



Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement & Community Safety

Northampton Borough Council

4 June 2018

Councillor Community Fund

Since the beginning of this financial year 2018-19, councillors have assigned a total of £22,524.87 on supporting community projects in their neighbourhoods.

Partnership Support

This year, 17 local support organisations will benefit from the support provided by Northampton Borough Council's Partnership Grant Fund.

Council Partnership Grants for 2018/19 include:

Spencer Contact
Warts and All Theatre
Tools for Self-Reliance
Free 2 Talk CIC
Home-Start Northampton
The Lowdown
Northampton Street Pastors
Northamptonshire Rape Crisis
Northampton Hope Centre
MHA Live at Home Northampton
Re: store Northampton
The Good Loaf CIC
Northampton Men's Sheds
Unity Leisure Northampton Leisure Trust
Northampton Inter Faith Forum
Singing4Breathing
Action Support UK Ltd on behalf of our Division Scooter 2 Go

Forums

LGBTQ Pride event – 5 May. LGBTQ flag raising took place at the Guildhall. In addition, the Pride event included signposting to transgender art exhibition, information stalls and live music at Phipps bar with International video call with Northampton, MA.

IDAHOBIT celebrations – Flag raising took place in the morning of 17th May. The Civic Ceremony and a minute of noise also took place at midday and were followed by information stalls and refreshments in the One Stop Shop.

Staff EqualiTeas event is to take place on 18th June and will be a celebration of UK Parliament's Vote 100, promoting the Pitch Perfect Northampton event, Community Forums, LGBTQ staff network, and some of the services and organisations funded through partnership grants and small grants such as Manna House counselling, Lowdown, NDAs etc.

Colours of the World – in accordance with last years motion on refugees – the singing competition to celebrate Northampton's diversity is organised for 20th June at the Deco Theatre. The competition, which is open to all school, community and charity singing groups, quartets, trios and duos, will see singers from all backgrounds battle it out in front of a live audience.

Community Safety

The St James Week of action – 4th - 9th June will see a number of community engagement events such a litter pick, alleyway clearance, community garden project and the re-painting of the St James Shoe Statues. The local primary schools were involved in the litter pick and flower planting for the Garden Project. A community fun day is held on the Saturday, which includes a cake off and a football match to commemorate Walter Tull.

Racecourse week of action – took place week commencing 30th April. It included the play equipment being painted, 2 missing swing seats replaced, 25 bikes marked. In addition, there was an engagement with park goers and park runners, two school parking operations and a Health walk. A Saturday community event took place alongside the Umbrella Fair in the Pavilion Café.

Clean up at Brookside. The whole team got involved along with the Neighbourhood Wardens clearing litter and cutting back self-sets along the river bank by the bridge. This took place on 9th May and was very much appreciated by the residents.

High Impact Community Day at Bellinge – 31st May. Information stands will be put up in and outside Bellinge Community House. Stands will include bike security marking, Personal and property safety advice and products, RSPCA providing micro-chipping at a reduced cost, promotion of Bellinge Getting Better (Northampton in Bloom community gardening project), Police, NPH, local crafts and second hand stalls, food tasting by Wiltshire Farm Foods and refreshments. There will also be sports activities at the MUGA. Additionally, Neighbourhood Wardens completed a community clean up clearing fly-tipping, cutting back and litter picking.

Dog Fouling campaign – Far Cotton. The campaign will see the highlighting of streets most effected by dog fouling, by using a chalk based spray paint that highlights dog mess to the public. It will help make irresponsible dog owners more aware of the harm they are causing and make it more visible to the public and reduce the risk of them walking in it. Initiative has been used in other districts/boroughs and

Events

The Bands in the Park programme is proving to be a success despite some rather poor weather conditions in the first few weeks. The fair at Kingsthorpe Rec was cancelled in April due to the poor ground conditions but the Racecourse Fair started on the May Bank Holiday weekend in bright sunshine.

It is anticipated that the annual Beer Festival in Becketts Park on the 1st – 3rd June will be a great success with hopefully thousands of visitors attending. At the same time the Race for Life and Pretty Muddy events at Abington Park on the same dates will also be a success where hundreds of runners are expected to take part and raising thousands for Cancer Research UK.

On Saturday 9th June the annual Northampton Carnival will take place with thousands anticipated to watch the parade and offer support which will include the Forums Float. On Sunday 17th June the annual Music365 Festival took place with various genres of music taking place in many locations across the town centre including the market square and All Saints Plaza.

Looking forward the Speedy Cup event will be on the Racecourse on 23rd June followed swiftly by Armed Forces Day in the town centre on Saturday 30 June and the Northampton Festival on the Racecourse on the 7th & 8th July.

The 14th & 15th July we have Funtopia on Abington Park for the children and families and the Fun Colour Run on the 22 July in the same park.

Culture & Heritage

Events at Abington Park Museum continue to be very well supported. Four Over 60s talks sold out very quickly to an audience of 70 at each event during May & June. A series of five Art History lectures delivered by ProArtium (art historians Dr Conny Bailey, Dr Miriam Gill and Dr

Ellie Pridgeon) proved to be very popular during May and June. A series of five adult watercolour workshops led by local artist David Douglas were well attended and a Printmaking Workshop led by Iain Hodgkins sold out to 12 adults.

A Transport Day was held in early June and attracted many families and enthusiasts. Northampton Transport Heritage ran short rides on a 1940s bus throughout the afternoon and Hannington Vintage Tractor Club, the new Silverstone Experience, Rushden Heritage Transport Society and the Vintage Motor Cycle Club all took part. A working Bassett Lowke gauge one model railway in action and sail model boats on the lake with Abington Park Model Yacht Club.

Half term workshops were themed on Nature Detectives and air dry clay modelling.

May saw the museum hired by Events in a Box for an evening wedding showcase, a private reception and a wedding.

An HLF funded Conflict and Communities project is now completed. The project, in partnership with Royal and Derngate, commemorated the First World War in Northampton. We worked innovatively to find a way to make this shared history and heritage relevant to people today including work with schools. Using research from the museum collections and through collecting new family oral histories we commissioned new theatre performances including an innovative poetry commission, an exhibition, activity days, talks, and symposia. The legacy includes a fantastic Flickr archive of 350 objects in the Museums' collections and beyond so do have a look! The event was commemorated with a thank you volunteer party on 18th April attended by over 60 people and organisations who engaged with or volunteered on the project.

A paper written in collaboration between the Senior Shoe Curator Rebecca Shawcross and Dr Ceri Houlbrook, University of Hertfordshire called Revealing the Ritually Concealed: Custodians, Conservators, and the Concealed Shoe has been published in the journal Material Religion: The Journal of Objects, Art and Belief.

Museum Expansion Project

The tenders for main contractor for the museum expansion project have been received and are currently under review. Work on soft strip of the existing museum building, Old Gaol Block and Guildhall Road Block has been completed, including removal of areas of identified asbestos. Detail designs for the exhibition galleries have been signed off and work is now progressing on technical design.

Customer Services

Customer Services finished the financial year with the Contact Centre achieving 92.3% of calls answered against a target of 90% and the One stop Shop have just pipped the CC with a staggering 92.9% of customers seen within 10 mins of appointment time and 96.6% of drop in's seen within 15 minutes. In addition we have achieved 95.11% of customers rating us as satisfaction. A brilliant achievement all round that could not have been achieved without the continuous drive of positive change in relation to reducing avoidable contact and improving the service deliver at first point of contact.

Councillor Anna King

Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Community Safety