



Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement

Northampton Borough Council

10th March 2014

Events

Simple Minds are the second act we have announced will be playing at Alive at Delapre this year on 18th July. Simple Minds' performance at Alive at Delapre in Northampton will coincide with the release of their latest album, 'Celebrate – The Greatest Hits', which marks their 35 years as one of Britain's most successful bands.

The first act we confirmed would be playing at the three day event were Irish pop legends Boyzone, who will be performing on 20th July.

Culture & Heritage

The Council has published an updated version of the tourist brochure in February. The 64 page book features all the great things our town has to offer, including events and culture, history and key tourist destinations and venues. The guide is available at several locations, including the Tourist Information centre at George Row and Northampton Museum & Art Gallery, and can also be viewed online at: www.northampton.gov.uk/northampton-guide

As 2014 marks 100 years since the start of the First World War (1914-1918), Northampton Museum and Art Gallery is hosting an exhibition of artworks selected from its collection that date from the Golden Age leading up to the war. The Northampton exhibition entitled The Golden Age offers a glimpse into the mood of nation during that time. Rarely seen artworks include The Bullring by Charles Conder (1868-1909), Great Expectations by Eric Forbes-Robertson (1865-1935), Kew Bridge by Walter Greaves (1846-1930), The Little Rogue by Edward Samuel Harper (1854-1941), The Pity of It by Harold Speed (1872-1957) and Sketch for a Meeting by Frank Brangwyn (1867-1956). The Golden Age is showing at Northampton Museum and Art Gallery from 11th January until 23rd March, admission is free.

We are making great progress in developing our collaborative project with The Royal and Derngate for a range of activities to commemorate the anniversary of World War One. The activities will include our summer exhibition "A shoemaker goes to war" and a Family Open Day in Guildhall Road on 30th August. The Heritage Lottery have awarded us £73,000 to take this forward.

Our programme of music, dance and drama got off to a good start on 14th January when The Royal and Derngate's community group, The Actors Company, presented an ambitious series of short plays.

Councillor Community Fund

Applications for the Councillor Community Fund continue to be received. There has been a total of 119 applications received so far for 2013/14, which equates to £81,653 of the funding being spent. The funding is being allocated by elected members with the community, focusing on projects that are delivering positive outcomes in their wards.

Partnership Support

The grant application process closed on 21st February and the evaluation of applications will take place on 28th and 29th March. Applicants will then be notified of the outcome during the first week of April. Changes to this year's bid process includes:

- Outcome focussed bids, which are aligned to NBC's corporate plan
- Encouragement of partnerships
- Evaluation process (scoring matrix to be applied) – CEFAP panel will make recommendations for sign off by Cabinet member and Director

Forums

Our forums have seen an increase in attendance both by service users and service providers. Improvements to the forums include:

- Code of Conduct developed and published, applied across all forums
- Events Calendar produced – to co-ordinate activity across the forums
- Website information updated across the forums, information added to promote the Women's Forum
- Publicity plan, being developed with the communications team, to further increase attendance

Customer Services

From 1st February the One Stop Shop became home to a Police enquiry desk. The move to The Guildhall is an opportunity to bring together the service currently provided by Police staff at Campbell Square with other local services offered by the Borough Council and enhance the services we are able to offer here at The Guildhall

A range of free and subsidised adult learning sessions and social events have been taking place in community rooms across Northampton. The events have been coordinated by the Borough Council to help bring communities together and improve people's wellbeing and health. Computer courses, advice surgeries, arts and crafts sessions, keep fit and indoor kurling were just some of the activities offered.

Councillor Brandon Eldred

Cabinet Member for Community Engagement