



Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 7 March 2016

Councillor Community Fund

Since 1st April 2015, a total of 139 applications have been received totalling £67,163. This totals 50% of the overall allocation for the year (2015/16). The unspent funding will be carried over, into the new financial year.

Partnership Support

The 6 monthly monitoring reports are currently being collated for the grants that were issued this year (2015/16). The grant process for 2016/17 is now open and will close at the beginning of March. A showcase event was held on 25th January, giving the organisations we currently fund, the opportunity to showcase what they have achieved throughout the year.

Community Centres

A Community Centre Forum has been established. This will give the opportunity for the 12 community centre organisations to come together on a monthly basis, to share best practice, services and resources. The Our Place programme continues to drive actions centred around the community centres and at neighbourhood level.

Events

The council's event programme for 2016 including supporting partner events includes Bands in the Park, Music365, Carnival, Race for Life, Diwali, Fireworks, Christmas and more. There will be the usual Civic events including highlights such as Armed Forces Day and Remembrance Day and more.

Culture & Heritage

Two exhibitions opened at Northampton Museum & Art Gallery - 'How Does Your Garden Grow? – the Art of the Garden' includes art from the collections and depicts wild gardens of Portugal to the formal gardens of Britain's stately homes and 'Give it Some Welly' tells the history of the Wellington Boot'. An Object in Focus talk in March by the Shoe Resources Officer explored the Wellington Boot in more detail. Picture sales from the recent Northampton Town & County Exhibition generated a net commission of £746.

Four Over 60s talks in February and March were fully booked. February half term workshops for children were held at Northampton Museum & Art Gallery.

The family of the successful artist, Roberta Booth have donated "Earthworks 2", one of Roberta's most significant and critically acclaimed pieces of work which will enhance the Northampton Museum & Art Gallery collection of British Art. The Museum has also accepted a donation of an artwork by Chris Fiddes, a renowned local artist entitled 'Winter Traffickers Off Lampadusa'.

An oil painting entitled 'Bolton Abbey' by Inchbold has gone on loan to Liverpool Museums and Galleries for a high profile pre-Raphaelite exhibition.

The museum is in discussion with the Delapre Abbey Preservation Trust to loan items from the archaeological collections for the new displays at Delapre Abbey.

During February, Abington Park Museum saw a corporate hire event by Frights Nights, a local paranormal organisation and Northampton Museum & Art Gallery hired out the meeting room to Dementia Friends.

Following interviews in December, Wates Construction have been selected as the main contractor for the museum development. Initial planning meetings are underway and the draft programme in development.

Customer Services

Customer Services Partnership working continues to grow in strength offering essential services under one roof. We welcomed the co-location of Community Law Service's Information and Access Point into the One Stop Shop. Community Law Service's specialist advisors can offer free and independent advice on welfare benefits, debt, housing and immigration.

Councillor Brandon Eldred
Cabinet Member for Community Engagement