



Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement & Community Safety

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 20th January, 2020

Councillor Community Fund

Since 1 April 2019, a total of £102,013.45 has been spent by councillors on supporting the delivery of positive outcomes in their wards.

Partnership Support

21 Nov – Defence ERS Silver Award received, demonstrates the Council's continued commitment to the Armed Forces Community Covenant.

16 January, partnership showcase event held in the Court Room, 3-5pm, the event provided an opportunity for organisations that the Council funded during 2019-20 to showcase their work and launch the partnership grant for 2020-21, which opened in early January.

Forums

20 Nov- Supported Trans Day of Remembrance at the Guildhall, hosted by Q Space.

22 Nov –International Men's Day held at the Guildhall between 4pm and 6pm, where health organisations and support agencies joined local producers at a market stall styled event. Organisations that took part included; The Grey Dogs Trust, I Did Adventure, The Lewis Foundation, Northampton Mind, Ngage, Northampton Leisure Trust, Northampton Town Football Club and the Frank Bruno Society. The Mayor announced the winner of this year's Male Role Model of the Year Award and the top five shortlisted nominees were also recognised. An evening event also took place at the Charles Bradlaugh pub, a music and comedy fundraiser in aid of The Grey Dog Trust, a national charity providing mental health support to young people and schools.

29 Nov – I'm Still Me conference – an education conference providing teachers and other school staff with the skills, confidence and information to support LGBTQ students in primary and secondary schools in the county. Delivered from the LGBTQ Partnership made up of LGBTQ youth providers, Stonewall NCC and NBC's LGBTQ forum. Event sold out.

3 Dec – joint film show with Northampton Filmhouse for International Day of People with Disabilities – a special relaxed showing, with discounted tickets, of 'The Peanut Butter Falcon' with a showing of Northamptonshire Sport's short film about a local lad with Cerebral Palsy who has taken up wheelchair rugby to improve his self esteem

4 Dec – joint event for International Day of People with Disabilities with Deafconnect and police held at Spencer Dallington Community Centre. Information stands, refreshments and entertainment. Attended by over 50 people.

10 Dec – LGBTQ & Allies Forum Christmas social meeting. Being held at local LGBTQ friendly café and bar, Olly B's for the first time.

Plans underway for Holocaust Memorial Day, which will be held on 27 January, at 6.30pm in the Great Hall.

Events

It has been a busy few weeks with the annual Remembrance Day Service and Parade (10 November) attracting thousands of visitors into the town centre to show their appreciation of our Armed Forces.

The four forty-foot Christmas trees, 200 x 5' small business trees, cross street Christmas lights, Christmas lamp post lights and general thousands of tree lights have been installed across the town centre, Wellingborough Road and St Leonards Road making our annual Christmas Light Switch-On (23 November) a great success. The thousands of visitors on the Market Square enjoyed the entertainment and the switch-on and the 'snow',

The Frost Fair (1 December) attracted more visitors into the town centre and enjoyed the Christmas Stalls on the Market Square, the stage entertainment and the wonderful parade along Abington Street with large puppets and children.

The Igloo Cinema (1 – 22 December) has attracted families into the town centre to take advantage of the free film shows including Peter Rabbit, Paddington Bear and The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.

On the market we delivered stage entertainment (7 December) to attract more shoppers and visitors into the town centre and to take advantage of the free parking offer in our multi-storey car parks.

The annual Christmas parade took place on Sunday 1st December.

This year's theme was the chronicles of Narnia which consisted of many of the fantastic characters from the books and film.

Children were able to take part in a workshop beforehand on the market square to make costumes to also take part.

Thank you also to The Deco at the Savoy pantomime cast for parading and to Northampton Brownies and St. John's ambulance cadets who took part.

In the New Year we are looking forward to supporting our Chinese community with the Chinese New Year (Sunday 26 January 2020) at the Deco Theatre.

Culture & Heritage

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

Early December will see the Northampton Town and County Art Society annual exhibition open. The majority of artwork will be for sale and the exhibition will include studies and preparatory drawings as well as final works.

A Japanese Street Food Cooking workshop led by Yuko Nakayamawas was fully booked and enjoyed by 16 adults. The October half term holidays saw 73 children take part in Musical Instrument and Veggie Sushi workshops and the ever popular Haunted Halloween attracted over 1,600 children and young families who enjoyed spooky craft activities. Three Over 60s talks in November and December sold out to 70 adults at each event and a Tour of Abington Park Museum was enjoyed by 12 members of the Brackley U3A group. The Autumn/Winter series of Art History lectures are continuing to be popular with art followers – over 250 attended the four talks held in October and November. The Senior Shoe Curator gave a presentation on the new museum expansion and shoe gallery to The Friends of Abington Park on Wednesday 6 November. Later in the month, she gave a paper on the orthopaedic project and exhibition 'I Stand Corrected?' to the Dress and Textile Society annual conference looking at Redressing Diversity: Making hidden histories visible.

The festive season kicked off with a dessert cooking event – this was the last in a series of Italian food workshops led by Italian cook and author Carmela Sereno Hayes and was enjoyed by 16 adults. A Festive Evening of Gin hosted by Quentin Neville, owner and distiller from Northampton's Phipps Brewery and Artisan Blending Limited sold out to 31 adults. The annual two-day Christmas Fair took place at the end of November and attracted over 50 traders and weather permitting, is expected to attract over 1,500 visitors each day. A family 'Christmas Magic Lantern Show', Victorian entertainment at its best was delivered by Kevin Varty and sold out to an audience of 70.

During November the museum was hired out to 78 Derngate for their AGM, the Looking Glass Theatre for a series of six Ghost Walks and the Northampton Town & County Society hired the galleries for a private view prior to the exhibition opening. December saw the museum used as a wedding ceremony venue.

The work to regain accreditation is well underway - all policies have been reviewed and signed off by the council and Abington Park Museum has been awarded 'Eligibility for Accreditation'. Once the reopening date has been confirmed, Northampton Museum & Art Gallery will be considered for 'Eligibility for Accreditation' by the Arts Council.

Northampton Museums was one of three partner museums which supported the project 'Knowledge of the Unseen' which was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The project re-connected British post-colonial communities with artefacts of their origin. A group of 18 participants selected five objects from the African ethnographic collections and one object from the shoe collections. The objects went on display with narrative written by the participants in an exhibition at Leicester City Museum from October to November 2019. The journey was documented through photography and film that will be rolled out to BME community organisations, schools & website for longevity.

Volunteers are being recruited to assist with re-install of the displays prior to re-opening.

Finally, the History Curator is advising members of the NBC board for the Blue Plaques scheme and some of our volunteers will be providing the research about Northampton Philanthropists and Benefactors.

Museum Expansion Project

Completion of curtain wall and cladding to the exterior of the building has been completed. Roof glazing has been installed and flashing works completed. The building is now watertight and final works on the interior of the atrium are underway.

Creative Events Ltd have been appointed as operator for the museum café and they have been able to input into the fit out of the kitchen and servery now underway.

Electricity and gas are now fully operational in the building and commissioning of mechanical and electrical services is underway.

The exhibition fit out contractor has completed the installation of the shop, selling gallery and temporary exhibition gallery. Work has begun on the Shoe gallery set-works and cases.

Customer Services

The OSS has again successfully achieved the Hearing Accreditation Charter Mark for the 4th consecutive year running.

Building Better Opportunities delivered by Goodwill Solutions will be operating from the OSS again as from 20th November.

Cyber Awareness delivered by Northamptonshire Police is a new Partner that has joined the hub in the OSS and have delivered 4 sessions and assisted 24 customers.

The Smoking Cessation clinic delivered by First for Wellbeing will be back in the OSS as from 18th November providing specialist support to assist customers who want to stop smoking.

Community Safety

14 Nov – Support University, Volunteer Fair with nights out, personal and property safety advice.

25 Nov - support #cutitout campaign launch event at Collingtree Hilton. More than 150 hairdressers from Northampton learning how to signpost clients who may disclose to them they are victims of domestic or sexual abuse.

25 Nov – 10 Dec – 16 Days of Activism – working with the domestic abuse and sexual violence charities in the Borough to provide pop up, support cafes across businesses and organisations in the Town. Posters, baubles and leaflets handed out to businesses, including restaurants, cafes, and shops across the borough.

26 Nov – Our first Secondary School Community Safety Event delivered in partnership to 540 students in year 8 and 9 from Weston Favell Academy around relevant safety issues such as healthy relationships, hate crime and gangs and knife crime.

27 Nov and 6 Dec - Town Centre day of action; community safety officers, police and Big in the Grosvenor centre sharing key safety messages, information and advice to members of the public. Raising awareness of 16 days of activism (international domestic/sexual violence campaign) and sharing materials to businesses in town centre.

2 Dec – World Aids Day civic event. Speeches in the courtyard followed by refreshments and information in the court room.

Anti-Social Behaviour

A Cuckooing Injunction is being progressed to tackle a persistent offender.

7 CPN and 15 CPW's issued, in relation to neighbour nuisance, shoplifting, noise and street drinking.

Councillor Anna King

Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Community Safety