



Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement & Community Safety

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 10th July 2017

Councillor Community Fund

Since the beginning of April 2015, a total of £193,107 has been spent on local projects that have been supported through the Cllr Community Fund.

Partnership Support

End of year monitoring reports for the Partnership Grant 2016-17 are due at the end of this month. The Service level Agreements and monitoring for the 2017-18 grants have all been drafted and being worked through for the 32 organisations we are funding this year.

Forums

Members of NBC's Youth Forum engaged directly with the community at Northampton's Carnival on Saturday 10th June, using a questionnaire that they have developed, looking into the attitudes and behaviours of young people in Northampton with regards to gambling. Planning underway for Srebrenica on 11th July and also International Youth Day, which will be held at Northampton Racecourse on Saturday 12th August.

Volunteers

Volunteers Week supported, 5th June – 9th June. Visits made to regular volunteer placements, including Spencer Dallington Community Centre Café. The visits were promoted on social media throughout the week, promoting the work of our volunteers and presence had in the One Stop Shop, on the screens and officers as a point of contact.

Events

Bands in the Park continues to be deliver quality performances enjoyed by the many visitors to the Park.

The Music Festival (Sunday 18th June) saw thousands of visitors come in to the town centre to listen to a variety of music genres on the Market Square, All Saints, Guildhall Courtyard, Abington Street and 9 Guildhall Road.

Armed Forces Day (Saturday 24th June) saw marching bands, military vehicles and troops parading around the town centre and attracted thousands of visitors along the parade route. On the Market Square we had music from the cadet band alongside stalls and other entertainment.

The Town Festival returned to the Racecourse on Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd July and attracted thousands of visitors who enjoyed a variety of entertainment throughout the weekend.

Over the next few months we have the Mela Community Event in Becketts Park (30th July); Circus on Midsummer Meadow (3rd – 8th August); Umbrella Fair on the Racecourse (19th & 20th August); Funfair on the Racecourse (including Bank Holiday weekend); Colour Fun Run in

Abington Park (27th August) and the Half Marathon in the town centre and Delapre Park (3rd September).

Culture & Heritage

A series of six Over 60s talks was well received. All talks took place at the Guildhall whilst the decorating work at Abington Park Museum was underway and three of the talks sold out within the first two weeks of going on sale.

Half term workshops included bug hunts and nature themed crafts and were attended by 51 children.

During June, a Willow Weaving workshop and two pasta making workshops were held and were well attended.

Museum Expansion Project

Work is now beginning on the concept design stage for the exhibition galleries.

The architects are updating the base plans following comments from the design team and have begun constructing the computer 3D model.

Information from the survey work undertaken is being fed into this process once all is received.

Museum Trust

Consultants have held meetings with a number of bodies, including the delayed meeting with the Arts Council to discuss their response to potential governance options. A workshop was held with NBC officers to review the proposed options and criteria against which to evaluate the options.

Customer Services

Customer Services saw an increase of 4100 calls in May compared to April. Through excellent planning and forecasting the team managed the additional General Elections enquiries of 3659, achieving 93.5% of all calls answered against a target of 90%.

We opened the phone lines 7am to 10pm on the day of the Election and dealt with 700 enquiries.

Community Safety

Overall crime has seen a 0.3% increase (+210 crimes) since April 2017. Serious Acquisitive Crime has seen an overall increase of 2.7% (+101 crimes) and the increase is slowing down. Within this vehicle crime has risen by 102 crimes. Domestic burglary continues the reduction seen in the second half of 2017/18 with 25 less crimes, and due to the arrest of some key offenders this reduction is expected to continue. Close working with the police continues, focussing on specific crime types, with a partnership focus being taken.

In order to further develop and improve partnership working, enabling a multiagency approach to issues, Partnership Problem Solving training has been delivered to Sector Police officers, PCSO's, Community Safety staff and Neighbourhood Wardens.

The CSP hosted a Domestic Homicide learning event for professionals. The event focussed on the 2 reviews completed in 2016/17, sharing the process, outcome and learning to help inform future working. The event was well attended and received by a wide range of partner agencies.

Weeks of Action are planned for 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.

Consultation is currently taking place on the proposal for a Public Spaces Protection Order for Marble Arch, Semilong. All feedback is welcomed and the questionnaire can be found on the NBC website.

Councillor Anna King
Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Community Safety