



Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement & Community Safety

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 6 November 2017

Councillor Community Fund

Since the beginning of April 2015, a total of £265,372 has been spent on local projects that have been supported through the Cllr Community Fund.

Partnership Support

End of year monitoring for the grants from 2016-17 have now been received. There are a number of positive outcomes that have been achieved.

Forums

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.

The Youth Forum supported with the Guildhall Heritage Tours, which were a great success, 66 people went on the short tours with the youth forum, fantastic feedback received from all that attended.

Hate crime awareness week was delivered 14th October-21st October. We worked closely with eight local organisations to deliver a range of local events to educate residents about the different types of hate crime and the best ways to report it.

Events

The council has supported the Diwali Lights and parade on Saturday 14th October which attracted thousands of visitors into the town centre; the Street Fair on the Market Square and Abington Street between Saturday 21st – Tuesday 24th October and the Oktoberfest in Midsummer Meadow on Friday 27th and Saturday 28th October.

The biggest event of the year was the annual Fireworks Display on the Racecourse on Saturday 4th November where over 14,000 visitors watched a wonderful display and enjoyed the stage entertainment, rides and the variety of food concessions on offer.

On Sunday 12th November the Remembrance Parade will be held in the town centre attracting thousands of visitors.

Saturday 18th November sees the start of the council's Christmas programme with the Christmas Light Switch-On in the Market Square at 5.00pm and stage entertainment from 2.00pm. Sunday 3rd December we will have the Frost Fair on the Market Square with stage entertainment alongside the Christmas parade from the top of Abington Street to the Market Square at around 1.00pm and will include panto stars and Father Christmas. There will be Christmas stage entertainment on the Market Square on Saturday 2nd, 9th and 16th December and more. The igloo cinema will also open for the Christmas period on 3rd December in the Grosvenor Centre.

Culture & Heritage

Heritage Open Day tours of Abington Park Museum were fully booked attracting 46 adults and a tour of Abington Park was attended by 10 adults.

During September, a symposium 'The Concealed Revealed: The Magic of Shoes' attracted 45 attendees.

Three Over 60s talks during September and October took place in the newly refurbished Function Room at Abington Park Museum and were attended by an audience of 210.

A two day Autumn Food Fair was held at Abington Park Museum in October and was very well attended. The visitors enjoyed the regional food and drink stalls throughout the museum.

Autumn themed October workshops were held during half term week and were well attended.

A series of 5 Art History Lectures are taking place during October and November.

Two weddings have been booked at Abington Park Museum in 2018. Further marketing activity is planned.

A number of sneakers were on loan to the Out of the Box exhibition that toured the USA and Australia earlier in the year. The exhibition received 411,327 visitors in the USA and Australia.

Museum Expansion Project

Plans for the museum expansion have been submitted to Planning. Exhibition Designers have completed the Concept designs for the new exhibition galleries. These have been signed off and work has begun on the Detailed Design stage. Museum Expansion Project has moved from Concept to Detail Design Stage. The planning application for the museum extension has been submitted, with a decision expected late November or December.

Customer Services

This year's National Customer Service week and 'National Get On Line week' was a huge success. We led on many events including the Customer and Partner Coffee morning in the Court yard. We had many customers arranging support and training with our partners who included:

Dementia Action, Working Links, Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse, Hope Centre, First for Wellbeing, Barclays Digital Eagles, Job Centre work coaches and The Royal British Legion.

Customer Services received excellent feedback and praise from our Customer Excellence accreditation external assessor. We passed our third year assessment and retained our Compliance plus in the following areas:

- Community work
- Performance
- Partnership working
- Training and Quality

This means that our Customer Service is best practice and an exemplar in those areas.

Community Safety

Community Safety Plan 2017-2020, has been produced and signed off by the Community Safety Partnership. The next stage will involve ensuring there is a robust action plan in place.

Week of Action in Semilong, took place during the last week of September, good engagement from the local community and environmental works were undertaken during the week.

A Community Protection Warning and Community Protection Notice policy has been drafted and adopted, to ensure staff are fully aware of the processes involved in issuing both the notices. This will allow a more effective response in dealing with anti-social behaviour.

PSPO for Marble Arch has received cabinet approval. Planning permission is now being sought to support the closure, this is due to the positioning of the gates, a decision is expected imminently.

Councillor Anna King
Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Community Safety