

50th years of Runcorn New Town 1964 - 2014

Appendix B - Provisional Events / Activity Calendar

Date / Time	Event / activity	Location	Lead Service
CORE OFFER			
24 – 26th March (evening performances)	Children of Halton Sing 'Songs for special events'	The Brindley Art Centre	Regeneration / The Brindley
Thursday 10 th April (time TBC)	Launch Event -Speakers and 1974 documentary premier screening	Halton Lea Library	Regeneration / Libraries
14 th – 26 th April, During Library opening times	Runcorn New Town at 50 Exhibition	Halton Lea Library	Libraries
28 th April – 2 nd May (times TBC)	Runcorn New Town at 50 Exhibition	Runcorn Shopping Centre Public Square	Libraries
Thursday 17 th April 6:00pm – 7:00pm	1974 Runcorn New Town Documentary – Community Screening	Castlefields Community Centre	Community Development
Thursday 24 th April 6:00pm – 7:00pm	1974 Runcorn New Town Documentary – Community Screening	Murdishaw Community Centre	Community Development
Thursday 1 st May 6:00pm – 7:00pm	1974 Runcorn New Town Documentary – Community Screening	Halton Lea Library	Community Development
OPTIONAL EXTRAS			
14 th April – 2 nd May	Halton Direct Link – Visual Display Units	Halton Direct Link Buildings	Public Relations and Marketing
28th April – 3rd May 5 x AM sessions 5 x PM sessions	'Reinventing Runcorn' – School Activity Week	Up to 10 Primary Schools, but targeted to those with strongest connections to new town.	Education Business Partnership
13 th May	Royal Town Planning Institute – New Town Summit	Letchworth Garden City	Regeneration
TBC	Presidential visit by the Royal Town Planning Institute	Tour of New Town	Regeneration
TBC	Canal Boat Adventure Project – New Town Dreams Documentary Screening	TBC	External Provision

Notes: Halton Easter School Holiday period is 7th - 21st April 2014

Core Offer

1) Children of Halton Sing 'Songs for special events'

Date: Monday 24th – Wednesday 26th March (evening performances)

Venue: The Brindley Arts Centre

As a forerunner to the 10th April anniversary date, on three consecutive nights, schools from across Halton will perform The Beatles 1967 classic 'with a little help from our friends' as part of the Children of Halton Sing concert. The song will be introduced by the choir director as being in recognition of 50th anniversary of Runcorn being designated a New Town and the special connection and friendship this has helped cement between the people of Halton and Liverpool.

During the performance images of the evolution of Runcorn New Town or an extract of the 1974 New Town documentary will be projected behind the singers.

2) Launch Event – Speakers and 1974 documentary premier screening

Date: Thursday 10th April (50th Anniversary of designation of New Town status)

Venue: Halton Lea Library

An early evening event will be held on the anniversary of Runcorn being designated a New Town. The event will begin with introductory speakers from the Council and a speaker with connections to Runcorn New Town and the New Town Movement will be sought. This could include Sir Peter Hall (eminent New Town academic), Arthur Ling (New Town Masterplan Architect), or Sir Terence Conran (business partner of Frederick Lloyd Roche CBE Chief Architect and Planning Officer for Runcorn new town). Engagement with the Royal Town Planning Institute and Royal Institute of British Architects would be an appropriate channel for approaching eminent figures.

Following speakers a screening of the 35 minute 1974 New Town documentary (made by the Canadian Film Board) will be held. This will be followed by closing remarks from the Council. The room will be dressed with aspects of the exhibition such as plans and the models. The event will be by invitation only with a maximum capacity of 40 people. Tea / Coffee / Fruit Juice will be served.

3) Exhibition – Runcorn New Town at 50 (Library)

Date: 14th – 26th April, during Library opening times

Venue: Halton Lea Library

The exhibition will raise the profile of the Library Services New Town archive and collection, as well as bringing in some material from external sources. Previous displays / exhibitions have tended to focus on Runcorn pre New Town and as such this exhibition is seen as a chance to engage with potential new customers. To summarise the exhibition will include:

- 3 original New Town Commission models currently in storage, two requiring restoration. Models include a 1:2500 scale of the entire new town, models of the now demolished Southgate development (designed by James Stirling) and (as envisaged) the Shopping City;
- Images and newspaper articles from the period;
- Masterplan documents and maps;
- New Town Commission pamphlets and promotional material;
- Archive footage of Runcorn New Town from 1974;

- An opportunity for residents to leave memories.

The above list is not exhaustive or definitive. The planned centrepiece of the exhibition is the Commission for New Town models, which are the only known surviving examples from the period and have been kept in storage at a council depot. Being at least 40 years old these models require some repair. Area Forum Funding is currently being sought to fund this.

4) Exhibition – Runcorn New Town at 50 (Runcorn Shopping Centre)

Date: 28th April – 2nd May (times TBC)

Venue: Runcorn Shopping Centre Public Square

Suitable aspects from the Halton Lea Library exhibition are to be displayed within the public square at Runcorn Shopping Centre. Formal agreements are to be agreed with staffing through a combination of HBC and local volunteers being considered. Customers will also be directed to Halton Lea Library.

5) 1974 Runcorn New Town Documentary – Community screenings

Dates: Thursday 17th April; Thursday 24th April; Thursday 1st May

Venues: Murdishaw and Castlefields Community Centres and Halton Lea Library

Halton Borough Council has secured a documentary from the Canadian Film Board which was produced in 1974 about the development of Runcorn New Town. Lasting approximately 35 minutes, the documentary shows footage of New Town neighbourhoods, Busway, Astmoor and Shopping City. It includes talking head interviews with residents, community workers, New Town planners and architects.

Running alongside the exhibitions a series of community screenings of the documentary will held in suitable Council venues (as identified above). Appropriate speakers will be sought for each screening. Elements from the Main exhibition will also be utilised (as appropriate) and opportunities sought to tie into promoting existing facilities such as the satellite library within Castlefields Community Centre. Opportunities for residents to share memories at these events will also be sought.

Optional Extras

6) Halton Direct Link – Visual Display Units

Date: 14th April – 2nd May

Venue: up to 3 Halton Direct Link Buildings

An approximately 10 minute ‘silent edit’ of the 1974 Runcorn New Town footage will be shown intermittently on Halton Direct Link building visual display units. Technology allowing this will also promote the proposed events calendars and how customers can get involved.

7) ‘Reinventing Runcorn’ young people engagement

Date: 28th April – 2nd May

Venue: Up to 10 Schools based sessions, 5 x AM sessions / 5 x PM sessions

These sessions will engage with and challenge young people to think about the concept of creating a new town. Halton Education Business Partnership will lead half day sessions within local schools (targeted to those with strongest connections to the New Town) dealing with spatial planning matters about what is needed to make a town work. Young people will get an understanding of some of the key ideas of the Runcorn New Town such (such as the Busway, segregated footpaths and roads; and Town Park). Themes covered within the session will include what types of housing are required, sustainability, providing shops, places of work and amenities; and, encouraging transport choices. The activity culminates with groups of young people designing and building a 3D model of their 'ideal' re-invented Runcorn.

8) New Towns Summit

Date: 13th May

Venue: Letchworth Garden City

The Royal Town Planning Institute have asked Halton BC to participate within a 1 day summit aimed at sharing experience of inheriting a New Town as part of our Local Authority. Other New Town are also schedules to be taking part. Halton Council participation is likely to be introducing an informal lunch time screening of the 1974 documentary, with perhaps a post lunch presentation on a lessons learned style presentation using a Runcorn New Town: 'back to the future' tagline. If we were approaching the New Town again what works; what would change – Design, governance and delivery. This would also pick up on work in Southgate and Castlefields and our current focus on improving our housing and employment offer.

9) Presidential visit by the Royal Town Planning Institute

Date: TBC – Likely either April or 2nd / 3rd October (date dependent on RTPi)

Venue: Likely tour of New Town via Busway, followed by a visit to Castlefields Village Square and drop into an Education Business Partnership 'Re-inventing Runcorn session and possible visit to exhibition / screening of New Town documentary, depending on when visit is undertaken.

2014 also represents that the centenary year of the Royal Town Planning Institute and they wish to present the Council with a Centenary Certificate in recognition of our status of nurturing a New Town. As such they have prioritised a Presidential visit to coincide with any 50th events.

10) Canal Boat Adventure Project – New Town Dreams Documentary

Date: Late 2014

Venue: TBC

Local Youth Group – The Canal Boat Adventure Project have recently secured £35,000 funding through the Heritage Lottery Fund's 'Young Roots' programme to make a documentary in 2014 focused on Runcorn New Town. The documentary will be made by young people themselves with support from professional documentary makers.

The concept for the documentary is to explore the original vision for Runcorn as a place to live, the dreams of families who moved to the 'brave new world' of the New Town and look to the future of Runcorn and the dreams and aspirations of the young people who call it their home.

It is planned that the documentary will maximise the opportunity presented from the 50th anniversary activities to help connect with residents and key individuals in the production of the documentary. The scope of the documentary (reflecting on the past / looking to future) lends itself to be a fitting finale to the anniversary.

