



Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement & Community Safety

Northampton Borough Council

5th November 2018

Councillor Community Fund

Since 1 April 2018, a total of £63,116.47 has been spent by councillors on supporting the delivery of positive outcomes in their wards.

Partnership Support

25 September – Student Induction Activity. Put on an event to welcome new students for the new BA social Care and Community Practice course; starting at the Council Chamber and a tour of the Guildhall. Students were then able to attend a mini marketplace of VCS services for networking and exploring volunteering and placement opportunities in the borough with our voluntary partners. Community safety Partnership projects and campaigns were promoted during the event.

Launch event for the signing of the Mental Health Concordat to take place during our International Men's Day event on 17 November. Currently working with partners, including Public Health and the GP Alliance to develop our commitment.

Forums

Hate Crime Awareness Week (13 to 20 October)

The equality ally scheme was launched during an afternoon tea event at the Guildhall by Northampton Borough Council and partners on Tuesday, 16 October.

Equality allies are encouraged to wear a brightly coloured, heart shape pin badge to demonstrate their support of equality and raise awareness of how anyone who feels they've been affected by hate crime, can get support.

The Greatest Showman, was showcased at Northampton Filmhouse on Thursday, 18 October Before the screening, Northampton Inter Faith Forum shared a short film about equality, through the eyes of children.

A Remembering Srebrenica walk on Sunday, 21 October closed the week of awareness activities. The four mile walk talk place, from the Pavilion in Becket's Park and took in various faith venues where participants were welcomed inside for a tour and short talk.

Youth Forum - currently signed up 12 new members from across six of our secondary schools.

Planning underway with partners for;

International Men's Day on the market Square on 17 November, we will have information stalls relating to mental health (national theme) from Mind, Physical health from Northampton Leisure Trust and Northampton Prostate Cancer Support as well as many others. We are also hosting the first Northampton Male Role Model awards, split into two categories, under 18 and over 18.

16 Days of Activism, 25 November – 10 December, this year's theme is violence against women and girls, with a focus on the workplace.

International Day for People with Disabilities, 3 December.

Events

Northamptonshire Day (Sunday 30th September) in Delapre Abbey was a huge success with an estimated audience in excess of 5000. The event showcased local independent businesses across Northamptonshire with entertainment on the bandstand, fashion parade and masque showcase.

The Diwali Celebrations will take place on Saturday 3rd November and are anticipated to attract thousands of visitors into the town who will enjoy a vast array of entertainment, climaxing with the wonderful the light parade around the town centre. This year we have also helped support two new puppets from Fernie road.

The Fireworks will take place on the Racecourse (Sunday 4th November) is anticipated to be watched by thousands. There will be music on stage, the glow show and the dynamic firework display accompanied by music.

Other events supported by the Council include the Nene Festival (Saturday 15th September) in Becketts Park, the Rockin Roadrunner Charity Event (Sunday 16th September) in Abington Park, the Vintage Bus Rally (Sunday 23rd September) on the Market Square and the Street Fair (22nd – 27th October) on the Market Square and Town Centre.

Looking forward to the winter programme, we have Remembrance Day (Sunday 11th November), Christmas Light Switch on (Saturday 24th November), Frost Fair (Sunday 2nd December) and Christmas Saturdays Entertainment (Saturday 1st, 8th & 15th December).

For 2019, many dates have already been booked for key events across the Borough.

Culture & Heritage

On 22nd and 23rd October we commissioned the Looking Glass Theatre to bring the Nasty Northampton project to life, with real life tours in the Guildhall.

Events at Abington Park Museum continue to be well attended. The performance of 'I Am John Clare' by Theatre 17 attracted 38 adults. Artist and sculptor Zack McLaughlin returns to the museum to teach two of his ever popular wire bird making class. Both workshops in October and November are expected to be fully booked.

An autumn series of five Art History Lectures commenced in October. Led by lecturers from ProArtium each will focus on paintings by Ben Mathews.

October half term workshops for children include World War I sessions along with Halloween workshops including Day of the Dead and a Tour by Torchlight. A Haunted Halloween theme day is expected to attract around 1,000 children.

During October and November, Abington Camera Club showcase photographs taken by their members at the Northampton Annual Exhibition.

Staff at the museum are involved with organising commemorations and celebrations for Armistice Day including the 100 year memorial event on the Market Square where visitors will be able to see the Looking Glass Theatre showcase excerpts from the play 'Killed' and listen to poetry read by Nairobi Thompson and live music from the Male Voice Choir, and the Classical and Rock Choir.

During October the museum was hired out for a staff reception by a local engineering organisation, a wedding fair and two paranormal organisations.

Museum Expansion Project

Wildgoose Construction Ltd, the main contractor, have mobilised, are on site and have completed enabling works. Demolition work began in October, with a focus on internal demolition and preparing

the bridge connecting the Old Gaol Block and Guildhall Road block for demolition in early November. A package for the exhibitions fit out work has been put out to tender through the main contractor.

Customer Services

Customer services have seen an increase in calls due to the service change but through proactive planning and forecasting are confident that we are on top of all access channels.

Community Safety

17 & 18 September – supported Northants Police with a Knife Amnesty – Mounts Fire Station and St James

The roll-out of the #SaveLivesNoKnives knife crime awareness project to local schools began on 24 September at Kingsthorpe Community College, followed by Wootton Park on 15 October. The educational programme was delivered to nearly 400 year 7 students across both schools, by partner organisations including Northampton Borough Council, Northampton Youth Offending Service and Northamptonshire Police. The intention is to get this programme delivered across all our secondary schools, colleges, and university and youth groups.

26 September - Student Lock In night at the Grosvenor Centre. Community safety and street pastors hosted a table at the lock in giving out information and goodies to help keep students safe. Shared safety messages around the new safer routes and taxi marshalling schemes, lots of engagement by the new students with regards to the personal safety.

26 September – supported Police with Operation Bling on the Market Square (the intention is to increase reports from the public on people who are living a lifestyle that is beyond their means through committing crime. Through the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, financial investigators will look into the lifestyles of those who are living off criminal gains and where possible, look to recover the benefit that they are making).

28 & 29 September – Launch of Taxi Marshalling Pilot Scheme – operating 11pm-5am on Fri and sat evenings on pay weekends and bank holidays.

Primary Schools Community Safety Conference held on 9 October, to deliver various community safety messages, based on our key priorities including; knife crime, hate crime, anti-social behaviour, personal safety, railway safety, child sexual exploitation and grooming. The key messages were shared with 240 students from three of our primary schools across the Borough, including; Thorplands, St Gregorys and St James.

Councillor Anna King

Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Community Safety