



Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement

Northampton Borough Council

9th December 2013

Councillor Community Fund

To date during 2013/14 a total of 78 applications have been received amounting to £57,603 (43% of a potential annual total of £135,000). The funding is being allocated by elected members with the community, focusing on projects that are delivering positive outcomes in their wards.

Events

The countdown to Christmas in Northampton began on 21st November with the annual Christmas lights switch on. Heart Breakfast presenters Stuart and Natalie started the countdown to Christmas along with Royal & Derngate panto stars Linda Lusardi and Sam Kane.

The annual Diwali celebrations, in association with the Indian Hindu Welfare Organisation were held the Town Centre on the 27th October. The celebrations included large illuminated structures, stilt walking birds, fire jugglers and giant puppets parade through the town centre to tell the story of Diwali. The event was organised by the Indian Hindu Welfare Organisation (IHWO) and supported by Northampton Borough Council.

During October half term the town centre hosted the three day St Crispins Street Fair. This attracted hundreds of families into the town centre and market area and feedback from traders and businesses suggest this was very welcome.

Culture & Heritage

The display of the facial reconstruction of King Richard III, together with related artefacts, has proved to be very popular with the public, and we are pleased to have been able to secure the display until the beginning of January 2014 in the museum.

The Cinderella Symposium took place on 21st October at the Museum and Art Gallery, with over 40 academics, curators and students from across the UK, to discuss issues around how shoes are displayed in museums and galleries. People attending included the architects from Selfridges' Shoe Halls and delegates from the Royal Academy, London College of Fashion and The V&A.

Whilst the "Strictly Shoes" exhibition continues on the ground floor of the Museum and Art Gallery, we have opened two other contrasting and complimentary exhibitions. "Last

Man Standing “is an exhibition by Northampton based Springline Lasts which has opened in the shoe lounge, and the “Northampton Town and County Art Society 100th Annual Show” is currently on the first floor.

Customer Services

The Contact Centre has now relocated from the first floor of The Guildhall to more suitable accommodation on the third floor.

Customer Services hosted a successful National Customer Service Week of activities including a tenants participation coffee morning, where the opportunity was taken to network about channel shift, and the Citizen’s Account.

Councillor Brandon Eldred

Cabinet Member for Community Engagement