



Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement & Community Safety

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 23 April 2018

Councillor Community Fund

During this financial year, 2017-2018, more than 250 Cllr community projects have been funded. This equates to a total of £117,745.30

Partnership Support

40 applications were received for this year's partnership grant. The maximum grant amount for this year was £15,000. The panel have met and put forward a number of recommendations for approval for 2018-19.

Forums

22 March – Community Safety and Engagement and LGBT Network/Straight Allies stands at the Transformation Event

21 April – Notre Dame Fundraiser event for restoration works in the town centre cemetery have been greatly supported with thanks to BBC Northampton for all of their coverage.

Community Safety and Engagement team are working to map our diverse communities (focussing on ethnicity and faith) through the Diverse Communities Forum, this will enable the organisations to understand what other organisations there are and how they can work more effectively and efficiently. Supporting each other's events.

We have been successful in being awarded a bronze award for the Armed Forces Employee Recognition Scheme.

LGBT forum are supporting Northampton Pride, Northampton UK 2 Northampton MA on 5th May.

Pensioners Forum Tea Dance will take place on 20th May at The Guildhall.

Diverse Communities 'Culture of Life' event will take place at The Deco in Refugee week, following last year's motion.

Events

The Sea Cadets delivered their annual HMS Laforey Parade on Sunday 25th March.

The annual Terry Wire Harley Davidson Ride also took place on Saturday 7th April in the town centre.

The Bands in the Park programme commenced on Sunday 1st April in Abington Park and continues every Sunday until mid-September.

The ever popular fun fair returned to Sixfields over the Easter period and now is at Kingsthorpe Recreation Ground. In May the fair will return to Abington Park and the Racecourse.

On 28th April there is a Health and Wellbeing event at Becketts Park, celebrating Tai Chi.

Coming up:

Becketts Beer festival 1st – 3rd June

Race for Life - Abington Pretty Muddy 2nd June

Race Course Carnival 9th June
Town Centre Music 365 Festival 17th June
Racecourse Speedy Cup 23rd June
Radlands plaza – Annual Skate Park event 23rd June

The month of June finishes with the Armed Forces Day on the 30th June in the Town centre.

Culture & Heritage

Events at Abington Park Museum continue to be very well supported. Northampton's Past Presented gave our volunteer researchers an opportunity to provide a snapshot into Northampton's local history – the event was attended by 64 adults.

A Centenary Memorial of Walter Tull was held at the Guildhall on Saturday 24th March and included speeches by the biographer Phil Vasili, Dt Steven Bradbury, Loughborough University along with the current youth coach and former player at Manchester United, Tony Whelan. A Civic parade was also held on Sunday 25th March to honour Walter Tull at All Saints Church.

Two Wire Hare Making workshops led by artist and sculptor Zack McLaughlin were sell out successes and enjoyed by 60 visitors. A Pasta Sauce Making workshop led by Carmela Sereno Hayes also sold out to 16 adults.

Activities for children were planned over the Easter holidays and included the ever popular Easter Egg Trail, Spring Craft workshops and Minibeast Mania bug hunts. Friends of Northampton Castle facilitated a Northamptonshire Castle workshop.

April saw a one man show 'Into the Breach' performed by the talented Mark Carey; a food fair attended by over 30 local food producers and the first of a series of five Watercolour Workshops led by David Douglas.

During April the museum was hired out by a paranormal group, UK Ghost Investigators; The Gardens Trust for a private reception and Events in a Box for a wedding fair.

Museum Expansion Project

The tender documents for the main contractor have gone live. The tender period is 8 weeks followed by four weeks analysis of tenders. Soft strip of the interiors of the museum and Old Gaol Block has commenced to prepare the buildings for the main contractor starting on site. Exhibition design development continues and gallery designs will be signed in the next few weeks.

Customer Services

The OSS in conjunction with the Housing Options Advice Team (HOAT) introduced a new process to assist customers that had been served with a Notice to vacate their current privately rented accommodation. Training was rolled out to all Customer Services staff in the OSS and CC, this new process has proved to be extremely successful by customers and staff. Under this new process customers that have been served with a Notice to leave their accommodation are now being dealt with at the first point of contact by OSS and CC operatives, they are also receiving specialist housing advice from HOAT in line with the SLA under this process within 5 working days making the process more efficient for customers.

Feedback from CIO's in the OSS and CC have been extremely positive considering that the team have had multiple new process' introduced in a short period of time, all CIO's have been enthusiastic and actively engaged with the process and enjoy the additional responsibility. The HOAT have also commented that by Customer Services taking the lead on this process it has

impacted on their workload in a positive way by freeing up officer availability, which in turn allows them to spend more time to dedicate to casework leading to better outcomes for their customers.

Community Safety

15 March – Big Scoop Campaign launch in Victoria park- engaged with dog walkers and local school children with regards to dog fouling. With thanks to Cllr Rufia Ashraf.

30 April - Planning well underway for Racecourse Week of Action.

31 May - Planning also underway for Bellingham Community clean up and information day.

We are developing an action plan, to provide a package, consisting of materials from YOS, development of a film and a drama production. The package will be used to take into schools, youth clubs and to promote via social media and other media channels.

The team attended Eastfield Park and Bradlaugh Fields Easter Community events giving personal and property safety information and bike security marking.

We facilitated cuckooing training for 60 frontline officers across the police, NBC, Adult Social Care, Probation and NPH.

Councillor Anna King

Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Community Safety