

Runcorn Town Team

**Minutes of Meeting
(Brindley Arts Centre, Runcorn)**

15th May 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
Wesley Rourke	HBC Operational Director Economy, Enterprise and Property
Chris Featherstone	HBC Community Officer
Adiba Farrah	HBC Project Officer

Apologies:

Ann Turner-Culverhouse	Resident
Graham Wallace	Runcorn Locks Restoration Society

Item		Actions
1	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Apologies by Ann Turner-Culverhouse and Graham Wallace were noted. A message had been received from Cllr Plumpton that he had been delayed by train travel issues.</p> <p>AF was introduced by Cllr Sinnott. AF will be carrying on the role in the Town Team from Natalie Solaru who has left HBC to take up a new job.</p> <p>On behalf of the Runcorn Town Team (RTT), Cllr Sinnott expressed thanks and best wishes to be conveyed to Natalie Solaru.</p>	
2	<p>Updates</p> <p><u>Alex – Bluebell Brewery</u></p> <p>Bluebell Brewery are organising a summer festival in the Old Town, taking place on 21st July.</p>	

Tony – Wat Phra Singh

Reported some boundary issues currently being dealt with on their plans, necessitating submission of new plans to HBC planning dept.

It was noted that Paul Wright Open Spaces Division (HBC) could be asked for his advice regarding the future management of the site in question (triangle of land involved). It was also noted that the area included gaslights that needed to be taken into account as part of the discussions.

The organisation will be holding Anniversary celebrations which are planned for 23rd June, and for which the Head of their Religious Order will be visiting Runcorn from Thailand.

A Thai Food festival is being planned for late summer (date tbc) which will involve taking over the car park (opposite Natwest Bank, High St).

Chris Featherstone -HBC

The recent litter pick event was a success. This attracted 40 volunteers. Much clearance resulted with three skips located around the town centre.

Claire –Hazlehurst

The organisation has had success with funding from London Northwestern and Virgin Trains. This has helped with further planting of Edible Planters sited around the rail station. Advice is needed from HBC – Wesley agreed to contact Nick Martin from the Landscape team to connect with Claire.

Britain in Bloom event taking place on 21st July

The organisation has been helped by local solicitors with cost for installation of the water-tap for their planting work.

Cllr Sinnott advised that she had been in contact with John Hughes from Property Services regarding access via the Council's adjacent property.

Wesley –HBC

Wesley reported that an information flyer was being drafted to be sent to local residents, detailing road improvements and plans as well as the timetable for the works for the Runcorn Station Quarter. Related works will necessitate various road and footpath closures:

Construction of a new five-arm roundabout (creating better

Summer festival
21/7/19

WR contact
Paul Wright
→TC

Food festival
tbc

WR contact
Nick
asap

Britain in Bloom
21/7/19

All note dates

	<p><i>connections between the Silver Jubilee Bridge, Runcorn Town Centre and Runcorn Station)</i></p> <p>Shaw Street April 2019 - September 2019</p> <p>Greenway Road August 2019 – September 2019</p> <p>Bridgewater Expressway May 2019-January 2019</p> <p>B5155 February 2020 – March 2020</p> <p><u>Runcorn Trumpet Loop</u></p> <p>Demolish Runcorn Approach Viaduct West July 2019-November 2019</p> <p>Demolish East & Wes walls August 2019-September 2019</p> <p>Demolish Station bridge September 2019-October 2019</p> <p>Demolish Picow Farm Road Bridge October 2019-October 2019</p> <p>Demolish Playground Bridge November 2019-December 2019</p> <p>Wesley advised on discussions that had been taking place with the Combined Authority regarding the potential funding of the development. Although at an early stage, the CA had been supportive of the scheme.</p> <p><i>TT members commented that as well as road structures paths for walkability need to be part of the strategy. Wesley agreed and advised that these issues would be factored into funding bids and in particular, the Transforming Cities Fund.</i></p>	
3	<p>Finance Update</p> <p>WR reported that there was £28,000 left in the Town Team Innovation Fund (as at April 2019). The fund had originally been fully delegated by the Government to Local Authorities to spend on local areas. Halton Council has delegated the allocation of this funding to the Town Team.</p> <p>Part of this £28k pot, amounting to £5860, has been set aside for spend agreed by the Town Team previously – Christmas</p>	

	<p>tree and Telescope replacement. The actual amount left in the pot is therefore £24,000.</p> <p>WR reported that this delegated pot could be used <u>for project bids</u> from Runcorn /Town Team <u>or used to commission actions</u> that the Town Team feel would benefit the town centre e.g. Needs/Views Survey of local businesses that has been discussed in previous meetings. For project bids, a simple bidding process is required to be put in place to meet the requirements of transparency and accountability.</p>	
4	<p>Discussion – Funding Application process /Draft Application form/Prospectus AF presented a draft of the prospectus application form and process.</p> <p>It was noted that a retrospective payment for project costs to successful bids applicants would present potential barriers to some groups deciding to apply. On the point of match funding, it was felt this should be worded as ‘match funding would be seen favourably in project bids but not an essential requirement’, whilst the idea of ‘in kind’ match funding was much appreciated by the members.</p> <p>It was agreed that AF would liaise with CF to look at the processes and systems already in place and approved by the Council for community grants, when refining the drafts and taking account of the comments made at the meeting. The forms and processes will then be finalised for launch in June.</p> <p>AF to send the current draft versions to those Town Team members who were not present at this meeting.</p>	<p>Af /CF</p> <p>1/6/19- Launch</p> <p>AF email drafts asap</p>
5	<p>Christmas Events Ideas and dates for Christmas events were discussed. Dates were agreed: Widnes 30 November Runcorn 6th December</p>	
6	<p>Date of next meeting 3rd July 2019</p>	