

Runcorn Town Team Meeting
Tuesday 26th February 2019 at 6pm
HCPT, Old Police Station, Mersey Rd, Runcorn WA7 1DF
Small meeting room

Minutes

Apologies:

Name	Organisation
Claire Pitt	Hazlehurst Studios
Maria Tarn	Hazlehurst Studios
Alex Haycraft	Blueball Brewery
Gary Buckles	PCSO
Cllr Norman Plumpton Walsh	HBC Mersey Ward Cllr

Attendance:

Name	Organisation
Cllr Pauline Sinnott	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
Sara Munikwa	HBC Regeneration Manager
Chris Featherstone	HBC Community Officer
Claire Bradbury	Power in Partnership
Tony Collacott	Wat Phra Singh
Alison Gleave	Halton & St Helens Voluntary Community Action/Resident
Ann Turner Culverhouse	Resident
Graham Wallace	Runcorn Locks Restoration Society (Unlock Runcorn)
Rev Vicki Schofield	St Michael & All Angels

HBC Graduate Regeneration Officer – Natalie S – Took the minutes and issued and followed up actions below

Start 6pm

- 1. Chair Cllr Pauline Sinnott welcomes all members to the meeting and everyone introduces themselves stating name and organisation.**
- 2. Activity updates within each organisation – All**

Halton and St Helens Community Voluntary Action – Alison Gleave

An overview of Volunteer Week June 2019: Monday 3rd – quiz, Tues 4th– Afternoon Tea, Wed 5th Volunteering Promotion Widnes market, Thurs 6th - Llandudno trip etc. Friday 7th Salsa Night. These events are open to volunteers and volunteer co-ordinators, family and friend can also attend many of the events (*Action - Alison to circulate Volunteers Week activities*)

Halton Borough Council – Community Engagement - Chris Featherstone

Community engagement updates – not much to report at this stage

St Michaels & All Angels - Vicki Schofield

Places of Welcome – an initiative where churches provide welcome place for people to come and talk, have tea and coffee to avoid loneliness. St Andrews Grange also due to join this project.

Unlock Runcorn - Graham Wallace

The Winter Fest was a success – a summer fest now anticipated as the fest attracted nearly 1000 people over the weekend of 1-2nd Dec 2018. Hazlehurst has partnered up for a garden initiative – ‘Grow to eat’ - Graham has room to supply poly-tunnel and raised beds and there is also scope for a sensory garden idea. The Garden isn’t a charity initiative but opens up area of grant opportunities – for future expansion as there are aspirations to provide cooking classes with the vegetables grown. This would be ideal to address lonely and vulnerable people with a possible woodwork shop shed and arts room for painting classes. Graham to send his initial ideas around to the TT members. Information regarding the Runcorn Unlocked plans were agreed to be included in the recent Future High Street Fund bid HBC are due to submit in due course.

Wat Phra Singh Temple –Tony Collacott

Current activity - Free meditation classes, temple is hosting school visits, there is major capital project plan in concept stage to build a new temple. HBC funding team is helping with the securing of funding.

Power in Partnership – Claire Bradbury

Recently won ESF contract for April-Dec 2018. Within the last year, they have had up to 149 16-18 yr olds attend training. Claire attended the ROC (Redeeming our Communities) meeting in Halton Lea – as part of the Well north team. 150 people attended overall from all different backgrounds with the key theme of ‘what can you give?’ This event received a lot of positive feedback and deemed helpful in drilling down the main issues faced in the local community.

PIP had an opportunity to meet with the Lord Mayor of Halton to discuss their activities. There is an on-going small project regarding mental health with only 6 people but this is looking at common mental health issues. Chris to send PDF over

Love Where You Live group – Pauline Sinnott

Currently planning a meeting for the ‘Annual Mersey Spring Clean’. There will be 3 skips under the SJB arches for litter and debris to be dropped in. April 6th is the official litter pick up day, but if more volunteers want to take part, they don’t have to do it on the 6th – they can help out whenever they like. This initiative brings groups together to take care of town.

3. Town Centre Funding;

- **Future High Street Fund overview and updates – Sara/Wesley**

Halton Borough Council to submit a High Street bid to the government end of March with the support of the Town Team members and their local organisations with the long term aspiration for secured funding to improve transport and connectivity into the Old Town.

This stage of bidding is an expression of interest, so if the initial proposals are accepted we can then move to stage 2 bidding which is highly competitive, so it's highly important our case is strong enough to bring further opportunity to the Town Centre.

- We requested a Town Team letter of support which Pauline agreed to sign on behalf of Town team
- The request for further letters of support were also agreed to, from member's organisations.

4. Town Team remainder of pot – Ideas for funding initiatives to entice people into the Old Town - All

- Town Team members agreed on top priorities that were discussed previously
- A project application form will be needed
- All agreed to cost up the proposals then stream line prioritisation
- Either support small and medium projects for the town or make a larger impact with a big project?
- There are opportunities to commission projects in town centre

Suggestions to be put forward for application:

- Unmanned satellite – direct taxi hub in centre Church Street – make finding taxis easier
- More seasonal events to be hosted in the Town Centre?
- New signage for easier navigation?
- Runcorn Safe in town initiative – has no funding from April and has 900 registered vulnerable people on scheme, operated by 1 member of staff – 6 hours a week. ROC report social isolation, potential to work in Shopping city, Widnes and Runcorn Old town
- SJB opening event – could tie this in with replacement telescope?
- Town team agreed to allocate funds for installation costs of the replacement telescope once a new site has been found. A suggestion was made to look into installing it onto the newly refurbished SJB Bridge.
- Christmas funding allocation agreed for the tree and accompanying Christmas events for 2019
- Possibility to commission some local business consultation engagement – questionnaire, consultation about TC events such as Bonfire night and Christmas etc, what their aspirations are, what change would they like to see?

5. Christmas Events feedback – All

- Runcorn Christmas event Town Team feedback – There was a discussion that going forward, the Christmas events will be reviewed and a different approach will be taken this year (2019).

- A highlight was the inclusion of pantomime characters – as they were engaging and brought energy, but it was noted that notifying local businesses would be beneficial
 - Christmas event questionnaire draft (feedback) – General consensus was that a questionnaire may not be helpful this late in the year as the public may struggle to recall specific events therefore results being skewed
6. **Discussion – Any other items?** *Nothing to add*
 7. **Date for next meeting** – *15th May 2019 - tentative*

End 7.30pm