



Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement & Community Safety

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 11 December 2017

Councillor Community Fund

Since the beginning of April 2015, a total of £281,728.75 has been spent on delivering 634 community projects that have been supported through the Cllr Community Fund.

Partnership Support

Opening of St Crispin's Community Centre – fund day supported, successful event, lots of media coverage and a large amount of families from the local community attended the day.

Forums

International Coming Out Day – staff event held on the Mezz floor – had approx. 25-30 members of staff attend for a cup of tea and some rainbow cake and 16 have signed up to become straight allies. We also used the opportunity to use our selfie frame to capture peoples support and posted on the intranet and social media to promote our commitment to our LGBTQ community and staff.

International Men's Day held on Friday 17 November, themed around 'being a man means...' exhibition in the Grosvenor Centre, containing portraits of a number of local men, showing their perspectives on what they think makes a man. Local men who have had their portraits taken include Father Oliver Coss, Broadcaster John Griff, Northamptonshire Police Chief Constable Simon Edens and Alaric Neville.

Men's health and wellbeing information stalls from organisations such as Northampton Leisure Trust, the Lowdown and Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire, supported the event also.

Cake and Debate held on 17 November at the Guildhall with the three Northampton MPs and our Youth Forum to mark Parliament Week.

16 Days of Activism – commenced on 25 November. Working with Northampton Domestic Abuse Service, Northamptonshire's Rape Crisis Centre and Northampton University, information stalls have been provided at key locations in high footfall spaces, stories of resilience and a drama production, dealing with the issues of honour based violence was staged at the Deco, and a film showing of East is East has taken place at the Errol Flynn.

Public Service Announcements project supported through the Diverse Communities Forum, delivered by Inspiration FM. Six announcements were produced and broadcasted with the Youth Forum, capturing key events and projects across the forums.

Events

The Remembrance Day Parade (Sunday 12th November) attracted thousands of visitors into the town centre to support our local armed forces as they march around All Saints Church headed by the Northampton Pipe Band, taking the salute in front of the Guildhall with the Lord Lieutenant and Mayor .

Saturday 18th November saw the switching on of this year's Christmas Lights by the winners of the Young Sportswomen of the Year Emily Williams and the Local Sportswomen Award winner Susan Corless. The visitors to the town were entertained through the afternoon by performances from this year's pantomimes including Aladdin, beauty and the Beast and Peter Pan.

Sunday 3rd December saw the Frost Fair on the Market Square with stage entertainment and a Christmas parade from the top of Abington Street to the Market Square attracting thousands into the town.

The Christmas igloo in the Grosvenor Centre offering a 360 degree film experience has been popular with people of all ages and will continue to run until the 22nd December.

The Christmas stage entertainment in the market square and food offer in Abington Street has been popular and will continue for another week.

It has been another successful year with events all across the town being attended, enjoyed and supported by thousands of residents and visitors alike.

Culture & Heritage

October half term workshops for children were enjoyed by over 116 young people. A very popular Halloween event attracted 2,500 visitors with over 600 children taking part in the events, most of whom were in fancy dress.

An autumn series of five Art History lectures in October and November attracted around 40 attendees to each event. The autumn series of seven Over 60s lectures were in the main sold out and attended by around 65 adults at each. A Collectors Day in November attracted ten collectors and was attended by over 270 people. Displays included those from the Bassett Loake gauge 1 model railway, the Natural History Society, historical gardening equipment and the Rushden History Society. A Christmas Pudding workshop held in November sold out to 20 attendees.

A weekend Autumn Food Fair attracted over 3,060 visitors. Stallholders were given the opportunity to feedback whether they would support future events if they were two days or one – we have listened to their comments and the decision has been made to revert back to Saturday one day food fairs in 2018.

During October a wedding fair organised by Events in a Box took place at Abington. The event was successful and a further hire by the organisation is planned for March 2018. Three confirmed wedding bookings have now been taken for Abington Park Museum in 2018.

Museum Expansion Project

The Planning application for the museum extension was submitted and approved. Work is underway on detailed design for the museum build and exhibition galleries. Tender documents are in production, and the project is expected to go out to tender in early February 2019.

Customer Services

Partnership working is essential to our success in ensuring customers received the right support at the first point of contact. With the roll out of Universal Credit (UC) Full Service in July 2018 it is essential that we are working closely with many of our Agencies to help support customers prepare for this change. This includes ensuring they have the relative documentation including, a bank account in their own name, sufficient ID, Tenancy agreements, proof of rent payments. All of which will help prevent any delays in applying for UC and reduce risk of increased debt and risk of homelessness.

We are pleased to welcome Elaine O'Neil an UC Work Coach from Northampton Job Centre Plus. Elaine will be working within OSS every Wednesday from 6th December alongside NBC and our Partners in supporting citizens with the transition onto UC.

Community Safety

Community Safety Actions plans have been drafted, detailing how the partnership will deliver the Community Safety Strategy.

Marble Arch – Planning Permission for the gates has been granted. Contractor currently obtaining a Licence to Excavate in order to install the gate posts.

Supporting NPH with public consultation for Thorplands regeneration plans.

Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness training delivered to NBC officers and community groups.

Councillor Anna King

Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Community Safety