



Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement & Community Safety

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 19th June 2017

Partnership Support

Funding has been allocated and will support 32 projects and organisations that will deliver positive outcomes for the community. These include:

Manna House Counselling Service - part of the Manna House Trust	£12,000
Spencer Contact	£15,000
Liberty Drums Corps	£6,590
Northamptonshire Rape Crisis	£15,000
Northampton Women's Aid	£20,000
Age UK Northamptonshire	£40,000
Northampton Door to Door Service	£25,410
Umbrella Fair Organisation	£15,000
The Good Loaf CIC	£10,000
The Lowdown	£17,500
Unity Leisure Northampton Leisure Trust	£8,500
Northampton Street Pastors	£8,000
Northampton Men's Sheds	£15,000
Home-Start Northampton	£18,000
Northampton Town FC Football in the Community Programme	£25,000
Community Spaces Northampton (2) Youth Project	£15,000
Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire	£10,000
Northampton Hope Centre	£10,000
Northampton Music 365	£5,000
Community Spaces Northampton (1)	£15,000
Bridge Substance Misuse Programme Ltd	£10,000
Action Support Uk Ltd on behalf of our Division Scooter 2 Go	£10,000
MHA Live at Home Northampton	£8,000
Relate Northamptonshire	£8,000
Singing4Breathing	£6,000
Community Centre joint bid Blackthorn Good Neighbours (lead)	£15,000
Care & Repair Northamptonshire	£5,000
Northamptonshire Rights and Equality Council	£5,000
Tools for Self-Reliance	£8,000
Association of Northamptonshire Supplementary Schools Ltd	£10,000
Dostiyo Asian Women and Girls Organisation	£4,000
Indian Hindu Welfare Organisation	£5,000

There are four organisations that the panel has recommended be funded for three years. These include:

- Manna House Counselling Service - part of the Manna House Trust
- Northampton Women's Aid
- Age UK Northamptonshire
- Northampton Door to Door Service

Councillor Community Fund

Cllrs have just received their new allocations of £3,000, from 1st April 2017. Any underspends from the previous years have been carried forward. From 1st July 2017, the small grants fund will be administered by Northampton Borough Council.

Forums

IDAHO, conference held on 17th May, at the Royal and Derngate, more than 50 attendees from primary and secondary schools in attendance, combine the Borough Council's annual civic event for IDAHO with the conference.

An initial questionnaire developed through NBC's Youth forum, looking into the attitudes and behaviour of young people in Northampton, was well received at the Community Action for Responsible Gambling meeting in April. YGAM (National Youth Gambling Trust) identified this as an important piece of work and invited those involved to present the project at the YGAM symposium in September.

Successful in securing £1,350 from the Armed Forces Day fund to support Armed Forces Day on Saturday 24th June.

Volunteers

Volunteering work continues, gardening work established at Vernon Terrace Community Centre (ongoing upkeep and maintenance).

Events

Bands in the Park, which is held on the bandstand in Abington Park, continues to be popular with visitors and the programme will run throughout the summer.

The food festival (14th & 15th May) and Beer Festival (2nd – 4th June) on Becketts Park and the Carnival (10th June) and Speedy Cup (17th June) on the Racecourse delivered a variety of entertainment for the whole family to enjoy.

We are looking forward to Armed Forces Day events on the market square with the regimental parade on Saturday 24th June with thousands of visitors' people expected to come into the town centre. The Town Festival returns to the Racecourse on 1st – 2nd July with the RBL Honour Walk and Lewis Foundation Walk taking place on the 1st. The council continues to support community and charitable groups across its parks and open spaces.

Looking forward, the council will be supporting the annual Umbrella Fair on the Racecourse and the Half Marathon in the town centre / Delapre Park.

Culture & Heritage

The fourth series of Art History lectures take place during May and June at the Guildhall. The lectures are growing in popularity and are led by a team of art specialists from the University of Leicester.

The second series of five watercolour workshops for adults take place at Abington Park Museum in May and June. The theme for each workshop is based around structures in the park or museum.

A one woman play was performed during May at Abington Park Museum about the artist and suffragette Sylvia P Pankhurst.

A guided tour of Abington Park with archaeologist Jack Plowman sold out very quickly and customer feedback was exceptionally positive.

A Vintage & Craft Fair at the end of May attracted over 40 stallholders selling a wide range of vintage, reworked and handmade stalls selling fashion, accessories, jewellery, collectibles, homeware and more. The event attracted over 1,000 visitors.

Museum Expansion Project

Asbestos, drainage and archaeological surveys have been completed for the Museum, Old Gaol Block and Guildhall Road Block and final reports will be delivered in the next few weeks. The Pre-Design Report was received from the exhibition designers. This was the first response to the initial exhibition design briefs provided by the museum staff, so as to agree initial design ideas, before moving into the more detailed Concept Design stage.

Museum Governance Future Options

Consultants have held meetings with a number of cognate bodies, including the Arts Council, and Heritage Lottery Fund to discuss their response to potential governance options. A workshop was held with the Museum management team to consider different options and criteria against which to evaluate the options.

Customer Services

Conflict and Personal Safety training has been delivered to all Customer Services, Facilities and Call Care staff. The objectives of the course include:

- Crime prevention
- Three basic principles of awareness
- Triangle of Crime/personal Safety
- Mental preparation
- Understanding the importance of non-verbal communication
- Personal Safety devices and tactics
- Types of resistance

This half day course helped staff identify the early signs of aggression and the language and non-verbal communication that helps resolve conflict.

Community Safety

Serious Acquisitive Crime has seen an overall increase of +1,232 crimes for 2016/17. Within this, vehicle crime has risen by 1,061 crimes and domestic burglary by 54 crimes. However, domestic burglary has shown a reduction in the second half of the year, and due to the arrest of some key offenders this reduction is expected to continue into the 2017/18. Awareness raising and advice continues to be provided in priority locations and target hardening of vulnerable properties continues. The rate at which violence against the person continues to show an increase, but is considerably less than this period last year with an increase of 8.7% (+571 crimes). Anti-Social Behaviour incidents reported to Police have increased by 6%, but the last 3 months of 2016/17 have seen a reduction. Environmental ASB reports have increased by 10.5%. Personal ASB has reduced by 0.7%, and nuisance ASB has increased by 9.4%.

Weeks of Action areas for 2017/18 are St David's, Kings Heath, Briar Hill, Thorplands and Semilong. There will also be focussed pieces of work taking place throughout the year on the town centre addressing issues such as begging, street drinking, knife crime, personal safety etc.

The first week of Action in St David's took place week commencing 3 April 2017 and was extremely well supported by agencies and the local community.

Councillor Anna King
Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Community Safety