



Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement & Community Safety

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 10th September 2018

Councillor Community Fund

Since 1 April 2018, a total of £53,340.42 has been spent by councillors on supporting the delivery of positive outcomes in their wards.

Partnership Support

Volunteers from NCS painted the play equipment at Rectory Farm.

Forums

11 August - International Youth Day at Becket's park. Encouraging young people to engage with positive activity in the town and promote services for young people, well attended and good engagement.

18 August - Community forums promotion at Summer Food Fair event, in the Guildhall Courtyard. Lots of interest from the community regarding events and projects being delivered through the forums.

Events

Bands in the Park at Abington continued to attract high numbers of visitors helped by the sunny weather.

Armed Forces Day was a success with thousands in the town centre to watch the parade and attend the activities on the Market Square. The Speedy Cup event on the Racecourse was well attended with the warm weather again attracting many visitors.

The Town Festival on the Racecourse in July attracted many visitors despite the World Cup games. Visitors and local residents saw many hot balloons in the skies across the town. The Fun Colour Run in Abington Park attracted more runners than previous years and reached capacity.

The Umbrella Café event on the Racecourse, RBL event on Becket's Park and the Half Marathon in the town centre all attracted many visitors. Cllr Larratt and I presented the NF Art Awards.

In the autumn, we have the Nene Festival at Becket's Park (15th September), Rockin Roadrunner at Abington (16th September), Vintage Bus Rally on the Market Square (23rd September), Northamptonshire Day at Delapre (30th September), St Crispins Fair (20th – 27th October), Diwali in the town centre (3rd November) Fireworks Display on the Racecourse (4th November) and Remembrance Parade in the town centre (11th November).

Kinky Boots in the Park was held in Becket's Park on Sunday 12 August. During the day, visitors watched one of three free screenings of the Kinky Boots film inside a dome cinema. Steve Pateman, the Northampton shoe factory owner whose story inspired the film and musical, opened the event and held an exclusive Q&A session in between the screenings.

The event was supported by the Royal and Derngate, Northampton Museum and Art Gallery and Porcelain Canvass Food Art.

Culture & Heritage

The start of the autumn sees a number of events at Abington Park Museum. As part of the national Heritage Open Days scheme, The Northampton Heritage Fair will be at Abington Park Museum in September. A regular classic bus service will operate between the town centre and the venue. September sees the return of an Autumn Food Fair featuring food and drink producers from across the region and is expected to attract over 1,500 visitors. A Japanese Cooking Workshop was fully booked very quickly. A series of six volunteer led guided tours of Abington Park Museum start in September through to November.

A number of talks take place in September through to December including seven Over 60s talks on a wide range of subjects. 'Family stories from the First World War' and the 'Final Weeks of the War' are two talks which, together with object displays and social media, commemorate the last 100 days of the First World War.

'Kinky Boots, The Northamptonshire Story' takes place in September and explores how this international story had its roots in the local boot and shoe trade and how kinky boots are created. Speakers include Steve Pateman, the Senior Shoe Curator and other guests.

An afternoon tea reception is to be held at Abington during September to which all museum volunteers were invited to celebrate their achievements and thank them for their support.

During August and September Abington Park Museum was hired out for a reception organised by Northamptonshire Partnership Homes, a wedding ceremony and a private dinner reception

An Edwardian Extravaganza took place at Abington Museum during August. This was attended by well over 1000 visitors and activities took place inside and outside the museum.

Visitors were able to:

- Dress up and have their photos taken Edwardian Style
- Meet Edwardian soldiers of the British Army and watch the drill practice.
- Listen to the brass band
- Watch a traditional Punch and Judy show
- Take part in a Variety Show in the courtyard with the Looking Glass Theatre, make crowns, peg doll soldiers and paper bunting and take part in mini Olympics on the lawn and learn how to play croquet with Edwardian ladies.

Museum Expansion Project

The tender process has been completed and a construction company has been appointed as the main contractor for the museum expansion and renovation project. Offsite contractor mobilisation is underway and the contractor will take possession of the site in mid-September.

Customer Services

Partnership working is essential in ensuring we are able to offer services at single point of contact. Mental Health is increasing within our society with 1 in 4 people in the UK experience a mental Health problem each year. We are pleased to announce that 'Mind' charity, <https://www.mind.org.uk>, who are funded through NHS have joined the OSS partners hub and are manning a weekly drop in clinic in the OSS to help people who are experiencing Anxiety and Depression.

In addition to this, NBC have been working with GP's and Public Health, our commitment has been made to the signing the Prevention Concordat.

Community Safety

30 July – 5 August - St David's Week of Action. Lots of engagement, community safety advice given, bikes marked and engagement with young people, including a Graffiti workshop, attended by more than 30 children. Environmental work completed, including cutting back of shrubbery and community litter picks. Community fun day took place at Bradlaugh fields at the end the week.

Knife crime project continues to develop:

- Engaging with the young people who attend Free2Talk sessions on neutral ground to understand their feelings around knife carrying – looking to develop a peer mentoring project.
- Knife crime awareness sessions will begin this month in our secondary schools, colleges, the university and youth groups, utilising a video that we have funded, produced by East Midlands Ambulance Service.

23 July – 7 September - Delivered a 7 week operation on the Town Centre, tackling community safety issues, outcomes included extra police patrols, joint partner patrols with community safety officers, wardens, the Town centre BID, outreach workers and drug and alcohol services, tackling anti-social behaviour, issuing of CPW's and CPN's and enforcing CBO breeches, providing engagement and advice regarding rough sleeping and the confiscation of alcohol. As a result of the weekly rounds completed by Police staff, Borough Council staff and local support agencies, after 3 weeks, 25 instances were attended, including the interruption of a bike being stolen and failure to stop at a road traffic accident.

There were also 103 seizures of alcohol, taken from people drinking in public spaces, and 61 warnings given to cyclists who were seen riding their bikes in pedestrian areas. In addition, Northamptonshire Police conducted 12 stop searches and made seven arrests for shop-lifting, use of drugs in public spaces and domestic assault.

Planning is underway for our community safety primary schools event, which will take place at the Deco on 9th October, working with partners to deliver awareness and training to year 6 pupils on knife crime, child sexual exploitation, anti-social behaviour and respecting your neighbourhood, fire and water safety, railway safety and hate crime. Judge Mayo is confirmed to open the event and talk to the young people regarding his experience of the Liam Hunt case.

More than £800,000 has successfully been secured from the Home Office's Trusted Relationships Fund to help increase the support available to the town's most vulnerable young people. The funding, which was confirmed on Wednesday, 22 August, will enable Northampton Borough Council and Free2Talk, to deliver interventions and mentoring, lasting up to a year, to young people most at risk of getting involved in knife crime and anti-social behaviour. It will also support young people to take a more positive path, contributing to a reduction in exploitation and abuse, missing episodes and interactions with the youth justice system. In addition, young people from vulnerable communities will also get a chance to input into the support programme, as their help will be sought to develop informal education programmes in youth centres.

The funding application was submitted to MHCLG to support services, tackling domestic abuse. This is a countywide bid, led by NBC.

Councillor Anna King
Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Community Safety