



Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement & Community Safety

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 14th January 2019

Councillor Community Fund

Since 1 April 2018, a total of £93,025.78 has been spent by councillors on supporting the delivery of positive outcomes in their wards.

Partnership Support

Applications for the partnership grant for 2019-20 are open. The deadline for applications is 1 March 2019.

23 January partnership showcase event to be held at the Guildhall. Opportunity for the community and voluntary organisations that were funded through the partnership grant in 2018-19 to showcase the good work that they have been delivering in the Town and to promote the support services that available to the community.

Forums

3 December - International Day for People with disabilities – event in Great Hall. Information stands and performances by disability groups. Very well received by attendees. Launched a survey to find out what people with disabilities and carers would like to see in Northampton for Purple Tuesday a national initiative for disability friendly shopping days.

7 December - Autism Reality Experience – training for staff and partners to help understand how people on the spectrum can experience the world.

7 January – nominations for Inspirational Woman open, to support this year's International Women's Day

28 January – Holocaust Memorial Day plans are being finalised with our partners and Jewish community, to hold both a civic ceremony and evening commemoration event.

Events

The Christmas events programme finished on Saturday 22nd December with the Igloo cinema's final screening late in the afternoon. The 2018 Christmas programme was a success and plans have already started for 2019.

The Council is working with partners in developing the event programme for 2019.

Culture & Heritage

The New Year sees a photographic exhibition opening at Abington Park Museum showcasing photography by Abington Camera Club which reflects the changes that winter brings to the park.

Members of the Northamptonshire Film Archive Trust return at the end of January to show a selection archive film footage of Northampton. The event is expected to sell out to an audience of 65.

The first of a series of six Over 60s talks begin in January with a whistle stop tour through the history of the canals of England and Wales. All six talks have sold out attracting 65 people to each event.

January sees the museum host a vegan food fair at the end of the month – the interest in vegan food has been growing over the last couple of years and this is expected to continue going forward.

Towards the end of 2018, two visits to view the shoe collection took place by the CEO and employees of the first shoe factory to open in November in over 40 years - Foster and Sons.

Senior Shoe Curator and Collections Manager attended the Cordwainers Livery Company Footwear Education Reception, Clothworkers Hall, London 27 November 2018

The museum has recently received an important donation objects from the late Northampton composer, Sir Malcom Arnold including a portrait and Knighthood medal.

Museum Expansion Project

Internal demolition work and the external demolition of the connecting bridge between the Guildhall Road Block and Old Gaol Block has been completed. Excavation and break out of historic drainage was undertaken and no archaeological issues emerged. Thirty seven 15 metre pilings and foundations have been installed and work has begun on the steel framework for the extension building. The exhibition fit out contractor has been appointed and a start-up meeting will take place in late January. Tenders went out for the café operator and returns are being analysed with an appointment expected in early February. AT the last site meeting Wildgoose Construction reported that all work streams were on programme.

Customer Services

We are pleased to welcome Goodwill Solutions who have joined the One Stop Shop (OSS) partner's hub and are delivering a programme called Building Better Opportunities (BBO) and holding weekly drop in clinic within the OSS. Goodwill Solutions is a Community Interest Company who work in a way that helps the local community, working with disadvantaged people across Northamptonshire to help them back into work and to become a valuable member of our community. They are completely self-funded using profits from the business, to run numerous projects. Since 5th December they have ran three drop in clinics and have managed to sign up 12 customers. The clinics are available every Wednesday 9:30 – 16:30 in OSS.

Community Safety

24 November – 4 January police overtime and days of action, commenced on the Town Centre. Days of action, have included: Public engagement in the Grosvenor centre giving out personal safety advice, information and materials. Advice and information from Police partners and Solve It. Walkabouts, including enforcement action, to tackle anti-social behaviour, street drinking and begging. Promoted 16 days materials to businesses in the town centre (domestic abuse and sexual violence materials, promoting support agencies). Posters with tear offs are now in many toilets and changing rooms in the town. Promoting legitimate places for donating to help the homeless in Northampton and how people can get help. Engaging with businesses around rough sleepers and street beggars- asking shops to have our materials on display for customers.

Planning continues with partners, to hold our second primary school conference at the Deco Theatre, on 5 February 2019, the day will include presentations, performances and workshops on community safety topics, including hate crime, knife crime, online safety, fire safety, railway safety, anti-social behaviour and personal safety. More than 200 year six students will attend.

Councillor Anna King

Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Community Safety