



Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement & Community Safety

Northampton Borough Council

16 September 2019

Councillor Community Fund

Since 1 April 2019, a total of £69,427.85 has been spent by councillors on supporting the delivery of positive outcomes in their wards.

Forums

12 Aug – International Youth Day held at the Grosvenor Centre in partnership with Northants Police, led by members of the Youth Forum. A range of entertainment, activities and workshops aimed at engaging with teenagers and promoting positive activities in the town was well attended.

22 Aug- Youth engagement day at Midsummer Meadows focussed around cycling and youth safety. Partners from Northants Police, Cycle Northants, Umbrella Fair Organisation and British Cycling providing a range of activities, advice and information including close pass mat, smoothie bike, go ride coaching from British cycling, bike maintenance and free bike security marking, whilst Mark Dean from Inspiration FM is providing music on the day. Opportunity to consult with public around cycling needs and possible site for bike trails.

15 September – Youth Forum leading short tours of the Guildhall for Heritage Open Day.

Planning underway for Hate Crime Week of Action, to take place week commencing 14 October 2019.

Events

The Bands in the Park performances continued to attract audiences to Abington Park throughout August and early September with Milton Keynes Brass, Syncopated Jazz, Towcester Studio Band and Bradwell Silver Band, Sax Cool and Rushden Mission Band all performing.

Abington Park saw the Fun Colour Rush (28 July) and Rocking Roadrunner (15 Sept), whilst at Becketts Park we saw the Mela (28 July), at Upton Fields held their first Community Show (27 July), Bradlaugh Fields held their annual Community Show (3 August) and in the town centre we delivered the Heritage Show in the Grosvenor Centre between 5 – 8 August and Festive Road show on the Market Square (31 August).

Looking forward we have the annual half marathon on Sunday 29 September, Diwali Celebrations on Saturday 19 October, St Crispins Fair on 26 – 29 October, Annual Fireworks Display on Saturday 3 November, Remembrance Day Parade on Sunday 10 November and Christmas Light Switch-On on Saturday

Culture & Heritage

Abington Park Museum continues to offer a wide range of exhibitions, activities and events which are appealing to young and old alike.

August saw the exhibition 'Photos for All Seasons: Autumn' open – the photographs on display taken by members of the Abington Camera Club (Northampton), beautifully capture all the colour and magnificence of the season.

July saw the museum being a venue for 'Edgecote 1469 – A Study Day'. The event was led by members of the Northamptonshire Battlefields Society and attended by 62 adults. During the school summer holidays, the museum held a wide range of workshops for children. Over 330 young people attended workshops ranging from learning how to sail a pond yacht, 3D Landscape painting, decorating a ceramic ladybird plant pot, flower sun catchers, wooden wind chimes and stone painting and a Castle workshop run by the Friends of Northampton Castle.

Funding was obtained from a generous grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund to run 4 sculpture workshops and 48 young people had an opportunity to learn how to make life-size papier-mache dog sculptures and clay figures.

A medieval themed family fun day was held during August. HistoryNeedsYou provided re-enactors, medieval music and hands-on activities for all to enjoy. Despite extreme weather on the day the event attracted 962 visitors.

Finally, the museum was hired out for three weddings in August and by the Masque Theatre for 'Love's Labours Lost' – the annual summer Shakespeare open air production. Inclement weather led to the cancellation of two shows but the final attendance numbers were 661.

Museum Expansion Project

Installation of roof on museum extension completed and work has begun on the installation of the curtain wall. The laying of main road gas pipe to main supply and install of metering cabinet is complete and meters ordered and on track to be installed in the next month.

Damp proof membrane fitted in the Shoe Gallery and the screed substrate laid to the floor in advance of the pouring of the concrete floor. User testing for on gallery databases completed and final versions in development.

The Temporary Exhibition Gallery fit out is 90% complete and awaiting fit out of cases and lighting installation.

The catering tender went live and closing date as now passed. Tenders will be evaluated and successful contractor appointed for October start. Off-site construction of café and servery equipment and furniture is underway and fit out will commence next period.

Customer Services

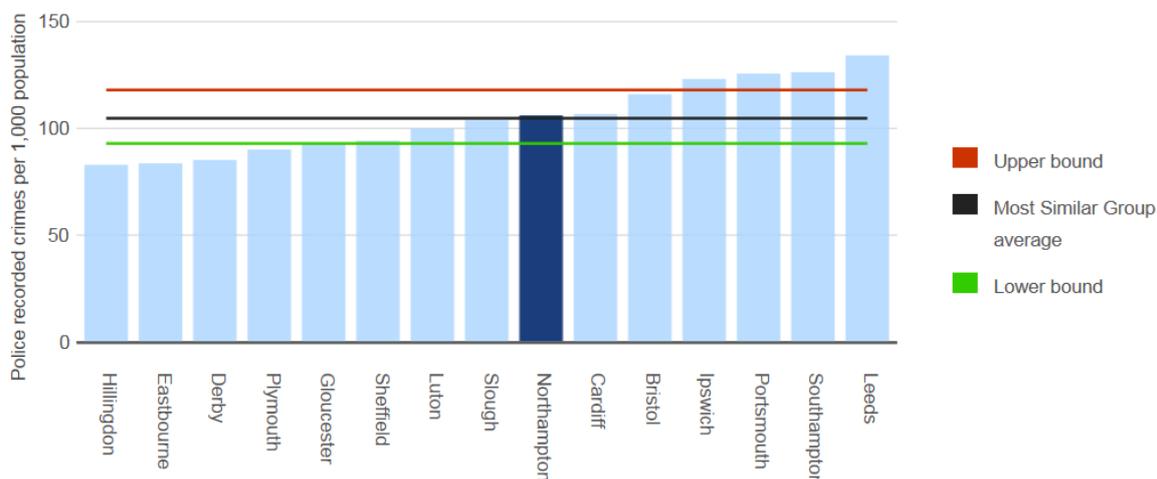
We have had our hearing accreditation assessment and are awaiting the overall outcome. The assessor spends over four hours reviewing the processes and practises in place to support customers that are hard of hearing. The assessor was extremely impressed with the new software that we installed earlier this year and the continuous efforts to improve processes and we are positive that we have achieved the 2019/20 accreditation.

Community Safety

Over the last six months January – June 2019, (in comparison to the same period last year), there has been an increase in overall crime in Northampton of 1.33% (211 crimes).

Further data can be accessed via www.police.co.uk which provides a statistical breakdown of area (North East, Central and South West) and crime type

In the year ending December 2018, the crime rate in Northampton was about the same as the average crime rate across similar areas.



24 July – 4 September 2019 - Two additional Police Officers were funded by the Council, working from 12 – 8pm, for six weeks, from Monday through to Saturday.

The following objectives were agreed:

- Police Officers to take appropriate enforcement action to tackle anti-social behaviour, street drinking and begging, including the issuing of CPN's and enforcing CBO breaches
- Provide an additional presence on the Town Centre, focussing on the hot spot areas, including the Market Square – particularly between 4-8pm
- Engage with the Town Centre businesses, offering support and a point of contact
- Work in partnership with other agencies including, the outreach workers, Town centre BID, neighbourhood wardens, community safety and engagement officers and the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit
- Carry out and support joint patrols and operations with partners to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour on the Town Centre
- Provide a visibility in the Town Centre, acting as a deterrent to those who may ordinarily be engaged with criminal activity or be causing alarm, harassment or distress.

The following was achieved:

- 576 extra patrol hours, high visibility foot patrols, covering; Abington Street, Drapery (focus around McDonalds), Gold Street, St Peters Walk, Market Square, Guildhall Road and Bridge Street
- 154 seizures of alcohol (huge disruption, focus on street drinking, particularly around St Katherine's, Market Square, Mayorhold and All Saints)
- 9 cannabis seizures and warnings issued
- 9 Stop Searches carried out (involved perfume sellers, shoplifters and drugs)
- 24 arrests (relating to violence, shoplifting, drugs, domestic assaults and prostitution)
- 88 warnings and words of advice given to cyclists who were riding through the Town on bikes
- 30 beggars engaged with and moved on
- 10 cars stopped and advice offered around traffic restrictions
- 8 offers of medical/first aid assistance
- Drug dealing activity disrupted
- Regular interaction with the businesses and the market stall holders
- Supported six days of action during the six weeks, working with partners

24, 31 July, 5, 15 and 28 August – Town Centre Days of action; Bike marking and consulting with public re. proposed PSPO for Jeyes Jetty.

1 Aug- Briar Hill community one stop and litter pick – In total we had over 30 volunteers (mixture of public and agencies) for the litter pick, in total we got over 45 bags.

2 Aug - Briar Hill community fun day – throughout the day over 400 residents and 14 organisations attended the event. The following was achieved:

- 12 bikes marked
- 390 meals provided by the rapid relief team
- Over 100 engagements and from the canal river trust with over 70 children completing their educational game around water safety
- Over 12 signs ups from Ness (Northamptonshire energy saving service)
- Other agencies including the scouts, fire, police, viola, solivit and the RSPCA all nearly ran out of their freebees and information leaflets.

The rapid relief team also took donations for the local youth club.

6 Aug – Semilong Day of action; Partnership activity held at Alliston Gardens community centre to engage local residents with a range of services offering advice, information and free items to improve their safety. In the afternoon a range of partners provided youth related activities and information to engage with young people in the area and promote positive activity available to them, including boxing and street sports.

13 Aug – Spring Boroughs Day of action; Partnership activity held at Springs Family Centre engaging with local residents with a range of services offering advice, information and free items to improve safety. A short film documenting the history of the area in light of the redevelopment created by Springs Youth Hub and Free 2 Talk was shown, and a range of activities engaged both young people and their families throughout the day.

Councillor Anna King

Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Community Safety