



Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement & Community Safety

Northampton Borough Council

10 Dec 2018

Councillor Community Fund

Since 1 April 2018, a total of £81,135.78 has been spent by councillors on supporting the delivery of positive outcomes in their wards.

Partnership Support

International Men's day (17 November) ten community stalls attended to share information around men's mental and physical health. There were free boxing sessions available that were very popular with young children. There was also a shoulder challenge competition from the leisure trust with gym membership prizes available. There was also music and refreshments throughout the event. The role model awards ceremony went down extremely well. It was very well attended and we had many of the nominees come down with their families.

Connections made with local artist looking to provide free street art work in the town to cover racist and other graffiti and improve spaces

Coordinated the placement of the Police Community Support Officers at Northampton borough Council over six days - to understand the role of our team and other partners in the council, to improve partnership working at neighbourhood level.

Forums

UK Parliament Week (16 November) activity with Youth Forum. Political speed dating event held with the Cabinet and Chair of Licensing in the Guildhall where young people from the borough were able to ask questions and find out more about issues that matter to them and their peers.

International Day of people with Disabilities (3 December) – a celebration of abilities with agencies offering services/activities for people with disabilities along with some performances by disabled people. Followed in the evening by a screening of Breathe at Northampton film house.

Autism Reality Awareness training for staff will take place on 7 December – 24 people registered.

A civic ceremony to mark the **World Aids Day** will take place on **3 December** in the Guildhall.

Events

A busy time starting with Remembrance Day Service & Parade on Sunday 11th November which was watched by our largest attendance and later in the evening we had the Beacon Lighting on All Saints piazza.

On Saturday 24th November we held our annual Christmas Lights switch-on and stage entertainment during the afternoon which saw many families attending and enjoying the day.

Saturday 1st December will commence our entertainment programme for Saturdays with stage entertainment including local bands, choirs and more.

Sunday 2nd December we will hold the annual Frost Fair on the Market Square including parade with Santa leading the way on his sleigh.

On the same day in the Grosvenor Centre, the Council will launch the Igloo Cinema showcasing two Christmas films for children for 21 consecutive days. The Igloo cinema is free and has in the past seen many families enjoying their time.

Culture & Heritage

Late November and December saw a wide range of festive themed events at Abington Park Museum. Carmela Sereno Hayes returned with an inspirational workshop full of ideas for wonderful edible gifts for family and friends. Adults on a Festive Willow workshop learnt how to create their own festive wreath for the table or door. The two day annual Christmas Fair attracted over 3,400 visitors, all of whom enjoyed the vast array of gifts, decorations and festive food and drink produced by over fifty traders from the county and wider afield. A family friendly Victorian Christmas was very popular and visitors listened to carol singing and enjoyed a hog roast whilst children made paper chains, crackers and salt dough ornaments. Santa Claus was very popular this year with around 80 children making a visit to his grotto. To complete the festive offer, local actor James Hornsby returns to perform one of his one-man plays – re-creating Dicken’s own legendary public readings of his novels.

The Northampton Town & County Art Society exhibition opened in December at Abington Park Museum with a wide range of subjects and styles from members.

Northampton Museums Service has loaned five pairs of trainers for the exhibition, ‘The Fashion of Counter Culture: Obsession, Style and Place’ at Liverpool John Moores University. The exhibition has been seen by 1,623 people and has been extremely popular.

The Senior Shoe Curator was interviewed on the BBC Johnny L’Anson show in October on the enduring popularity of Dr Marten footwear.

The two pairs of shoes (Pinet 1880s boots and 1970s platforms) on loan to the Victoria and Albert’s exhibition ‘Shoes: Pleasure and Pain’ are on their way back from being on tour to various venues in the Far East where they have been seen by 700,000 visitors.

The pair of postilion boots on loan to The Postal Museum have been seen by 198,000 visitors over the last year.

During November and December the museum was hired out for a Christmas volunteer party by Northampton Voluntary Impact,

Museum Expansion Project

The monthly site meeting was held with the client and contractors and the project is on programme. Internal demolitions and demolition of the connecting bridge was completed, with no structural problems uncovered. Thirty three pilings were sunk to a depth of 15m in the area cleared by the removal of the bridge as the first step of construction of the new extension.

Tender returns for the exhibition fit out contract were received and are currently being evaluated by the client and main contractor. Tender documents for the café operator have been completed and the tender will be advertised before the end of the year.

Customer Services

With the weather change Customer Services has been working in Partnership with Citizens Advise (CA) to delivering energy efficiency advice. The first session was a success where we saw 18 customers. 10 customers have received advice and have switched their services and have saved money. 6 are booked in to attend an appointment with CA to discuss Fuel poverty and debt advice. Due to the success of the drop in these will be continuing.

Harvest Money (Credit Union) attended the One Stop Shop on 18th October where they were advising customers on how to budget and save. They are attending again in January to help support people with Debt advice and advice on how to save.

Universal Credit went live in Northampton on 14th November.

A wide range of support is available for customers impacted including:

- Community Law Service and Citizens Advice co-located within the One Stop Shop offering benefit and debt clinics/appointments.
- A Work Coach from Job Centre Plus is usually present all day every Monday in the One Stop Shop working closely with claimants and Partners to support and maximise claims, from week commencing 14th November the Work Coach will be present all week.
- Printing facilities are available for claimants.
- Self-serve computers are available with staff to support.
- Digital and Personal Budgeting Support.

Community Safety

Town centre operation to run from 24 November – 4 January. Funding two additional police officers, working from 8am-6pm, Monday – Saturday. Days of action being held weekly. These will include, police surgery on market square and a walkabout offering advice to rough sleepers, street drinkers and beggars about anti-social behaviour, consequences and support and provisions available in the town.

16 Days of Activism (25 November – 10 December) - promoting domestic abuse and sexual violence services to staff in businesses (national theme, violence against women and girls in the workplace), including Campbell house, Nationwide, Avon, Travis Perkins, Northampton General Hospital, Waitrose and St Andrews. Visits to these businesses are being carried out by Northampton Domestic Abuse Service, Serenity, Northamptonshire Rape Crisis, Voice, Sunflower Centre and EVE. We have put together a pack of support services materials for all the agencies, a combined leaflet and posters with tear off contact details, as well as baubles, linking in with the Christmas theme and the rise in violence during this time of year.

Bouverie multi-agency drop in for residents – 6 December - providing opportunities for residents to engage and receive advice around particular issues on and around the Bouverie estate. Will be followed up with a day of action in the New Year – feedback from the residents forum will inform the day.

The roll-out of the #SaveLivesNoKnives knife crime awareness project to local schools continues – Northampton International Academy, CE Academy, Progress School, Malcolm Arnold and Abbeyfield all received training this month.

True Knowledge – trusted relationships funding project – Community Safety Board have agreed that the youth centres will be established in the following areas; Bouverie/Portland Place, Spring Boroughs/Semilong and Blackthorn. Referral criteria is in the process of being drawn up by free2Talk, as well as promotional material for young people and partner organisations who want to access the programme. Referrals to the programme are being received and the centres will be up and running early next year.

Planning underway for a second primary school event, after great feedback from the first event held in October.

Councillor Anna King

Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Community Safety