

RUNNYMEDE ARTS DEVELOPMENT STEERING GROUP

Tuesday 4 April 2006 at 7.30 p.m.

Members of the Group present:

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

Members of the Group absent:

Mrs D. Chadburn	Runnymede Association of Arts
Mrs A. Davis	Egham Chamber of Commerce
Ms. M. Clark	Youth Development Officer, Runnymede
Miss H. Dix	Surrey County Arts
Mr D. Gould	Jubilee High School
Mr T. Pattinson	Surrey Herald Newspaper

Those attending in an advisory/observers capacity:

Mr C. Hunt	Head of Leisure Services Runnymede Borough Council
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Mrs J. Mahoney and Mr C. Hull of Egham and District Choral Society and Mrs S. Ritchie of Spelthorne Drama Festival attended for part of the meeting.

1. <u>MINUTES</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2006 were confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the amendment of 'Ottakers' to 'Ottakar's' on page 3.</p>	<p>DAL (CP)</p>
<p>2. <u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Mrs D. Chadburn, Mrs A. Davis and Mr T. Pattinson. Mr R. Davies recorded his apologies for absence for the future meetings on 4 July and 3 October 2006.</p>	
<p>3. <u>MEMBERSHIP OF THE STEERING GROUP</u></p> <p>The Group noted with regret the resignation of Dr Gordon and it was confirmed that a letter of thanks on behalf of the Group had been sent to her. A replacement had not been found yet. It was agreed that the Chairman and Mr Spink would also write to her thanking her for her many years of loyal service.</p> <p>The Group noted that Mr Spink was no longer a member of Chertsey Chamber of Commerce, but that would he seek their view on him continuing to represent them.</p>	<p>Mr Leon-Smith/Mr Spink to action</p> <p>Mr Spink to action</p>

4. BUDGET SUMMARY

Members noted that the base budget for 2006/07 was £7,300 but that £500 had already been committed to Royal Holloway Symphony Orchestra leaving an available balance of £6,800. The budget summary attached at Annex '1' takes into account the recommendations made at the meeting.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mrs Young declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Egham and District Choral Society and left the room during the discussion of their application.

6. APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING

i) **EGHAM AND DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY**

Mrs J. Mahoney and Mr C. Hull attended the meeting to speak to the Society's application for funding for their summer concert on 17 June 2006 at TESIS school in Thorpe.

The first part of the concert would be a choral performance of 'The Mikado', featuring 15 of the Society's soloists, followed by an alfresco picnic interval and concluding with a lighter section of 'last night of the proms' type pieces accompanied by a local brass band.

The Glyndebourne experience would be brought to the residents of Runnymede and the Group agreed that TESIS was a very suitable venue with good acoustics suited to the Society's needs.

The Society's intention was to widen its audience base and improve publicity. In addition, 'Making Music' to whom the Society was affiliated had recently won a diversity award and a key aim therefore was to make the concerts more accessible to people with disabilities.

It was suggested that the Society applied to hire the Council's Community Transport vehicles to pick up its less mobile audience members, and contact the local rotary clubs who might also be able to help.

The Group recommended funding of £500 but in so doing wanted the Society to consider charging for its refreshments in order to make a more healthy profit.

Some members questioned the principle of indirectly funding a charitable donation because it was noted that the Society had supported a charity the previous year out of profits made having received funding from the Council.

[It has since been confirmed by the Council's Legal Section that there are no negative legal implications in funding an organisation that then makes donations to charity]

Mr Hunt to determine the application and inform the applicants

ii) **SPELTHORNE DRAMA FESTIVAL**

ACTION

The Group received an application from Mrs S. Ritchie of Spelthorne Drama Festival for their forthcoming festival in October 2006.

Mrs Ritchie explained how the festival was organised; local amateur dramatics groups (15 in 2005 – a record) paid £50 each to enter the festival which was presented over a week at either Magna Carta Arts Centre or at the Riverside Arts Centre in Sunbury. Each team benefited from an adjudication by a member of the Guild of Drama Adjudicators and mixed with the other teams to share experiences and promote the festival atmosphere.

Audiences paid £5 per ticket and had done so for the last 25 years. It was suggested that the Drama Festival Committee should review its ticket prices upwards, without raising them too much which might preclude the high numbers of young people attending. Mrs Ritchie agreed that £6 might be reasonable, subject to the views of the Festival Committee, bearing in mind that Spelthorne Drama Festival prided itself on being good value for money.

In respect of other funding received, Mrs Ritchie confirmed that very recently Spelthorne Borough Council had, after initially turning them down, agreed to fund them in the sum of £500, but that funding in 2007 was very doubtful.

The Steering Group, whilst supportive of the festival, were disappointed that it would not be taking part in Runnymede. However, it was confirmed that at least three of the participating teams were from Runnymede as were a good proportion of the audience.

The Steering Group also considered that in order to receive substantial funding it would be appropriate for the Drama Festival to acknowledge Runnymede more by changing its name to the Spelthorne and Runnymede Drama Festival. This would also strengthen the spirit of partnership working between Boroughs.

The Group recommended that funding of £250 be made, subject to the Festival Committee's consideration of its title.

Mr Hunt to determine the application and inform the applicant

iii) **PEOPLE'S THEATRE COMPANY**

The People's Theatre Company had submitted an application for funding for their on-going career development programme. The applicant was unable to attend the meeting.

The Group considered that as the project was well established and had been supported for the last two years it would be sensible in view of its reduced budget to 'hold back' for applicants new to the Group who were in need of initial assistance rather than making an ongoing contribution to an existing organisation's expenses.

Mr Hunt to determine the application and inform the applicant

7 **FEEDBACK ON COMPLETED ARTS PROJECTS**

i) **Mrs H. Churchill**

The Group noted the receipt of a letter of thanks and accounts for the Ivor Novello Concert.

ii) **Music for Adult Learners in Runnymede**

Mrs Roberts had attended the Concert for Adult Learners and reported that the standard of performances was very high and was a very enjoyable event.

iii) **Addlestone Community Theatre**

Mr Leon-Smith had attended Addlestone Community Theatre's 'The King and I' and was delighted with the show.

iv) **Royal Holloway Symphony Orchestra**

No feedback had been received and it was agreed that Mr Hunt would ask them if there had been any progress with their performing in the Borough prior to their tour in Germany, and whether any contact had been made with the University at Cologne.

ACTION

Mr Hunt to action

8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Councillors Ray and Davis informed the Group that they might not be members of the Steering Group in the future. They were both thanked for their service and contributions made over the last four years. It was noted that appointments to the Steering Group were made annually at the June meeting of Leisure and Environment Committee.

Mr Spink notified the Group of the arrival of a sculpture of Charles James Fox at the new development in Chertsey (which was also covered in the local press). Whilst its style was not to everyone's taste it was agreed that public art in the Borough was to be welcomed.

Mr Spink also advised the Group that he would soon be moving house and would need to supply Miss Pinnock with his new details for circulation to the Group after the June Leisure Committee had made appointments to the Group for 2006/07.

Mr Spink to action

The Group noted that the Annual Report for 2005/06 was currently being printed and would be circulated with the Minutes. It had cost approximately £320 which was a reduction of £120 on the previous year owing to a reduced order being made to contribute modestly towards the savings target.

Miss Pinnock to action

Mr Anderson informed the Group that Runnymede Association of Arts (RAA) was seeking to set up a bursary fund of £10,000 in memory of the late Mrs Mary Fitzhugh who founded the RAA and was well known amongst the local drama, craft and poetry societies. The Steering Group was very pleased with this news.

9. **DATES OF MEETINGS FOR MUNICIPAL YEAR 2006/07**

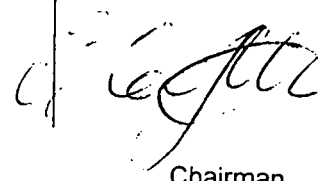
The following dates were noted for the meetings of the Steering Group in the Municipal Year 2006/07:-

Tuesday 4 July 2006

Tuesday 3 October 2006

Tuesday 6 February 2007

Tuesday 3 April 2007.



Chairman

4. July 2006

Runnymede Arts Development Steering Group

Budget Summary 2006/07

Base budget 2006/07	£7,300
Committed Projects	
Royal Holloway (University of London) Symphony Orchestra	-£500
Annual Report	-£320
Egham and District Choral Society	-£500
Spelthorne Drama Festival	-£500
Balance	£5,480