

Councillor Community Fund

Since 1 April 2019, a total of £142,892 has been spent by councillors on supporting the delivery of positive outcomes in their wards.

Partnership Support

Nearly 50 applications received for the partnership grant, the closing date was 21 February. The applications will be submitted to the cross party member panel in March for recommendations on funding, decisions will be ratified by the middle of April 2020.

Forums

27 January 2020 – Holocaust Memorial Day civic and evening commemoration events, both well attended exceeding 50 daytime guests and 200 evening attendees. Performances and speakers from NIFF, NMPAT, Weston Favell Secondary School, Northampton School for Boys, the Punjabi School, the Male Voice Choir and the Youth Forum.

12 & 26 February – Staff engagement for LGBTQ history month, promoting local services and Northampton Borough Council Staff LGBTQ & allies network

Planning for Pride 2020 event continues. Large number of applications received for involvement in the parade, stalls and performances. Well covered and engaged with in the press and sponsorship options now being promoted.

Plans underway for a Windrush event, to be held at the Guildhall, being led by the Diverse Communities Forum. This will be a public event, early plans include art displays, historical items, and a Windrush drama performance from the Northampton School for boys.

Youth provision app development in initial discussion stages with youth forum, to look for a solution as to how we can communicate what's going on in the Town to young people and the wider community.

Inspirational Woman – 42 nominations received, judging took place on 13 February and the winner will be announced at the International women's Day event at the Guildhall on 7 March.

Events

We commenced 2020 with the annual Chinese New Year celebrations in the old Savoy Theatre (previously known as the Deco Theatre) on Abington Square. The event attracted over 500 visitors who enjoyed a variety of displays including music and dance, acrobats, martial artists as well as the Dragon dance. 2020 is the Chinese Year of the Rat and in the entrance of the old Savoy visitors were greeted with a 5-foot-high Rat and a 10-foot-high Lucky Cat.

2020 events programme will continue with the HMS Laforey Parade followed in April by the Bands in the Park and Terry Wire Hayley Davidson Memorial Run and in May we will have VE Day, Beer Festival, Carnival and many other community events across the Borough.

Culture & Heritage

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

January saw the exhibition 'Abington Landscapes' open. The exhibition showcases a selection of works from the Northampton Museum & Art Gallery collection highlighting Abington's changing landscape over time.

Two volunteer led tours of Abington Park Museum sold out during January and February as did the first three Over 60s talks in the winter season. The Northamptonshire Film Archive Trust presented a selection of archive film to an audience of 70 in early February. During February, the museum hosted a Vegan Market and in March, a Vintage & Craft Fair was held, both events attracted over 40 traders and were attended by over 1,000 visitors. Half term workshops including Animal Encounters were sold out.

Various items from the collections came back to the museum after being on loan including a pair of Johnny Moke egg heel shoes returned from an exhibition at The Swiss Institute, New York; a collection of 18th century footwear and buckles from an exhibition on Georgian dress at Fairfax House, York and a pair of postillion boots returned from The Postal Museum, London having been on display for two years in their new postal gallery. The Christopher Hatton portrait by William Seger, has returned to Northampton having been on loan to the National Portrait Gallery for 3 years. During this time 8,407,505 visitors visited the National Portrait Gallery, some of whom will have seen the portrait.

As part of a programme for the Open University, the BBC came in to film some of the trainer collection. The programme looks at the development of the trainer with an emphasis on use of innovative materials.

During January to March, Abington Park Museum was hired out for four paranormal events, a 90th birthday party and a project launch by Northamptonshire Community Foundation.

Museum Expansion Project

The Exhibition Fit Out Contractor has begun on site and fit out of the Shoe Gallery is progressing well. The floors have been laid to the Shoe Gallery and Link Space and oak flooring in the entrance and lobby areas is progressing well.

Snagging of sections of the building has commenced and is progressing well. Only minor, mainly cosmetic issues are being identified.

Commissioning of mechanical and electrical systems continues and the refurbishment of the lifts is almost complete. The Kitchen servery has been installed and discussions are underway with the catering contractor to begin testing of the catering facilities. Work has begun on paving of the rear courtyard.

A date for Practical Completion and hand over of the building in mid-March has been agreed and the programme of work to begin installing objects and mobilise for full operation of the museum has been developed.

The public opening date of 20th June for the museum was announced on February 20th.

Customer Services

Partnership working is essential to our success in ensuring customers received the right support at the first point of contact. We continue to review the needs of our customers and work with our partners to help meet these needs.

We welcomed Sue Young, NHFT Mental Health Navigator, who will be based in the OSS from 10:00 – 16:00 Monday to Thursday. Sue will be providing support in the community to help people improve their general wellbeing. The service is designed for people experiencing stress, anxiety, depression or recovering from a mental health condition and are struggling to move forward and find the right support.

The role of the Navigator is to:

- Actively listen to what you want to do to make positive changes to improve your wellbeing
- Help assess whether you are ready to make those changes and support you in planning a pathway for them
- Provide information of appropriate support agencies that you may wish to use
- Motivate and empower you to make these changes and maintain them in the long term

NBC Customer Services, NCC Web and Digital and NCC Adult Services have been working together to gauge the interest in Digital training. NCC Adult Services offer many free courses including 'Online Safety' and 'Life on Line' to the residents of Northampton.

We have been asking our residents who have called NBC's Contact Centre over the last three months and have received approximately 40 survey responses from residents requesting this training. Due to the interest shown we have agreed to run these courses quarterly.

Community Safety

Although we have seen an increase in all crime from January – December 2019 by 2.8%, the overall crime rate for the Community Safety Partnership is moving towards the average for our Most Similar Group, which reflects a stronger performance than our comparator partnerships in a time of rising crime levels nationally.

Incidents of anti-social behaviour recorded by Northamptonshire Police fell by 15.5% in the year to the end of December, violent crime has increased, accounting for 36% of all crime.

Violent Crime remains a priority for the Community Safety Partnership and Northampton Borough Council is working with the police and partners to tackle violent behaviour. This will be the focus of the Community Safety Strategy, as we refresh the priorities going forward into next year.

Taxi Marshall scheme in operation – two taxi marshals covering the hours of 11-5am, Friday and Saturday nights (during pay weekends and bank holidays).

Two community engagement sessions held with the Police in the town centre and at Northampton General Hospital.

Youth Provision meeting established to coordinate the activity and youth spaces that are developing in the Town. Bringing partners together to work collaboratively as our youth offer continues to grow and develop.

Our 4th Primary School Community Safety Conference held at the Deco. Themes including hate crime, fire safety, railway safety, personal safety, cyber bullying, knife crime and gangs all

covered by experts to raise awareness and educate 180 year six students, across four primary schools.

Planning continues for the Knife Angel's visit to Northampton for the month of June with partners and the community.

Consultation has taken place with the Lings community for an upgraded skate park. Tender documents are being prepared.

Consultation for the Public Spaces Protection Order continues. The closing date is Tuesday 10 March.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

3rd 'Cuckooing' injunction obtained, on a prolific offender who had been targeting vulnerable and elderly males in the town centre of Northampton.

Training input provided to new student Police officers, which included; what anti-social behaviour is and what tools and powers we have in order to tackle it, as well as how to use the ECINs system (partnership case management ASB software).

Councillor Anna King

Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Community Safety