



## **Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement & Community Safety**

**Northampton Borough Council**

**24<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

### **Councillor Community Fund**

Since the beginning of April 2015, a total of £193,657.14 has been spent on local projects that have been supported through the Cllr Community Fund, approximately 475 projects have been delivered across the neighbourhoods in the Borough.

### **Partnership Support**

Funding has been allocated and will support 33 projects and organisations that will deliver positive outcomes for the community. Organisations will be made aware of the allocations in the coming weeks. Four organisations will receive a three year grant.

### **Forums**

Planning underway for IDAHO, conference on 17th May, to be held at the Royal and Derngate. Youth Forum are currently making plans for International Youth Day to include Gambling Awareness. Srebrenica visit confirmed for September 2017. Through the Pensioners Forum, engaging Digital Eagles a Tea Dance was Held on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March. The event was very well attended.

### **Volunteers**

50 University students have worked in two community centres (Bellinge and Blackthorn), they have painted fences, tidied up gardens, weeded, trimmed shrubs and varnished outdoor toys.

Olympus Care have completed some litter picking in Victoria Park and some epicormics growth removal in Becket's Park.

The Girl Guides are working with Weston Favell Parish Hall and Travis Perkins will be bringing 10 staff to another one of our community centres to carry out painting and decorating later this month.

### **Events**

The Bands in the park season commenced on the Sunday 2 April and runs throughout the summer until the middle of September.

The annual HMS Laforey Parade on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April and the Terry Wire Memorial Harley Davidson on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April were well received and enjoyed by the public in the town centre. We saw the circus back on Midsummer Meadow for the first time in almost two years and the return of the fair to Kingsthorpe Rec.

The plans for the food festival in Becket's Park on the 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> May have been approved and we continue to work closely with the event organisers for the Beer Festival (2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> June), Pretty Muddy & Race for Life (3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> June), Carnival (10<sup>th</sup>

June), Speedy Cup (17<sup>th</sup> June), Music Festival (18<sup>th</sup> June) and Armed Forces Day & Parade (24 June), Race for Life and more.

### **Culture & Heritage**

Art in the Park exhibition opens at Abington Park Museum on 29 April. The open exhibition is in its 56<sup>th</sup> year and showcases the work of Northamptonshire artists.

Two Over 60s talks in March were sold out and were attended by 142 visitors. A Spring series of talks is planned for April to July and will be held at The Guildhall due to decoration work at Abington Park Museum.

Easter workshops were held at Abington Park Museum and were well attended. Over the Easter weekend an Easter Egg Trail was very popular with young families.

During a five week period in February and March, 62 volunteers gave 577 hours of their time to assist curatorial staff in assessing and packing 3,125 objects from the displays and stores at Northampton Museum and Art Gallery. An afternoon tea was held on 31 March to thank volunteers for their time and was attended by over 50 volunteers.

### **Museum Expansion Project**

The museum has taken possession of the Old Goal Block building and invasive survey work is now underway. Initial gallery design concepts have been developed with the exhibition designer in advance of full Concept Design stage. A collaborative planning session was held, led by the main contractor, Wates, and involving the key contractors on the project to develop the formal project plan and agree submission dates and interface issues.

### **Customer Services**

The national statistics confirm that 1 in 4 people suffer from a Mental Health condition.

Customer Services have arranged Remploy, a leading charity whose mission is to transform society and the lives of disabled people, to deliver Mental Health awareness training to Managers within Customers and Communities. The objective of the training includes:

- Understand what is meant by mental health
- Awareness of different types of mental health conditions and their potential impact at work
- Consider the relationship between stress, mental wellbeing and performance
- How to create a supportive climate and have conversations about mental health
- Workplace adjustments and practical tools to use
- Where and how you can access support services

The feedback from the managers who attended this course was extremely positive and managers commented that they felt confident in identifying early signs of mental health and knew the possible adjustments and support to offer. Health and Safety and HR also attended these courses and have received feedback. HR are looking to offer further training to all NBC manager.

### **Community Safety**

Overall crime has finished the year with a 10.7% increase (+1,617 crimes) since April 2016. However, on a positive note the increase has been slowing down since December 2016. Serious Acquisitive Crime has seen an increase of 45.3% (+1,232 crimes) with vehicle crime rising by 72.5% (+1,061 crimes), domestic burglary by 5.5% (+54 crimes). However, domestic burglary has continued to show a reduction in the

second half of the year. The rate at which violence against the person continues to show an increase, but is still less than this period last year with an increase of 8.7% (+97 crimes). Anti-Social Behaviour incidents reported to Police have increased by 6%, and the last 3 months have seen a reduction. Environmental ASB reports have increased by 10.5%. Personal ASB has reduced by .7%, and nuisance ASB has increased by 9.4%.

The Nights Out Northampton campaign continues to pick up momentum, with a number of town centre pubs and clubs displaying the mirror wraps in their rest rooms. Regular 'Tweets' and 'Facebook' messages are also being shared.

The Community Safety Priority Locations for Weeks of Action have been identified and agreed for 2017/18. The first Week of Action took place on St David's week commencing 3 April 2017 and was extremely well supported by agencies and the local community. Further Weeks of Action are planned for King's Heath, Briar Hill, Thorplands and Semilong.

**Councillor Anna King**  
**Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Community Safety**