

Reconnecting Runcorn

Brindley Theatre Enhancement

Open Day 14 April 2022 and online survey feedback responses

Thanks to everyone who came to our Open Day, or shared views via the survey on <https://reconnectingruncorn.info/>. We hope to host further consultations and open days as the project develops and will advertise these opportunities on the Council's social media and Reconnecting Runcorn website. The email address reconnectingruncorn@halton.gov.uk is always open for queries.

Please see answers to the most frequently asked questions from the survey.

Q1. Will the current access from the High Street to the Brindley entrance be improved? One member of the public advised us "Poor road access, narrow cobbled road not an appropriate surface, poor pedestrian access unsafe surface."

A1. Yes. There will be a step free path, from the High Street up to the Brindley entrance, with a gradient no more than 1:20, meeting DDA standards. The path will take people through a welcoming, well-designed, and high quality material, open space to arrive at the Brindley entrance.

After reviewing the concept art images one respondent wrote *"I like the way the plans show the Brindley to be more integrated into Runcorn High Street. At the moment it is up on a narrow road. The frontage will also be improved by the new landscaping."*

Q2. Will the Brindley Theatre Enhancement works require removing any of the disabled, or non-disabled, car parking spaces?

A2. No. The Brindley Theatre Enhancement project will not propose any reductions in the amount, or the location, of public parking spaces.

Q3. Which company will operate the café/restaurant?

A3. It is too early to say who will operate the new café-restaurant. It might be the Council, or a private operator. If it is privately operated, the Council would aim for a local independent business.

Q4. What will be available for menu at the restaurant? One respondent enquired, "I understand that it's a lot to ask but I would have liked to have seen something available for a pre-show dinner."

A4. Whilst there is no operator confirmed, the planned kitchen of the café/restaurant will allow for a bistro style menu. We want the operator to provide pre-show dinners.

Q5. Will there be a Changing Places facility?

A5. Yes, a Changing Places facility is in the plans

Q6. Will the current Library inventory change due to the relocation?

A6. No, the plans allow for the same metres of shelving, and similar number of computers in the new situation.

Q7. When in the Library, will you hear sounds from shows in the Theatre? One respondent asked: "Will the open design cause acoustic issues?"

A7. The Theatre benefits from sound and light locks that strongly reduces noise coming from, or entering the main hall. Only at interval or at end times, when the doors open, will the flow of people make the Foyer lively. The Library will benefit from acoustic measures that reduce general background noise.

Q8. *Will there be new signage on both floors of the Brindley Theatre to assist in finding locations of certain facilities? A member of the public told us: "I feel the current signage is poor as I didn't even know the Brindley had a café."*

A8. Yes. The Brindley will have new internal signage advising visitors of the different areas.

Q9. *Will the new Library be open during the same hours as the Brindley? One member of the public requested "Longer opening hours for those who can't access during the day."*

A9. Whilst we are unable to confirm exact opening times at this moment, the Library will benefit from the longer opening hours of the Brindley. This provides people with longer access to the Library offer, although staffing times might well be the same as current. The Library will be open for longer and people can use the self-service system during the Brindley's opening hours.

Q10. *Will the new Library host an enhanced Children's area as one member of the public told us they feel the library "Needs to be bigger with an inspirational children's section to improve literacy rates in the local area."*

A10. The Council commissioned a specialist to create exciting plans for the interior design of the Library and the new café-restaurant, including the new Children's area of the Library, which will inspire more people, including children, using the Library.