



**NEW BRIGHTON COASTAL COMMUNITY TEAM
(NBCCT)
MEETING NOTES**



Monday 18 November 2019

Present:	Caroline Laing (CL) Cathy Roberts (CR) Carl Leckey (CLe) David Hearn (DH) Hazel Quinn (HQ) Hedley Rees (HR) James Hughes (JH) Julie Rowlands (JR) Lynn Johnston (LJ) Marie Kenny (MK) (part) Mike Chapman (MC) Rev Heather Atkinson (RevA) Richie Pitt (RP) Rose Leckey (RL) Sue Mace (SM) Tom Smith (TS) Olivia Valerio (OV)	WMBC Constituency Manager Literally A Bookshop (Acting Chair) Momentary Art Project (MAP) The Dusty Teapot Vale House Café/Coffee Roast Wallasey Yacht Club New Brighton Radio The Light New Brighton Radio Floral Pavilion Theatre Friends of Vale Park St James with Emmanuel Church Vale House Café/Coffee Roast Momentary Art Project (MAP) The Black Pearl WMBC Culture & Visitor Economy Team WMBC Graduate Trainee (Notes)
Apologies:	Albert Ellis (AE) Dan Davies (DD) Doug Darroch (DD) Ian Richards (IR) Michelle Gray (MG) Nick Ashfield (NA) Nick Clarke (NC) Pat Hackett (PH) Shirley Ashton (SA) Tony Hurst (TH) Tony Jones (TJ)	Seabank Road Residents' & Tenants' Association Rockpoint Leisure Fort Perch Rock Rockpoint Leisure WMBC Wallasey Constituency Team Championship Adventure Golf Fort Perch Rock New Brighton Community Centre New Brighton Community Partnership Arcadia Amusements/Resort Group RNLI (Chair)
Invited:	Carla Beardmore (CB) Carole Bowie (CB) Jane Packham (JP) Joanne Kettle (JK) Lindsey Devlin (LD) Manisha Pandya (MP) Tricia Myers (TM) Natalie Cooper (NC) Neil Mitchell (NM)	Kollektive Wirral Model Shop Aprirose/Marine Point Victoria Pharmacy Floral Pavilion Theatre The New Brighteners Riverside Bowl & Laser Quest The Master Mariner WMBC Regeneration

1.	<p>Welcome, introductions and apologies:</p> <p>Apologies were noted. The notes from the last meeting have been published at: www.wirral.gov.uk/newbrighton.</p> <p>It was noted that Mike Chapman would be replacing Rusty Keane at the representative of the Friends of Vale Park. Best wishes and thanks were extended to Rusty for all her work both in New Brighton and on NBCCT. Julie Rowlands was also welcomed back.</p>	
2.	<p>Actions & matters arising from the last meeting:</p> <p><i>ACTION: Caroline Laing to request a relevant Council Officer attends the next meeting to discuss defective street lighting and pavements.</i> Completed. Agenda item.</p> <p>ACTION: Cathy Roberts & Shirley Ashton to discuss www.visitnewbrighton.com with Tony Hurst. The domain of the website is in the name of Tony Hurst but he is willing to pass the website onto another. A suitable candidate is being looked for to do this. Carried over.</p> <p><i>ACTION: ALL to notify Tom Smith of any local business events to be included on the River of Light webpage/comms.</i> Completed.</p> <p><i>ACTION: Caroline Laing to circulate dates for agreement at the next meeting.</i> Completed and dates agreed.</p> <p><i>ACTION: ALL to notify Caroline Laing of any New Brighton-based businesses, groups or organisations interested in becoming members of NBCCT.</i> Completed. A number of individuals representing various organisations were in attendance at the meeting. It was agreed that Caroline Laing would contact them further following the meeting.</p> <p><u>Matters arising</u> Rose Leckey updated the group regarding the status of the Family Beach Sand Sculpture Competition, after it was suggested at the last meeting that it would not be going ahead. The event has been picked up by another person, meaning that it will take place in 2020.</p>	CR/SA/ TH
3.	<p>Feedback: River of Light</p> <p>Tom Smith (WMBC Culture & Visitor Economy Team) fed back on the overall success of the River of Light festival. This year's event saw an increase in footfall from last year to circa 50,000. The event ran to time and schedule, with no injuries or incidents reported. The overall template of the event was praised, with the entertainment aspect of the event being another successful element.</p>	

	<p>Tom confirmed that next year's event (once agreed) will follow a similar template due to the success.</p> <p>It was highlighted by Cathy Roberts that the unveiling of the Black Pearl mural by Rockpoint Leisure immediately after the fireworks was a great help in staggering departures and keeping people congestion down in the New Brighton area generally. Tom indicated that organisers were looking to advertise events immediately after the display next year to replicate the logistical benefits as well as economic benefits for the area. Suggestions from the group included film screenings around the time and lighting up Vale Park leading visitors along the river.</p> <p>Tom acknowledged that despite improvements from last year, parking and traffic was still an issue. He reaffirmed that despite best efforts to reduce the levels of traffic, the road configuration makes it very difficult to control together with a lack of other options out of the area. Suggestions were made as to how this may be alleviated a little which Tom will explore. Tom also confirmed that Merseyrail offered services with more carriages at the time which was a positive; it was noted however that the continued operation by public transport of Sunday services during the event was problematic. Hazel Quinn noted matters relating to Vale Park which will be discussed with Tom Smith further for future events.</p> <p>Overall, the group unanimously agreed that the event was a success, with this year being the best River of Light they had experienced yet.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Street Lighting & Footways</p> <p>Brian Smith (Senior Highway Maintenance Street Light Manager) outlined that he was aware of the current issues surrounding the street lighting in New Brighton and more widely in the Borough. He confirmed the plans to replace the street lighting noting that they were 'aging assets' and in order to make sustainable changes, lights must be replaced to LED lighting. The LED phase 2 programme has now started. This will take two years to complete with 25,000 lights and 9,000 columns to be replaced. Brian is aware of the request to retain the heritage lighting in the Victoria Road area which is currently being considered and a decision awaited.</p> <p>In regard to the main problem along Marine Promenade, a cable fault was referenced as being the cause. Brian expanded on the complexities of repairing street lighting, highlighting the fact that numerous bodies can be involved and the issue on Marine Promenade is in the hands of Scottish Power. Cathy reiterated Dan Davies' stated concerns that the darkness can be hazardous for the elderly population. Cathy added that December is a critical time for the elderly to be out and that certain groups are desperate for good lighting.</p> <p>Away from the discussion around street lighting, Brian answered queries around footways and potholes in the area. Brian noted that a report is drawn up this time of year that identifies what work is to be done and when.</p>	

	<p>Richie Pitt queried whether there were any plans to put more lighting up in Vale Park which is becoming increasingly popular.</p> <p>ACTION: Caroline Laing to discuss lighting in Vale Park with Darran Marquiss (Parks & Countryside Manager).</p>	CL
5.	<p>Update: New Brighton – building upon the Economic Plan</p> <p>Caroline Laing provided an update on the next steps for building upon the Economic Plan, which sets out short, medium and long-term projects and has been beneficial in setting the vision for New Brighton. As New Brighton has developed there is more interest from developers and more potential projects arisen. The Council has recognised New Brighton as a key strategic area in Wirral, helping to prioritise the necessary resources internally. A Planning & Transportation Framework is being developed, overseen by a Strategic Project Team reporting to the Council’s Regeneration Board. This work recognises that the efforts and expertise of NBCCT is vital to moving forward. A senior officer is planned to attend the next meeting to discuss this work in more detail and begin engagement process with NBCCT.</p> <p>It was queried whether the Council was aware of the Liverpool City Region Town Centre Fund. Caroline confirmed that Wirral Council was receiving funding from this for two locations, Liscard and New Ferry.</p> <p>Carl Leckey emphasised the need to make New Brighton a more environmentally friendly area and pinpointed increased solar panelling as a statement. The benefits were noted but the vast scale of the challenge noted also.</p>	
6.	<p>Mermaid Trail & merchandising</p> <p>Shirley Ashton and representatives from Rockpoint Leisure were not present at the meeting to present and discuss this item so it was agreed to carry this over.</p> <p>ACTION: Mermaid Trail and merchandising to be carried over to next meeting’s agenda.</p>	CL
7.	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Carl Leckey raised the ongoing issue of the camper vans and the need for a designated camper van site in New Brighton. Caroline Laing confirmed that the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order had been extended to Pilots Way and parts of Portland Street until May 2020. It was still the intention to convene a focus group but due to Purdah in advance of the General Election this had been delayed further. Despite this, the intent to explore a dedicated site is still on the agenda.</p> <p>Carl Leckey also noted that he was awaiting a response following his meeting with representatives from the Council’s Culture & Visitor Economy Team.</p>	

<p>ACTION: Tom Smith to follow up with Alison Bailey Smith.</p> <p>Rose Leckey updated that not all Wirral Older People’s Parliament benches could be installed in October, with 23 planned to go in over the October/November period. Progress was being made with a Chuckle Walk.</p> <p>Sue Mace congratulated Rockpoint Leisure on the unveiling of the Black Pearl mural. This was also featured in the Liverpool Echo.</p> <p>Alison Ord updated the group on the progress of the Christmas lighting of the Fairy Village (Vale Park).</p> <p>David Hearn offered to promote any local event on The Dusty Teapot’s social media platforms. David also informed of a plan to do more events looking at the history of the Wirral, the next of which will look at Wirral in the Blitz.</p> <p>Richie Pitt informed of how they are trying to reinvigorate the Friends of Vale Park. Richie also informed of a ‘clean up and green up’ project involving the Young Rotarians. It was suggested that the old clock in Vale Park be restored, but Richie confirmed that the maintenance of such was financially difficult with a risk of vandalism.</p> <p>Caroline Laing noted the road resurfacing works in Victoria Road. The train station length of the road had been completed and works on opposite side would commence next week (evenings only) and a letter drop notifying residents and businesses was imminent.</p> <p>Caroline Laing noted that the Planning Applications for both ADV.’s Watersports & Adventure Park and the Council’s Event Platform were still at the Habitats Regulations Assessment stage. Caroline will keep the team updated.</p> <p>Caroline Laing also provided an update on the proposed land train. The report regarding the existing byelaw has been delayed due to the new governance system being prioritised for discussion at the next Council meeting. The report will be taken through the Committee process in the Spring of 2020. Caroline confirmed, in relation to a question asked, that regular vehicles will still be prohibited from driving on the promenade.</p>	<p>TS</p>
<p>Date of next meetings:</p> <p>Monday 9 December Monday 20 January Monday 24 February Monday 23 March Monday 20 April Monday 25 May Monday 22 June Monday 20 July</p>	

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