

**Minutes of Meeting
(Civic Suite, Runcorn Town Hall)**

3rd July 2019

Attendees:

Cllr Pauline Sinnott	HBC Mersey Ward
Cllr Rosie Leck	HBC Mersey Ward
Cllr Ron Hignett	HBC Mersey Ward
Claire Pitt	Hazlehurst Studios
Tony Collacott	Wat Phra Singh
Alex Haycraft	Bluebell Brewery
Ann Turner-Culverhouse	Resident
Wesley Rourke	HBC Operational Director Economy, Enterprise and Property
Iain Dignall	HBC Officer
Chris Featherstone	HBC Community Officer
Adiba Farrah	HBC Project Officer

Apologies:

Graham Wallace	Runcorn Locks Restoration Society
Alison Gleave	Halton and St Helen's Voluntary Action/resident
Vicki Scofield	St Michael & All Angels
Cllr Plumpton Wash	HBC Mersey Ward

Item		Actions
1	<p>Welcome Apologies by Alison Gleave, Graham Wallace and Cllr Norman Plumpton Walsh were noted.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed Iain Dignall to the meeting.</p>	
2	<p>Updates <u>Tony – Wat Phra Singh</u> A Thai Food festival is being planned at Wat Phra Singh for weekend of 14th September. Tony has been in touch with the Environmental Health and progressing approval for event from HBC as the event will involve taking over the Top Locks Car Park between the temple and the Bridge View.</p> <p><u>Alex – Bluebell Brewery</u> Brewery were organising a summer festival in the Old Town,</p>	<p>14th Sept event</p> <p>Summer festival 23/7/19</p>

	<p>which has now moved to a date late-Summer in September as not to clash with other events in Halton. New date will tie in with Halton Heritage Partnership.</p> <p><u>Claire –Hazlehurst Studios</u> Britain in Bloom judging will take place on 31st July and the garden are looking to host a celebration event alongside this</p> <p><u>Claire Bradbury-Power in Partnership</u> The organisation has planned for a series of Open Days to take place in August. They have also been successful with a lottery funding award. This has helped fund the recruitment another trainer for Functional Skills training, expanding their training offer to potential service users.</p> <p><u>Chris Featherstone –HBC</u> The Old Police Station, Mersey Road had returned to Council for management since the retirement of Sandra Hannon from Halton Community Partnership Trust. HBC staff are located at the building Monday – Friday mornings whilst procedures are being put in place for usage / hire of the space.</p> <p>Halton Veterans ran a very successful event on 29th June for Armed Forces Day and feedback / information seen of the event has been positive.</p> <p>Halton Play Council have recently been awarded a grant from Merseyside Recycle Waste Authority and will soon be delivering a project around recycling & upcycling for re-use.</p> <p>Plans in place for project at Runcorn Station entrance for two planters to be installed as part of the Incredible Edible network with Old Town Bloomers. This project was funded by Virgin Trains.</p> <p>ROC Runcorn are hosting a community funding open morning on Monday 22nd July 11:30am – 2:30pm at All Saints Church, Church Street. All welcome to attend to discuss projects and funding opportunities. Community Development, External Funding and Cheshire PCC office will be present.</p>	
3	<p>Finance Update AF reported on the money in the Town Team budget. This stands at £28,817. The transaction since May have included £63.75 for room hire/hospitality required for the last Town Team meeting.</p>	
4	<p><u>Dukesfields Garden Project–Iain Dignall</u></p>	

Presentation

ID informed the meeting that a Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) funding bid has recently been submitted by the Council. The bid includes the development of a community garden on land which is currently occupied by a basketball court.

The bid is for the development of a cycling/walking route which stretches from Runcorn Old Town through to Daresbury Sci-Tech connecting Astmoor and Manor Park, and includes aspects of green infrastructure. The route connects Waterloo Bridge, via the underpass, to Mersey Road, Runcorn along the promenade. The basketball court is adjacent to this route and is earmarked to be removed as part of the flyover demolition.

ID described the site of the proposed garden as providing a good sized piece of land to develop into the garden which would sit alongside the copse of trees behind the Devonshire pub as part of the gardens appeal.

ID said a suggestion could be that the two sets of supporting legs to the existing road bridge could, possibly, be left in place to allow display of art work, as is the case currently. This could then form a key aspect of the garden. The concrete legs are huge each containing three pillars. This could provide ample space for decoration, art projects and anything else that the community deemed to fit. They could also provide a slice of the history of the area for the future when the road above is distant memory.

ID stated that successfully developing any form of community garden will require the co-ordination and involvement of the immediate community including the local school. Relevant local stakeholders envisaged included:

- The Devonshire Pub
- Society
- Concrete Mango
- Wat Phra Singh
- Runcorn Bloomers
- The Gay Gardener

Talking to these stakeholders will allow ideas for the community garden to find a natural direction. The next stage

	<p>would be to form a designated group involving local residents too, so that ideas could be shared and a group commitment to the project could emerge.</p> <p>Key Points from Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Town Team were supportive of the proposal to involve the community to develop the ideas above but cautioned against raising expectations too soon especially if they could not be supported. ➤ Basketball court is currently well used by young people who take a pride in keeping it clean and tidy. There are not many sport facilities for young people in the local area. ➤ The art on the pillars could be photographed and preserved elsewhere rather than keeping the pillars. The pillars on their own could prove a hazard. ➤ 2021 has been designated as the Year of Culture for the Borough of Halton. This provides good opportunity for the development of this community garden/arts initiative. <p>SUDS Bid Decision Expected by end of September</p>	
4	<p>Funding Bid –Runcorn Town Team Funding Pot AF reported that one bid had been received –from Power in Partnership for £2500. The bid was for improving signage and security for the premises in order to increase use of the premises as a training facility by its target groups that includes mainly vulnerable young people from across the borough.</p> <p>The bid was presented for consideration for approval by the Town Team members, having been appraised, by AF, against the criteria agreed by the Town Team.</p> <p>As part of the approval consideration, CB was invited to present her bid, and members had a chance to explore aspects of the bid through questions and answers. CB then left the room, whilst the remaining Town Team discussed the merits of the bid and agreed their decision which was to approve the bid. The decision was conveyed by the Chair to CB on her re-joining the meeting.</p> <p>AF to follow up with CB on the funding contract/payment process in line Council’s procedure for grant awards.</p>	AF/CB

5	<p>Discussion – potential projects A short discussion took place for ideas that could be funded from the Town Team funding pot. It was agreed that CF, AF and PS would meet to look at previous proposals including one for business needs survey and future funding.</p>	CG/AF/PS to meet
6	<p>AOB PS reported that Rev Vicki has declared that she is stepping down in her role and will therefore not be attending future Town Team meetings. PS suggested a letter of thanks be sent to Vicki from the Town Team in recognition of her contribution to the Town Team’s work.</p>	AF to send letter to VS
6	<p>Date of next meeting 11th September 2019 at 6pm</p>	