

RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD AT RUSHDEN HALL, RUSHDEN ON TUESDAY 26TH MARCH 2019 COMMENCING AT 7.30PM.

Present: Councillor: Adrian House - Chairman

Councillors: Gill Mercer Janet Pinnock
Sarah Peacock Melanie Coleman
Richard Lewis Tracey Smith
Carol Childs David Coleman [ex officio]
Barbara Jenney

Town Clerk: Vivienne Prodger

371/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest recorded

372/19 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Marian Hollomon and Paul Harley

373/19 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 5th February 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

374/19 YOUR TOWN NN10 RUN

YourTown NN10 Project

The YourTown NN10 Rushden to Higham Ferrers 5K Community Run went ahead on Sunday 24th March 2019, the focus of the run was local people/businesses becoming more engaged with where they live and at the same time raising money for two nominated local causes, the **Rushden Railway Heritage & Community Space** and **Higham Ferrers Community Library Group**.

The event was a great success raising over £740, 100 runners took part, 30 local people volunteered on the day and local businesses sponsored goodie bag items for the runners.

Events coming up under the YourTown banner include a Junior 2K run which takes place on Sunday 9th June in Hall Park as part of Celebrate Rushden. Planned sign up for this event was originally 100 places, due to popularity we have extended this to 150 places.

The YourTownNN10 Working Party are looking to hold future events on a larger scale. Discussions around the introduction of a YourTown App are also taking place.

David Coleman, the Town Mayor started the run and we were blessed with a warm and sunny day. A very good start to what we hoped to become an annual event.

375/19 RUSHDEN TOWN PARTNERSHIP

The Town Partnership has confirmed that it will be hosting a Food Festival as part of Celebrate Rushden. This event will take place in Rushden High Street on 16th June 2019, a road closure has been applied for.

376/19 EVENTS WORKING PARTY

RESOLVED

That the minutes from the Events Working Party meetings held on 7th February 2019 were signed as a true record

377/19 CELEBRATE RUSHDEN

The Celebrate Rushden working party is continuing with preparations for the event. The brochure is taking shape and will be distributed via Rushden Reporter at the end of April.

The Soap Box Derby will have a slightly different format this year and as it taking place at the weekend and we expect to have more entries than in previous years. King Tools are very kindly sponsored the event again this year.

378/19 POLICING AND HIGHWAYS

a) Policing –

Priorities are still as below:-

- a. Drug issues in both Higham Ferrers and Rushden to be kept as a priority.
- b. Anti Social Behaviour at Saffron Road Recreation Ground.
- c. Anti Social Behaviour at all Public Toilets in Rushden

The anti-social and criminal behavior in Duck Street toilets has now subsided and the Police are now focusing on the toilets in Newton Road as we have received a number of complaints about anti-social at this location.

b) Highways -

Members expressed concerns about the affect the numerous road works were having on traffic movement within the town. The works on the A45 are having a considerable impact on the Waitrose roundabout at peak times and preparatory works have started on the A6 towards Chowns Mill roundabout.

379/19 BUS SHELTERS

Members discussed the town bus shelters owned by the Town Council and it was

RESOLVED

To make a recommendation the P & R to consider replacing all the Town Council owned bus shelters, subject to cost and available funding.

380/19 TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Update from Julie Thorneycroft – Town Manager for Rushden and Higham Ferrers

1. **Continuation of vital communication links** with Rushden Lakes Centre Management Team, Savills, The Crown Estates, East Northamptonshire Council, Rushden Town Partnership and local businesses.
2. **Secured annual funding of £5k** from The Crown Estate for local projects linking Rushden and Higham Ferrers with Rushden Lakes.
3. **Organisation of a schedule of events** directly linking the towns with Rushden Lakes and providing opportunities for local businesses to promote themselves to a new wider audience. Events in 2018 have included:

Heritage Family Fun Day

The Heritage Family Fun Day took place on Sunday 16th September 2018 as part of the annual 10 day Nene Valley Festival and National Heritage Open Weekends. The Fun Day was supported by Rushden Lakes Centre management team and the Crown Estate and brought together a family day out together with an opportunity for visitors to learn about the heritage and history of nearby Rushden and Higham Ferrers.

Over 35 local businesses and community groups took up this opportunity and had a stall for the day, feedback has been extremely positive from all parties. Entertainment on the day included performances from Rushden Town Band, medieval fun and entertainment, heritage displays, family activities, Cyril the Squirrel and a chance to browse the local stalls.

We produced a “**Shop Local in Rushden and Higham Ferrers**” booklet containing over 48 redeemable discount vouchers, over 1500 booklets were given out to visitors at the heritage day event.

The overall aim of the Heritage Family Fun Day was to raise awareness of the local heritage and to encourage new visitors to come and visit through promotional material and the “Shop Local” booklet.

Following the popularity of the Heritage family fun day a second heritage day is taking place at Rushden Lakes on **Sunday 15th September 2019**, local businesses and community groups are already signing up to take part.

We are now working to produce a second “**Shop Local**” booklet containing autumn concessions; the booklet will be ready to hand out at summer events across the area.

4. **Explore More Campaign**

By meeting regularly with the Lakes management team we have brought together many ideas encouraging visitors to explore further afield. The explore more campaign has seen the introduction of additional signage, maps and fliers easing accessibility in the area. We continue to offer joint promotion area through various social media and website campaigns and joint marketing literature.

5. **Northamptonshire Business Crime Partnership (NBCP)**

The partnership between NBCP and RTC to introduce a retail crime initiative scheme across Rushden (nil cost to retailers) is beginning to pay dividends, local retailers are getting to grips with using the system to their advantage against criminal activity in the town.

6. **High Street Area Improvements Working Party**

Following the formation of this working party in February, public opinion on many aspects of the high street area has been received via email, telephone, social media and through the public meeting, held at the beginning of April. Common themes for change are beginning to emerge, these ideas include a general desire to introduce a Café style culture perhaps through the development of a Town Square and Community space, additional

seating/planting making the centre a more pleasant and attractive place to walk/sit and socialise, additional cleansing and more events/activities have also been mentioned.

381/19 **BEAT THE STREET**

Beat the Street is an interactive game **designed to get children and communities moving**. The game is delivered by a company called Intelligent Health over a 6 week period which involves people actively travelling (walking, jogging, running, cycling and scooting) around a game area to “tap” Beat Boxes which are distributed around the game area to collect points, which leads to lots of great prizes!

The game will be played between **27th March to 8th May 2019**

How does it work?

Beat the Street is designed to inspire people to make small changes, such as walking or cycling to school every day, to improve health and help re-set the way in which we embed physical activity into everyday life. So far over 900,000 people have taken part in Beat the Street games across the UK and Ireland.

‘Beat Boxes’ will be positioned around East Northamptonshire, within the towns of Rushden, Higham Ferrers, Irthlingborough, Raunds and Thrapston and within the surrounding villages of Great Addington, Woodford, Ringstead and Stanwick. Key to the success of the game is our engagement with Primary Schools within the game area so every School (including Infants and Junior Schools) will have a beat box located outside their premises. Other Beat Boxes are placed within the game area typically on either Street Lightning Columns or other Highways Street Furniture/signage and all locations have been fully risk assessed and relevant permissions gained from NCC Highways. There will be a total of 57 Beat Boxes located across the game area and maps will be provided and distributed for all participants and we are encouraging use of **The Greenway** to provide the safe route for participants to actively travel between areas.

Players receive a card or fob which they tap on the Beat Boxes as they walk, cycle, or scoot around the area, earning points for themselves and their team. Players can view their progress online at www.beatthestreet.me/eastnorthants, which will be live closer to the start of the game. There will be prizes for winning schools and teams, as well as plenty of lucky tap prizes, which could be won by any registered player taking part in the game.

382/19 **WARD PROJECTS**

Location	Job Description	Quotes	Committee Approval if applicable	Contractor	Commence/ Finish Dates
Rushden Hall	Interior painting	n/a	n/a	In house	Ongoing
Spencer Park	Tennis Courts Improvements		To Asset Management meeting	TBC	
Spencer Park	MUGA Improvements Some funding to come from Grensons Site Section 106		To Asset Management meeting	TBC	
Fosse Green	New Play Equipment Section 106 monies – Grensons Site			Awaiting delivery of play equipment	Spring 2019

	section 106				
Trafford Park	New play equipment Section 106 monies – Station Road Site				Spring 2019
Hall Park	Disabled Toilets				Summer 2019
Dog Area	Fence along Wymington Road side of area			MC County Services	April 2019
Duck Street Car Park	CCTV			Crimesecure	February 2019
Rushden Hall	Disabled Entrance Works			Completed	March 2019
Skidders Hill and Rectory Road	Bus Shelter Refurbishment				Spring 2019
Rushden Hall	Repairs to finials and parapets				April 2019
	Ground Maintenance Procurement				Selection Questionnaire Completed ITT sent to 8 Contractors closing date 18 th April 2019
Compound	Repairs to roofs on sheds			A E Cook	completed
Manor Park	Geo Survey	Yes	Asset Management and P & R	Soiltechnics	April 2019
Manor Park	Topographical Survey	Yes	Asset Management and P & R	BrightSurv Ltd	April 2019
The Mallards	Repairs to Bridge	Yes	N/A	John Clark Groundworks	Completed
The Mallards	Resurfacing footpaths	Yes	N/A	John Clark Groundworks	Completed
Dog Area	Resurfacing footpaths	Yes	N/A	John Clark Groundworks	April 2019
Hall Park	Benches	Yes		In House	April 2019

Chairman