

Runnymede Borough Council

RUNNYMEDE ARTS DEVELOPMENT STEERING GROUP

Tuesday 4 October 2005 at 7.30 p.m.

Members of the
Group present:

Mr G. Leon-Smith (Chairman)	Addlestone and District Chamber of Commerce
Mr P.E. Anderson	Runnymede Association of Arts
Mrs D. Chadburn	Runnymede Association of Arts
Mrs A. Davis	Egham Chamber of Commerce
Mr R. Davies	Runnymede Association of Arts
Councillor A.J. Davis	Runnymede Borough Council
Councillor R.J. Ray	Runnymede Borough Council
Mrs S. Scott	Egham Rotary Club
Mr V. Spink	Chertsey Chamber of Commerce
Mrs K. Young	Strode's College

Members of the
Group absent:

Ms. M. Clark	Youth Development Officer, Runnymede
Miss H. Dix	Surrey County Arts
Dr. V.J. Gordon	Royal Holloway, University of London
Mr D. Gould	Jubilee High School
Mr T. Pattinson	Surrey Herald Newspaper
Mrs M. Roberts (Vice-Chairman)	Egham Rotary Club

Those attending in an advisory/observers capacity:

Mr C. Hunt	Head of Leisure Services Runnymede Borough Council
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Mrs J. Whitehouse and Mr G. Botterill of Addlestone Community Theatre, Mrs E. Collier of Addlestone Singers and Mr J. Davies and Mr M. Foote of 'The South' also attended for part of the meeting.

ACTION1. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Mrs M. Roberts was elected as Vice-Chairman to serve until the July 2006 meeting of the Group.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2005 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Arising from the Minutes it was noted that there had been no media coverage of the Runnymede/Joinville Artists Exhibition organised by Runnymede Town Twinning Association. It was confirmed that 'copy' had been provided to the local press. Members noted that there was a lack of cohesive coverage of the Borough by the Press and it was hoped that the Council's new Communications Officer might be able to have a positive effect to address this situation.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Miss H. Dix, Dr. V.J. Gordon, Mr D. Gould, Mr T. Pattinson and Mrs M. Roberts.

ACTION

4. MEMBERSHIP OF THE STEERING GROUP

Members noted that the appointment of Mr D. Gould, Head of Expressive Arts at Jubilee High School had been duly approved by the Leisure and Environment Committee and it was hoped that he would be able to attend the next meeting of the Group in February. It was agreed that the new Principal of Jubilee High School. Mr G Balch should be invited to attend the next meeting. Mrs Scott was welcomed to the meeting, and it was noted that Mrs Roberts for whom she was substituting would be able to attend the October meeting next year if it was held on 3 October. Everyone present was agreeable therefore not to re-schedule the October 2006 meeting.

Mr Hunt to action.

The updating of the Group's Terms of Reference to reflect the removal of the Libraries Service from the Membership of the Group, was noted.

5. BUDGET SUMMARY

The Base Budget of £8,500 for 2005/06 was noted, and the budget summary attached at Annex 1 takes into account the recommendations made at the meeting.

6. APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING

i) Addlestone Community Theatre

Mrs J. Whitehouse presented an application on behalf of Addlestone Community Theatre (ACT) for funding of £1,500 towards their forthcoming production of 'The King and I'. Mrs Whitehouse explained that they had been asked by Addlestone Community Association (ACA) to put on a spectacular production to celebrate the opening of the Association's new premises. They hoped that such a well known play would attract large audiences, raise the Association's and ACT's profile and generate interest in the new building. ACT had held successful open auditions, attended by children and adults from across the Borough and cast a full compliment of 40 people.

ACT were aware that 'The King and I' was an ambitious and expensive show and that if not well attended could result in their being very badly off financially. However, Mrs Whitehouse confirmed that they were fully committed to it with the aim of staging a high quality family show for the Community and the Association's benefit.

The Steering Group was pleased to receive the application from a group which was chiefly known for its popular pantomimes and musicals but wondered whether there was a possibility of the ACA being persuaded to offer ACT a discount on the cost of hiring the Association's rehearsal and performance space, given that ACT received none of the bar takings, which were likely to be substantial for this particular show, and that in order for ACT to comply with the rules concerning children they would have to hire extra dressing rooms which was likely to be costly if no discount was given.

ACTION

The Group suggested that in order to promote good ticket sales the children be set a challenge to sell as many tickets as possible and to arrange a promotional event in costume with the new manager of Tescos who was thought to be amenable to such things.

Members were unsure about the level or type of financial assistance that the ACA received from the Council and of the nature of their occupancy of the new building. It was agreed that a briefing note would be circulated to the Group to clarify the position.

It was agreed to recommend that ACT be awarded an initial grant of £500, and if they could secure a discount of £500 from the ACA on the hire charges that a further £500 be awarded on receipt of confirmation of that agreement.

Mr Hunt to determine the application and advise applicant accordingly

ii) Addlestone Singers

Mrs E. Collier presented an application on behalf of Addlestone Singers for funding of £290 to go towards the cost of engaging guest artistes for their forthcoming Christmas and Spring Concerts to be held in the Addlestone Methodist Church. The Singers were awarded a grant of £400 in 2004/05.

The Singers planned to stage a 'Night of Miracles' concert. There would be free entry but audiences would be invited to take part in a raffle, buy refreshments and make a donation to the Stephanie Marks Appeal via a retiring collection. These arrangements worked well and the Singers had raised £205 for that appeal last year.

It was confirmed that the membership figures of the Singers was small, but with the help of their new publicity lady and good coverage in the ACA and Runnymede Association of Arts newsletters and the local press they hoped to attract new singers and audiences.

The Steering Group was very supportive of the Addlestone Singers and agreed to recommend funding of £290 on this occasion.

Mr Hunt to determine the application and advise applicant accordingly

iii) The South – Research for Runnymede International Literature Festival

Mr J. Davies and Mr M. Foote presented an application on behalf of 'The South' for funding in connection with the Runnymede International Literature Festival to take place between 20 – 22 April 2006, based at Royal Holloway College.

The applicants were keen to emphasise that The South were facilitators and developers and their aim was to bring out the voices of Runnymede under the umbrella theme of 'Seeing Differently'. The idea was that the project would start a network across the Borough which might unite the different communities, evolve into something else or re-energise existing activities and organisations.

In practice, workshops and other community and education based activities would take place in the month leading up to the actual festival itself, all of which would be fully accessible by the public, although different activities would have their own focus and target groups. For example texting competitions, laptop jamming, performance poetry and 'open mike' sessions for adults and young people, schools poetry and creative writing and a contributory website 'My Runnymede' where people could upload their ideas and contributions to the festival.

ACTION

The festival itself had attracted the Poet Laureate, Andrew Motion, and a host of international writers and poets who would also be involved in the workshops and other events in the Community.

Unfortunately, the Arts Council had declined to fund their project and the Steering Group suggested other sources of funding and sponsorship which they might like to pursue. The applicants were advised to involve the local police who did much work locally with young people and it was agreed to put them in touch with suitable contacts.

Miss Pinnock to action

The applicants confirmed that they had facilitated other successful festivals in Brighton and Pevensey and had chosen Runnymede after the former Head of Leisure Services had encouraged them to approach Royal Holloway who had responded positively.

The Steering Group was informed that Mr Hunt had met with the applicants and considered their project to be a good one and was impressed with their interest in community involvement. Mr Hunt had already invited 30 local organisations to an initial session at Chertsey Museum to gauge interest in the project.

It was suggested that some of the County Councillors might want to be involved and Mr Hunt agreed to contact them.

Mr Hunt to determine the application and advise applicant accordingly

The Steering Group agreed to recommend funding of £1,000 to The South.

7. i) Runnymede Town Twinning Association

Mr Spink reported that he had been to Joinville Le Pont to meet some of the artists involved in the joint exhibition of Runnymede and Joinville Artists which had just opened at Chertsey Museum and the Artists' Gallery in Chertsey. He invited members of the Steering Group to a 'private view' on Thursday 13 October, and advised them to telephone the Museum's curator if they wanted to come.

Mr Spink confirmed that he had contacted the local schools as requested, and in order to encourage more visitors, he was planning to have an open Coffee Morning at 22 October at the gallery.

Unfortunately, owing to a prior booking, the exhibition had been clipped from 6 weeks to 5, but it was hoped that the Museum would be able to accommodate them for 2 weeks at the end of the run.

Mr Spink distributed some of the glossy brochures for the exhibition and the Group agreed that it was well worth a visit.

ii) Original Theatre Company

It was agreed to contact the Original Theatre Company to obtain some feedback on their project which had been granted funding of £1,500 earlier in the year.

Miss Pinnock to action.

8. SURREY ARTS CONFERENCE – OCTOBER 2005

The Steering Group was reminded about the annual Surrey Arts Conference, taking place at the Farnham Maltings in October. It was noted that the Council did not have the resources to send a representative.

ACTION

9. LEISURE AND CULTURE TASK GROUP

Members noted that the Leisure and Culture task Group would be meeting in November and both Mr Anderson and Mr Hunt would be attending it and feedback would be given at the next meeting of the Steering Group in February.

Mr Hunt to action

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Five matters were raised:

Mr Hunt informed the Group that he would be attending a meeting of the Surrey Arts Partnership in November and would find out if any of the Arts pot of money had found its way to projects in Runnymede.

Mr Spink updated the Group on the Town Twinning Association's plans for a digital exchange of images with Joinville Le Pont to be displayed on their respective websites. He also suggested that it might be nice for an artist to be commissioned to paint a picture of Joinville for display in the new Civic Offices. In exchange, Joinville Council would commission a picture of Runnymede Meadow for their offices. To this end an application for funding might be submitted to a future meeting of the Group next year.

The Group questioned whether the Council had a policy of funding arts projects in connection with new buildings and if so whether the picture exchange might be a suitable project for such funding. Officers agreed to find out from colleagues in the Planning/Legal Departments and report back to the Group.

Mr Hunt to action

Members were very disappointed to learn that owing to the Council's Revenue Reductions exercise, undertaken as a result of the Council being rate capped, the Group's budget would be reduced in 2006/07 by £800 from £8,500 to £7,700.

Mrs Chadburn offered her apologies for the next meeting of the Group.

11. DATES OF MEETINGS FOR MUNICIPAL YEAR 2005/06

Members noted that the following dates had been agreed for meetings of the Steering Group in the Municipal Year 2005/06.

Tuesday, 7 February 2006

Tuesday, 4 April 2006

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 9.25 p.m.)

Runnymede Arts Development Steering Group**Budget Summary 2005/06**

Base budget 2005/06	£8,500
planned underspend from 2004/05	£936
Total funds available for distribution 2005/06	<u>£9,436</u>

Committed Projects

Annual Report 2004/05	-£442
Carroll School of Irish Dancing	-£500
Surrey Artists Open Studios	-£250
Original Theatre Company	-£1,500
Egham Youth Music	-£1,000
Spelthorne Drama Festival	-£500
Mrs Heather Churchill	-£436
New Haw Youth Project	-£250
Sorted!	-£250
Runnymede Town Twinning Association	-£450
People's Theatre Company	-£500
Addlestone Community Theatre *	-£500
Addlestone Singers	-£290
The South	-£1,000
Total	-£7,868

Balance	£1,568
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* note - a further £500 to be awarded if reduction in venue hire charges achieved