, viewing telescope, and information boards etc. Going forward, decisions are to be made on how to use the remainder of the funding pot. Future funding needs to be for the use of enhancing the town centre's offer as said in the terms of reference.

4. Updates:

Love where you live group activity/Litter clean up

Pauline has helped establish a new voluntary group called 'Love where you live' developed with the aim of tidying up and looking after Runcorn old town. As part of the Keep Britain Tidy scheme, LWYL hosted two litter picking events, recruiting 40 volunteers and collecting half a tonne of rubbish as a result. The success of this resonated in the town, therefore helping to decrease vandalism and they've teamed up with the community garden project in aiming to get the community involved more.

Runcorn Market

A difficult decision had to be made to close the Runcorn old town market held every Tuesday due to a noticeable smaller footfall and lack of funding support. Although it was noted that the absence of the market loses a platform for the Halton & St Helen's voluntary action group, a couple of old town traders said they were glad it had closed due to repeated disruption to the roads and complaints were frequent. So there were valid pros and cons of the closure.

In regards to the closure, some suggestions were put forward:

- A collaborative market concept fitting in with volunteers week - 1st June 2019
- Changing the traditional outdated market style to a seasonal artisan type market, providing local produce
- HBC could possibly use remaining revenue gained from closing old market to revisit another type of market for the town
- HBC's new member of staff will be looking into the branding and researching the focus of a new market – artisan etc.
- This time, an effort to extend the reach to those outside of Halton – could make it more niche

Community garden updates

In summary: Britain in Bloom competition took place at the end of July 2018 and will likely find out award on Nov 1st. Book tree is very well used, visitors have given garden a lot of feedback on social media including; positive comments, photos, contributing to new additions like pipe cleaner animals, other organisations have also took part. The Women's Institute took a whole corner of garden, miniature animal kingdom for children, Incredible Edible – vegetable growth integrated into the garden and everything has stayed intact – no

vandalism. The community actively takes part in events and workshops. Poppy display for WW1 event in November. The garden will also be festively decorated for Christmas.

Runcorn Station Quarter Masterplan [CONFIDENTIAL AT THIS STAGE]

The Runcorn Station Quarter plans were firstly just a vision for the area - prioritising activities for the Runcorn Old Town Centre over the next 15 years. It highlights what is important for the centre – zoned areas, a new junction, possible developments and a transport hub. This item will be discussed in more detail in the next meeting.

- To Note: This item is in consultation period only and discussions are on-going.

5. Discussion:

Telescope

The last two telescopes were stolen and unfortunately there was no camera installed for surveillance before this happened. A replacement was initially bought, however the town team agrees that we wait until a suitable place presents itself. So therefore continuing efforts to uplift areas of the town before starting to look for a suitable, safe location.

Brindley Theatre – Relocation of railway navigation bell funding

The Navigation Bell from the railway bridge has now been rehoused at the Brindley. The entire project cost 10-11k with a contribution from Area forum grant for providing some interpretation boards. Community engagement has kindly asked for a £1,000.00 donation from the town team pot to fund the interpretation boards. This has been asked as the bell has historical significance to Runcorn Old Town's heritage. The town team were asked to vote and all came to a unanimous decision to support the project. Chris Featherstone will be making an application to request the funding.

There was also a suggestion for electronic versions of the Interpretation boards to be made available online on the Halton Heritage website.

Community garden tap installation funding

It has also been suggested to request a grant for a tap installation for the Community garden. This would be beneficial especially when there is no access to use Hazlehurst's internal tap. It would also stop having to use water from the canal! In the warmer months, the garden needs to be watered every day in which, this cannot always be possible to achieve from the volunteers alone.

United utilities quoted for the installation of a tap and adjoining pipework which seems very high. Claire P will possibly talk to solicitors next door about a cheaper solution, however they are just lease holders. Hazlehurst will also talk to UU about how to bring cost down.

- One of the main issues raised are the recurrent costs such as the water rates annually, so this needs to be considered.
- There is a possibility of applying to have this fund matched by another funder
- Another suggestion was made to reclaim water by using water butts, but unsuitable due to open garden and safety of animals falling into it/anti-social behaviour.

Christmas plans and suggestions

Runcorn Old Town Christmas tree to be supplied, HBC will order this – it is to come out of the Runcorn Town team pot as of previous years.

Graham Wallace (Runcorn Locks Society), will be hosting a Christmas market event 1st and 2nd December consisting of a beer tent, food stalls, outdoor and indoor stalls. They are aiming to showcase 'Unlock Runcorn' by inviting boats down, and engaging the community to raise awareness and funds for the campaign. Graham is in consultation with the microbrewery, to support the event. Tony Collacott also interested in helping organise this event. They are also hoping to use volunteer taxis to shuttle people to the venue from the Old Town centre.

Others suggestions:

- Community garden –to be decorated for Christmas, Hazlehurst happy to direct people to Christmas market during 1st and 2nd December
- Carols could be hosted by the church again this year
- Potential branding for joining up of events (Christmas in Halton/ Runcorn)
- Council can help with any media needed to advertise events (HBC events team)
- Christmas tree – switch on 30th November – could kick off Grahams event
- Bonfire Night – missed opportunity – Christmas flyers can be passed around

Any other items – all

- Gas lamp has been reinstated from section 106 funds as part of a historical initiative
- Unlock Runcorn visitor centre now opened – Halton Heritage partnership open weekends discussing the Unlock Runcorn plans
- Inside Halton Magazine to be published soon
- Knife crime – positive work has been done in Runcorn recently
- It was noted that the importance of transparency with other stakeholders must be taking seriously when it comes to bidding for town centre funds.
- Also noted that the current bus routes are inconsistent with reaching all supermarkets in Runcorn, with Morrisons and Iceland being the main supermarkets reachable.

6. Date for next meeting

- November – new meeting invite will be sent in due course

To be continued below

FOR INFORMATION:

The unveiling of the Navigation Fog Bell on 10th October 2018.



Cllr Leader Rob Polhill, Mayor John Bradshaw, Mayoress Marjorie Bradshaw, Chris Featherstone – HBC Community Officer, David Parr Chief Exec of HBC.



Halton Councillors for Runcorn

The town team member list from 2017:

We had most of you attend, but there were a few which either did not respond, couldn't get a hold off, or are no longer in post. If there are any previous members you have contact with from the list below, please let them know of the next meeting.

Members	Organisation
Wesley Rourke	HBC – Operational Director of Economy Enterprise and Property

Pauline Sinnott	HBC Mersey Ward Cllr
Norman Plumpton Walsh	HBC Mersey Ward Cllr
Ron Hignett - Cllr	HBC Physical Env Portfolio Holder
John Gerrard-Cllr [now void]	HBC Mersey Ward Cllr
Ann Turner-Culverhouse	Resident
Claire Bradbury	Power in Partnership
Gary Buckles	PCSO
Gary Shaw	Trader
Si Swanick	Resident
John Egan/Neil Mcloughlin	Market Trader
Graham Wallace	Runcorn Locks Society
Maria Tarn	Hazlehurst
Syd Broxton	T H Brown Trust
Tony Collacott	Wat Phra Singh
Vicki Schofield	St Michael & All Angels
Alison Gleave	Halton Voluntary Action