



Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 18 July 2016

Councillor Community Fund

Since the beginning of April 2016, 47 Projects, totalling £20,022 have been supported through the Cllr Community Fund.

Partnership Support

Service Level Agreements are being developed with each of the 29 organisations that are being funded this year through the Partnership Grant, this includes developing performance monitoring against the outcomes that will be delivered by each of the organisations.

Community Centres

Through the community centres, links are being made with Health services, including Nene Clinical Commissioning and also First for Well Being, to explore opportunities to deliver services from community centres.

Support is being provided to Kings Heath Community Centre as part of the Week of Action. Spencer/Dallington is also being supported to help re-instate the youth club and Briar Hill is being supported with a programme of community engagement activities.

Forums

Joint meeting held with the Mayor across the forums, to develop opportunities to work together.

Support offered to an individual to establish Can-Care Northampton (group supporting individuals living with Cancer). First meeting held this month, meeting first Thursday in every month, 1-3pm at the Cripps Centre.

Volunteers

We have recruited and found placements for 4 volunteers since April. We will continue to develop and promote opportunities through the Park Management Committees, the Community Centres and the Residents Associations.

Events

The council helped deliver the Women's Cycle Tour (Day 5) which started outside the Guildhall on Sunday (19 June) and supported the Royal British Legion to deliver the Armed Forces Day on the Market Square and Parade in the town centre (25 June).

The council have supported the Carnival Parade in the town centre and on the Racecourse (11 June), Go Skate Day at the Skate Park (18 June), Music Festival in the town centre (19 June), Northampton Festival on the Racecourse (2 & 3 July and the Mass Cycle Ride at Delapre Park (17 July).

The Bands in the Park season on Abington Park Bandstand continues to be well supported with various bands & groups performing every Sunday.

Looking forward the council is preparing for Fireworks Night (5 November), Remembrance Sunday and our Christmas plans.

The council is supporting partners with the Fun Colour Run in Abington Park (24 July), Umbrella Fair on the Racecourse (20 & 21 August), Gift Fayre in Abington Park (27 August) and the Half Marathon from the town centre to Delapre Park (4 September).

Love parks week.

Several events to take place at Abington, Bradlaugh and Eastfield to celebrate love parks week 17-24th July. To include keep fit, yoga, welly walks.

The Freedom Parade on 30th July. The 2nd Battalion of the Royal Anglian Regiment will exercise the Freedom of the Borough on this date, with a Parade, and the Mayor and the Lord Lieutenant will inspect the Parade.

Culture & Heritage

June saw 'Landmark: Photos of Northampton' open at Northampton Museum & Art Gallery. This open exhibition showcases photographs taken by local photographers of some of Northamptonshire's most iconic buildings. 'Beauty and the Beach' opened mid-July and explores the style, design and inspiration of women's swimwear during the 1940s, 50s and 60s. A display to mark the section of The Women's Tour from Kettering to Northampton went on show at Northampton Museum & Art Gallery in June.

A Vintage & Craft Fair at Abington Park Museum on 18 June attracted over 30 stallholders and 1,000 visitors.

An Overnight Vigil marking the Somme Centenary was held at Abington Park Museum at the end of June in association with the Western Front Association.

A four-day Bronze Casting series of workshops took place at Abington Park Museum. Attendees were guided by Abi Edwards from the Vulcan's Foundry. Further high value workshops will be planned in the future.

The popular Over 60s sessions continue at Northampton Museum & Art Gallery three talks attracting an audience of 200 in June and July.

Customer Services

Earlier this year we saw both Citizens Advice (CA) and Community Law Services (CLS) relocate their advice service within the OSS. Since the move both agencies have seen an increase in referrals enabling them to support more people.

NBC are the first Council to co-locate both agencies and this has proven to be successful seeing increased referrals between CLS and CA ensuring the customer receives the right advice. We liaise closely with our partners and are already planning for the increased impact that the Benefit Cap will bring later this year.

Councillor Anna King
Cabinet Member for Community Engagement