

Make it Macclesfield

2017 MIM AGM Thursday 15th June, Macclesfield Rugby Club:

Executive Summary

- The membership supported a motion for MIM to become a campaigning organisation. In this role it will seek a re-urbanisation strategy for Macclesfield to reverse the town's continued decline.
 - MIM believes that the local and regional governing and funding bodies with the resources to make a difference are failing adequately to address the needs of Macclesfield and its community
 - Without better recognition of this problem by these bodies Macclesfield's palpable decline will continue.
 - MIM will therefore campaign to redress these imbalances and will seek to participate in an open, transparent and accountable process to regenerate the town for the benefit of its community
- The Print Mill was transferred to the Community Arts Space at the end of Q1 2017
- Enterprising Macc had a successful year and will now spin off as an independent CIC
- Clare Heyward will after 5 years stand down from the board and both the board and membership thanked her for the contribution she has made in this time

1. Welcome

Mike Rance (Vice chair) opened the meeting. He welcomed the members in the room, who made a quorum, and invited the non-members to consider becoming one (at no cost and maximum liability of £1).

2. Annual Accounts

Copies were available at the meeting and as MIM is a Community Interest Company the accounts are submitted to Companies House and the Community Interest Company Regulator. Gareth White took the meeting through the accounts highlighting MIM had ended the year with a 15.5k deficit funded by reserves.

After a period of Q/A which, in particular, addressed MIM's Community Engagement programme the accounts put to the Members and were approved unanimously.

3. Social Audit Report

a. The Print Mill

This is a project aimed at regenerating lower Mill Street, developing artistic talent and supporting the heritage and culture of Macclesfield. In March this year the Print Mill, and its assets (primarily the RISO machine) were handed over to the Community Arts Space. They will move from a transaction based business model to a subscription based model. This is a charitable organisation and continues the existence of the Print Mill in Macclesfield.

b. Enterprising Macclesfield

EM exists to encourage and support enterprise in the local area. It is distinctive for a market town to have such a body. Since December 2015 107 clients have been helped (55% established and 45% new). 5 case studies have been developed. It has a board, 17 volunteer coaches and 15 local partners who offer initial pro bono advice.

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EM will now spin off from MIM into its own CIC. It has some costs for administration and demand generation and aims to move from a grant funded organisation to a self-funding basis through sponsorship, charging for some services and donation. It is also considering the best way to measure economic impact for the local economy.

Two asks were made of the membership

- If you know of someone needing help please ask them to get in touch
- If you are able to point EM in the direction of potential sponsor please do and the board will follow up the leads

c. Community Engagement

MIM also has a programme of engagement and three (not four as planned) were held through the year. The missed meeting was due to the board considering a new role for MIM and it was judged it was better to work through this before bringing to the AGM.

- May 20th 2016: Football Club (Breakfast) – Attendance 85 - Ask Estates on Churchill Way Scheme
- October 27th 2016: Rugby Club (Evening) – Attendance 40 -- MIM AGM and open discussion of future plans
- December 2nd: 8am, AstraZeneca, Hurdsfield (Breakfast) - Attendance 75 - Paul Bowen (Chair Eastern Cheshire CCG) on the local NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plan

Highlights included hearing the Clinical Commissioning Group talk about health provision for the area (including A&E) and a first introduction of the new CEC Director of Place, Frank Jordan to the opportunity that Macclesfield presents to Cheshire East.

The Public Meetings were seen as a good way to engage the community and also a good way to hold people and organisations with responsibility to public account. Macclesfield suffers from not having a BBC radio station and only having 1 quality weekly newspaper

4. Election of Officers

At a previous AGM it had been decided that it was appropriate for directors to put themselves up for re-election every year. Mike indicated that Clare Hayward, after five years as Chair, will be stepping down as a director.

The board expressed their deep gratitude to Clare for the time and effort he had given to MIM

Nigel Manton and Rhiannon-Jane Raftery introduced themselves to the members and along with Mike Rance, Gareth White, Micky Jones and Graeme Bristow were put to the members as directors and all were duly elected.

5. MIM's role as the Place Team for Macclesfield

In words that echo last year's AGM the comments from the floor reflected that Macclesfield continued to suffer and this had now been the case for many years.

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The proposal put to the membership was that MIM should move to become a campaigning organisation and the motion put to the membership was this:

The Make it Macclesfield Board believes that our local and regional governing and funding bodies are failing adequately to address the needs of Macclesfield and its community.

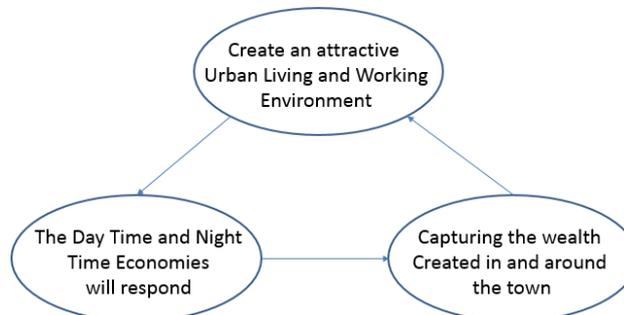
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The strategy it would actively pursue would be focussed on 5 themes:

1. **Governance**
2. **Technology**
3. **Skills**
4. **Planned evening and social economy.**
5. **Rapid and sustained increase in number of town centre residents.**

Urbanisation is the Key



Discussion:

- There was a concern that MIM would now be holding the bodies that fund it to account and this may be unwelcome and result in funding being withdrawn
- There was no intention of challenging the role of the elected bodies in the town/region
- There was consensus that MIM should seek to raise membership substantially – 5000 members would enable it to be a body that ideas can be tested with
- The LEP need to recognise the opportunity of Macclesfield
- Macclesfield could benefit from a “neighbourhood plan” which is an option to galvanise and own the future of Macclesfield by people who live and work here
- Plans that support urbanisation should be prioritised and support the “convenience town” that Macclesfield it.
- There was concern that a town champion needed impedance (?) to make decisions for the town rather than other stakeholders
- Many good proposals are out there but without the political / practical consensus to get over the line and get delivered – MIM could help these.

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When the Motion was put to Members it was approved by a large majority with a single vote against the Motion and two abstentions from Councillors Beverley Dooley and Janet Jackson.

End