

**Miners Race meeting held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**PRESENT**

Cllr Tracy Gilmore, Cllr Gerry Price, Cllr Carol Stephenson, Cllr Angie Scott, Sarah Eden (Clerk)

Apologies were received from Cllr Chris Barrett

1. Members were tasked with reviewing the aspirations of the Miners Race. The Clerk shared the press release and early reports from the Miners Race revival in the 2012 Olympic year. It was clear that the race intended to appeal to local runners, not necessarily athletes, as in the case when the original Miners Race was taking place in the town. It was also clear that the council wished the race to be a legacy of the 2012 Olympics and to be in keeping with the miner's heritage in the town.
2. The group discussed that those being targeted to take part in the race were club runners and as a result the race was completed mostly by club runners. The idea that local groups in the town could be targeted to complete the race for fun, even in fancy dress was discussed. It was also suggested that serious or club runners could be positioned at the start and those running for fun/community could be further back, as is the case for other events in the race calendar.
3. Although the route has changed previously, members discussed bringing the race to West Wylam where the pit was located. Eastwood Park was considered a perfect location and it was discussed that the council could encourage local community groups not only to put teams into the event, but also to bring an activity along to the park whilst the race was going on; this would achieve more of an event which is in keeping with the aspirations of Essity also. As the park is mainly used by Prudhoe Youth Football Club, the council would need to check fixtures, although there is a great deal of space.
4. Like the junior and mini-run at the Riverside, it was discussed that the shorted runs could take place within the park.
5. It was agreed that it would be preferable if the route could take in the riverside again and safety and km permitting if it could pass the Miner's Tub and the old pit road before coming back along to Eastwood Park.
6. Members were mindful that the town council, although good at bringing groups together for events, were not best placed to organise the race and that interest should be sought from suitable organisations. Those mentioned were Stocksfield Striders, Prudhoe Plodders, Blaydon Harriers, Elswick Harriers, Challenge Northumberland and Run Northumberland. In the event that more than one group was interested in being Race Director, the council would need to seek firm proposals and make a decision on which to go with.
7. Members agreed that the council should set aside a budget, that along with the sponsorship from Essity would cover any road closures and prizes.
8. Members discussed that failing any new route being agreed, the council should revert to the 2018 route but make a greater effort to end the race before the amphitheatre so this great space can be utilised.
9. Members looked at dates for other races taking place and agreed that the end of September would be preferable – Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

**Recommendations from the meeting have been included on the agenda as proposals, for consideration and agreement.**