

Rivington Parish Council and UU Meeting

Date: Thursday 28/09/23 @ 11:00

Venue: Spring Cottage – Rivington

Ref: RPCUU 0923/01

1. Present and Apologies

Present: Chairperson Councillor David Jones (CCDJ), Councillor Barry Keenan (CBK), Councillor Lisa Harris (CLH), Councillor Trevor James-Ellett (CTJ-E), Councillor Vince McCully (CVM)
Clerk - Helen Skuce (HS)

County and Borough Councillor Kim Snape (CKS)

United Utilities: Mr Iain Pilling, Mr Matt Upton, Mr Paul Ashcroft

Rivington Resident – Judith Gilgun

Apologies: Chorley Borough Councillor - June Molyneaux
DPCC – Mr Andy Pratt
LCC Highways Department – Mr Tony Crook

2. Disclosures of personal or prejudicial interests

N/A

3. Introduction

- i. CCDJ introduced the Parish Council members. Helen Skuce gave brief outline of current situation re: traffic, parking and nighttime speeding throughout the local vicinity. CCDJ explained we were extremely interested in the results of the various surveys undertaken by UU from 2021/2022.

4. United Utilities

- i. Iain Pilling (IP) explained he was the Area Engagement Lead for UU replacing Steven Wong and UU had increased headcount in their Stakeholder Engagement team due to the level of investment required for their longer-term strategy. The huge business plans with investments of millions of pounds are the conduit for the rest of the business. IP apologised for leaving the Council and residents 'in the lurch' with regards to survey feedback.

- ii. Matthew Upton (MU) explained he was the Catchment Manager for the area, responsible for local operations. He updated the Council that UU now had 7 staff working in Rivington who were focused on maintenance and asset management. All work out of the Water Treatment Works, Bolton Road, Horwich.
- iii. Paul Ashcroft (PA) explained he was the Local Catchment Controller, had worked for UU for 14 years and works permanently within the Rivington catchment area. Paul lives in Adlington so is very aware of the real problems we suffer in Rivington due to traffic and speed.
- iv. General online survey results from 2021.
 - 1200 engaged in the survey.
 - 95% of contributors were local people.
 - UU update currently posted on website.
<https://www.unitedutilities.com/globalassets/documents/pdf/9637-rivington-exhibition-panels---additional-version-v7.pdf>
- v. Car Parking review
 - Consultation took place to understand how the car parks are currently being utilised with a view to introducing different types of charges to generate local income.
 - The report gives individual action plans for each car park in the Estate and demonstrates that there is enough capacity within the car parks but visitors do not want to use the car parks that are furthest away from activities.
 - UU are looking at a Pay and Display proposal. An Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) scheme is currently being reviewed with a different tariff for residents and local people.
 - Signage – directional and must be relevant (sign blindness)
 - Fixed signage – where the car parks are and current capacity.
 - Knowle Lane car park has been identified as the Car Park to start trailing signage and payment.
 - PA working with RHT volunteers and will ask for a monthly update to be posted on the RHT website which will include an update on the free shuttle bus operating on a Sunday. HS specified that it should be the Parish Council that alert residents and visitors to new procedures in Rivington not RHT. This should also apply to business stakeholders ie. Great House Barn/Rivington Tap Room, various cafes/tea rooms throughout the park.
 - IP explained that UU's CEO has decided not to implement a charging scheme at this current time due to the cost of living

crisis. It is currently on hold but expected to come into force in the future.

- Councillor Barry Keenan (CBK) asked UU when Lever Park was going to be ringfenced with regards to future parking charges due to the fact it was gifted to the People of Bolton by Lord Leverhulme in 1904 for the “free and public use of the public”. Any parking charges will create opposition from the members of the public that come to Rivington every day to walk or exercise pets.

vi. Highways

- Tony Crook LCC Highways Manager was unable to attend the meeting as he was on annual leave but sent some data/stats for discussion at the meeting. Unfortunately, the data does not correspond with what the residents must suffer on a regular basis and therefore require proper context and explanation. We have now been informed that it was a satellite measuring system but no one understands what this means or how this is meant to work.
- County Councillor Kim Snape explained that she had got involved with Phil Durrell (LCC Director of Highways) and Steven Wong. The outcome was that Highways require evidence-based fact before they would agree to any road changes and that double yellow lines would take approximately 5 years to approve. Councillor Snape also made the attendees aware of the LCC Parish Council Charter which was developed & implemented in 2022 with a current end date of 2024. After reading the Charter we feel convinced that as a Parish Council we should be receiving more support from Highways to assist us in effecting changes within our Infrastructure due to the major problems the current situation causes for residents. It would appear that LCC are not currently meeting their own charter.

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/media/934663/parish-and-town-council-charter.pdf>

- vii. CCDJ asked whether it was possible to say how much we as a Parish receive and how much per annum is actually spent on Rivington. MU explained that UU’s business is split between regulated and none regulated work. MU sits on the regulated side of the business. The business is regulated by OFWAT. MU is

issued with a budget for the whole of Lancashire. No income is received from none regulation work.

MU informed the attendees that since the moorland fires £1.2m had been spent within the last 3 years. £0.75m p.a. was highlighted as current spend. PA explained that the Police rural team had been increased from 1 to 4 so we should see more police activity because of this. HS explained that she has requested from the Police and Special Constables a breakdown of the incident stats in Rivington and also invited them to Parish meetings but no response was received.

- viii. CCDJ explained that following the Town Hall Meeting 20th September, Chorley Borough Council were going to offer a dedicated email and phone number to enable incidents in Rivington and surrounding area to be logged as a matter of priority.

5. Rivington Heritage Trust (RHT)

- i. CTJ-E attended RHT on the 27th September representing the Parish Council. Feedback below.
- ii. All events apart from the Festival of Light have been cancelled. No high-risk events will take place in the future.
- iii. UU currently funding RHT with £80k pa but this will cease at year end 31/03/23.
- iv. The Halle event '23 unfortunately lost £4k.
- v. It is expected that there will be one event per year to be held at the Rivington Castle ruin.
- vi. Chris Matthews to arrange a community engagement event with Stakeholders including residents.
- vii. Grant application was available as a museum grant for the renovation of Pigeon Tower.
- viii. Asda Foundation also support RHT with a cash donation.
- ix. English Heritage Trust donate up to £25k pa. looking at a study of history of the workforce.
- x. Vanessa Ashworth voluntarily leads the Friends of Rivington support group and has been really successful in raising funds for RHT.
- xi. Next meeting of RHT is 02/12/23 at the Visitors centre. Councillor Trevor James-Ellett will again attend on behalf of the Council.

6. Next steps

- i. HS to forward completed minutes to meeting attendees.
- ii. HS to compile communications to Highways Dept. explaining that the Parish Council, UU Stakeholder Managers and County

Councillors agree that due to safety and stopping the abuse of residents/visitors to Rivington that speed control measures should be implemented along with double yellow lines along Rivington Lane, Horrobin Lane and Sheepphouse Lane. Wooden posts should also be inserted to prevent parking on grass verges all along Rivington Lane. An explanation is required from the Transport Department with regards to the data/statistics that were previously sent. County, Town & Parish Councillors as well as UU meeting attendees will be copied on this correspondence.

- iii. HS to ensure that the three UU representatives are invited to our future parish meetings.
- iv. IP to notify the Council of any proposed future changes to the Country Park.
- v. Once detail available all residents to log incidents/issues with the new dedicated email or phone number. HS to send out detail to all Councillors and post on Parish website for all residents to utilise.