



Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement

Northampton Borough Council

28th April 2014

Community Engagement

There have been a total of 161 applications received for the Councillor Community Fund for 2013/14. This equates to £108,037.80 of the funding being spent. The funding has been made available by this Administration to help elected members and their local communities to allocate money where it is needed in their areas.

66 applications have been received for the 2014/15 Partnership Grant, totalling £1.6 million. Evaluation of the applications has taken place and the grants were awarded at the beginning of April 2014.

Congratulations to Susanne Rees who has been declared the winner of Northampton's Inspirational Woman Award for 2014. Over 60 women were nominated for the award, which aims to celebrate and showcase Northampton's unsung heroines who work hard all year and are committed to making a difference in their community. The annual award is run by the Borough Council and BBC Radio Northampton, and was presented during the International Women's Day event on 8th March.

The Borough Council has joined with the not-for-profit financial co-operative Northamptonshire Credit Union to open a new access and information point at The Guildhall One Stop Shop. The new access point will mean that the credit union's advisors are more accessible to the general public for longer opening hours. The credit union is available to anyone and offers money management and budgeting advice, saving schemes and, where appropriate, low cost loans that are charged at much lower interest rates than doorstep and payday lenders. The new partnership was launched at The Guildhall on 4th April, and this Administration is proud to be able to work with organisations such as the Northamptonshire Credit Union to help people experiencing financial problems in these difficult times.

Events and Culture

Abington Park is once again playing host to this year's summer Bandstand programme, providing a mix of traditional music for all to enjoy in a beautiful and relaxing location. The programme will run on Sundays from 6th April to 21st September from 2pm to 5pm on the park's bandstand.

An exhibition celebrating the UK's recent international successes in women's cycling and Northampton's role in the forthcoming Women's Cycling Tour is on display at Northampton Museum & Art Gallery until 1st June. Women on Wheels (WOW), coincides with the Women's Cycling Tour, the first stage of which will finish in Northampton on 7th May. More than 100 of the best female riders will take part,

including past and current Olympic medallists and World Champions who will compete to become the first ever Women's Tour champion. The exhibition aims to inform and inspire the next generation of female cyclists with a striking display of memorabilia and photography. Alongside the exhibition and tour, there will be a programme of events, including a Q & A evening with one of the UK's top professional cyclists, Hannah Barnes, and an organised town bicycle ride with local cycling enthusiast group, Critical Mass.

To mark the 150th anniversary of the death of John Clare "The Northamptonshire Peasant Poet" we have an exhibition of works by Peter Newcombe illustrating his poetry collection "The Shepherd's Calendar" together with a number of portraits and original manuscripts.

Northampton Leisure Trust

The Disability Sports Open Day, funded through the Councillor Community Fund, will take place at Danes Camp on 26th April for young people and their families. There will be around ten different sports on offer with a number of local clubs supporting the event. Activities will include football, kurling, boccia, climbing, swimming, goalball, cricket, athletics and more.

The Northampton Sport Relief Mile took place at Becket's Park on 23rd March. Over 350 people took part in either one, three or six miles all raising money towards Sports Relief.

Councillor Brandon Eldred
Cabinet Member for Community Engagement