



Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement & Community Safety

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 18 September 2017

Councillor Community Fund

Since the beginning of April 2015, a total of £212,619 has been spent on local projects that have been supported through the Cllr Community Fund.

Partnership Support

The Service level Agreements and monitoring for the 2017-18 grants for the 32 organisations we are funding this year have all been finalised and signed. The first payments have been made.

The Small Grants funding, is now being administered back in house, there has been a smooth transition and the panel has had their first meeting.

Forums

The Partnerships and Communities team along with the Youth Forum held Northampton's first International Youth Day event on the Racecourse Pavilion on Saturday 12th August. The Umbrella Fair provided marquees and tables for the event which involved a range of youth services such as Northampton Integrated Sexual Health, Youth Gambling Education Trust and University of Northampton's Changemaker hub. Activities on the day included face and body painting, henna, sports and games activities and a 360 dome cinema experience, with music provided by Inspiration FM DJ, Mark Dean. The overall event was well attended and gave the Youth Forum a good opportunity to showcase their hard work and engage with community members with a questionnaire relating to their gambling awareness project.

Support offered to the Town Festival – Forums and communities tent, displays, information and performances from local community groups.

Forums Event held in partnership with the Police Crime Commissioner, 30 organisations attended for an information session and Q and A.

Remembering Srebrenica, small civic service and flag raising event held at the Guildhall, approx. 20 organisations, professionals and community members attended to mark the national day on 11th July 2017.

The Youth Forum once again took part in Heritage Tours on 10th September at the Guildhall. On 7th September the Youth Forum delivered findings of their Gamble aware project and consultation to University College London and Youth Symposium. They also presented a power point presentation.

UK Parliament Week have recognised the great work of the Youth Forum and are using them as a case study for future publicity for UK Parliament Week 13 – 19 November.

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ) have once again held a highly successful presence at The Umbrella Fair in August with their Q Stage tent. Guest speaker Peter Tatchell was greatly attended. Followed by a line-up of spoken word, singers and bands.

Events

The Bands in the Park season finished last Sunday and throughout the summer has attracted many visitors to Abington Park.

The council supported a number of events in the summer including, the Mela Festival (30th July) in Becketts Park which attracted many visitors who enjoyed the experience; the Circus (3rd- 8th August) on Midsummer Meadow attracted large crowds and was enjoyed by all who attended and the circus has already applied to come back again in 2018; the Umbrella Fair (19th & 20th August) on the Racecourse followed by the Fun Fair (Bank Holiday weekend); the Half Marathon (3rd Sept) starting in the town centre and finishing in Delapre Park; the Bubble Rush (10th Sept) in Abington Park) and the Rockin Roadrunner event (17th Sept) in Abington Park. A busy summer season across our parks.

Looking forward there are numerous events being delivered around the town and parks which the council will be supporting in different ways including the Street Circus (30th Sept) managed by the Town Centre BID in the town centre and on the market; Diwali (14th Oct) market square including the annual parade; Street Fair (21st – 24th Oct) market square and town centre; Oktoberfest (27th-28th Oct) on Midsummer Meadow.

The council will be delivering the Fireworks Display on Saturday 4th November on the Racecourse and the Christmas programme including Light Switch-On on Saturday 19th November, Frost Fair in the market square on Sunday 3rd December including a parade and other activities which are being finalised.

Culture & Heritage

Events at Abington Park Museum continue to be very well supported. Tours of the archaeology beneath Abington Park and of the museum itself sold out, attracting 46 adults. A wire bird making workshop was very popular with 30 adults attending. Summer holiday workshops in July and August were attended by over 340 young children and feedback was exceptionally positive. Themes ranged from Plant Pot Painting, Teddy Bears Picnic, Fascinating Fossils and a workshop learning how to sail a model yacht on the boating lake which was delivered by the Abington Park Model Yacht Club. A family event entitled Park Life attracted over 1,000 young families who enjoyed activities both inside and outside the museum including kite making.

A Summer Food Fair was attended by 1,800 visitors who enjoyed the regional food and drink stalls throughout the museum.

The Masque Theatre presented their summer production of Shakespeare's Antony & Cleopatra in the courtyard and despite the poor weather, the production attracted an audience of 479.

A talk to commemorate the centenary anniversary of Northampton hero Edgar Mobbs and his "Sportsman's Army" sold out – various local historians spoke at the event which was in association with the Western Front Association.

The wedding offer at Abington is taking shape and the application for ceremony licencing will be lodged in September, pending the finalisation of fire regulations. There will be open days for prospective clients in the run up to a soft opening planned for January.

Free advertising opportunities are being explored to maximise our visibility in regards to our availability as a venue for both weddings and general corporate hire.

Research is being undertaken for business planning purposes to develop our membership and retail offers.

The Museum Service has received a donation of a significant collection and archive belonging to the Grose family, a car manufacturer based in Northampton. The donation includes objects, images and other material (approx. 200 objects and 2D material).

Museum Expansion Project

The architects have completed the outline plans for the museum and link building. These are now being developed in preparation for submission to Planning this autumn with detailed design concepts reflecting the latest aspirations for the project.

Site investigations are now complete and covering several issues which we are taking into account, they include asbestos, some complex drainage work.

Subject to the Cabinet decision when this report was written, we will be asking the four interested parties to submit their tenders.

Customer Services

Customer Services have been working closely with Licensing and in July successfully migrated many Face to face enquires. These include, Vehicle renewals, Medical and DPS verification and issuing Taxi License plates. All OSS staff have been trained which has increased the staff availability to support customers to self-serve their new driver applications on line reducing impact within Customer Services and Licensing. This is the first phase of the migration project and we are now looking at phase two to migrate the remaining telephone enquiries.

Community Safety

Overall crime has seen a 1% increase since April 2017. Serious Acquisitive Crime has seen an overall increase of 2.7% (+101crimes). Within this vehicle crime has risen by 270 crimes. However, domestic burglary continues the reduction seen in the second half of 2017/18 with 50 less crimes compared to the same period last year, 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.

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 in priority locations have been held in Kings Heath, Briar Hill and Thorplands. The final Week of Action will be taking place in Semilong, week commencing 25/09/2017. All priority locations continue to be supported by a multiagency group post events, in order to continue to tackle identified issues and work with the local community.

Consultation has been completed on the proposed Public Spaces Protection Order for Marble Arch, Semilong. The outcome is that the 'Order' is fully supported. Subject to Cabinet approval, the PSPO will be put in place by no later than 30/10/2017.

We are also working on initiatives for Hate crime awareness week and events to cover 16 days of activism.

Councillor Anna King

Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Community Safety