



## **Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement & Community Safety**

**Northampton Borough Council**

**11 March 2019**

### **Councillor Community Fund**

Since 1 April 2018, a total of £ £107,060.80 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 have been received. The panel will meet at the end of March to make recommendations for the projects that should be funded during the next grant period.

### **Forums**

February - LGBTQ History month– Display on the Mezz throughout February for staff promoting local LGBTQ events, activities, support services and campaigns such as Equality Allies and Straight Allies. Staff engagement every Friday lunchtime on the Mezzanine promoting the LGBTQ staff network for LGBTQ colleagues and straight allies, Ted talks were also screened on different topics effecting LGBTQ communities.

21 February - Youth Forum: Online safety and fraud prevention training, and employability & charisma session delivered to 13 young people acting as representatives for their secondary schools.

8 March – internal, Northampton Borough Council, Inspirational Woman Award – first year for this award – 12 nominations received for 7 different people.

9 March – International Women’s Day event at the Guildhall including Inspirational Woman Award and fashion through the last 100 years catwalk show.

### **Events**

The Chinese New Year event on the 10<sup>th</sup> February held in the Deco was a success with hundreds of visitors enjoying the festivities including the Lion Dance, Chinese Mask Changing, Kung Fu, Juggling, Music and much more.

The International Women’s Day and Heritage Volunteers Day events held at the weekend were a success and enjoyed by all those who attended.

In March we have the annual Sea Cadets Parade (24 March) in the town centre, Terry Wire memorial Harley Davidson Run and the Big Lunch event on the 6 April, Bands in the Park season commences on Sunday 7 April and World of Fun in Abington Park (12 - 22 April).

Looking forward in May we have the University Flag Festival and Annual Beer Festival in Becketts Park and Oak Apple Day. In June we have the Carnival, Armed Forces Day, Music Festival, Race for Life and more across the council’s parks and open spaces.

### **Culture & Heritage**

March sees a new exhibition of photography open at Abington Park Museum. Photographs taken by members of Abington Camera Club have a spring theme which brings new colour to Abington Park and hope of the summer to come.

The events offer at the museum continues to be attractive to our visitors – many of the recent events have sold out. Two tours of Abington Park Museum were fully booked in January and February. A ninth series of Art History Lectures led by art historians from ProArtium takes place in March. The museum will be hosting a Vintage & Craft Fair – the event has attracted over 40 traders and there will be a wide choice of ideas for gifts for Mother's Day and Easter from chocolates, cards, crafts and much more.

Following on from the very popular cooking workshop in the autumn of 2018, a second Japanese Cooking workshop will be led by Yuko Nakayama in March. The event sold out very quickly and those lucky enough to attend will be introduced to aspects of Japanese culture and the significance placed on how the food looks as well as how it tastes. The end of the month sees another chance to attend An Evening of Gin following the sell-out success of the first gin evening in September 2018. Led by Quentin Neville, owner and distiller from Northampton's Phipps Brewery and Artisan Blending Limited attendees will learn about the history of the spirit and the distillation process along with a tasting session. This event has sold out.

During March, the museum will be hired out by Events in a Box for a wedding fair and the Museum of London Archaeology for a panel debate.

### **Museum Expansion Project**

Work has begun on the new extension building and the concrete base slab has been poured and work begun on forming the columns for the first floor. Realm Projects have been appointed as exhibition fit out contractor and meetings have been underway to start work on development of the AV components and agree the fit-out timetable.

A small fire on the fourth floor of the Old Gaol Block is under investigation. No objects were affected and the building only sustained localised smoke and water damage. The programme will not be affected and work is currently on schedule.

### **Customer Services**

One Stop Shop - We are pleased to welcome Goodwill Solutions who have joined the 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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**

4 February - personal safety engagement event with the staff and students at Northampton University's Waterside campus. Promoting a number of CSP safety messages, in particular Nights Out; safer routes and taxi marshalls initiatives.

5 February - primary school safety event at the Deco, feedback from the students and teachers that attended has been very positive across the eight community safety themes that were delivered, using presentations, workshops and drama performances. The evaluation results identified that between 75-86% of students for each of the eight themes either 'liked' or 'loved' what was delivered.

4, 18 February and two further sessions planned for 21, 28 March – of training around youth violence and gangs delivered to local front-line officers, across the partnership as part of the Trusted Relationships project. The training is being delivered by Craig Pinkney one of the UK's leading thinkers/doers in responding to gangs and serious youth violence and was very well received by all attendees.

18 February - Progress with Notre Dame: Wall has been rebuilt and height raised. Railings are in process of being restored and due to be fitted in April. Interpretation boards agreed and options explored with Idverde for landscaping and planting.

28 February – community engagement at Blackthorn to support the forthcoming day of action and community event, to take place during the Easter holidays.

4 March - Bouverie Day of Action taking place at Vernon Terrace community centre. Plans for a bulky waste collection for residents in the day to clear fly tipping. Drop in for residents to get information on parking, recycling, housing etc from 4.30pm and Youth engagement launching the True Knowledge (Trusted Relationships, Home Office Funding) in the area with street sports activities.

Plans underway to join up with Crimestoppers in Blackthorn and St David's with to undertake some specific targeted work, focus around serious organised crime, during May half term holiday.

### **Anti-Social Behaviour**

The following action has been taken by NBC's anti-social behaviour officers, working in partnership with the local policing team, in tackling anti-social behaviour, serious organised crime, and begging and youth violence:

Our second 'cuckooing' injunction was granted on a prolific 'cuckooing' offender who has been targeting vulnerable people for a number of years.

A large group of youths causing anti-social behaviour and nuisance in the south-west area of Northampton have received advice letters, followed by Community Protection Warning (CPWs) Letters in order to stop the problems. CPW's also issued to a group who are gaining entry to residential communal blocks, smoking cannabis and causing intimidation to the local residents due to their behaviour.

Two prolific shoplifters were sentenced to a combined custodial time of 46 weeks, both were granted with a Criminal Behaviour Order upon conviction not to enter the shops which they have been targeting.

A prolific nominal who has had a huge impact in the town centre due to drunken and abusive behaviour was sentenced to 36 weeks in custody, a Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) has been attached to this and a court date set for May. Another individual in the south-west part of the town who has been causing anti-social behaviour to his neighbours is due in court, again with an application for a CBO.

**Councillor Anna King**  
**Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Community Safety**