



## **Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement & Community Safety**

**Northampton Borough Council**

**Monday 23 January 2017**

### **Councillor Community Fund**

Since the beginning of April 2016, 199 Projects, totalling £93,386.20 have been supported through the Cllr Community Fund.

### **Partnership Support**

Partnership Grant Process opened on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January and closes on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2017. Showcase event held in the Great Hall, more than 20 organisations that we have funded in 2016-17 attended to show the work that they have delivered. The event was also used to launch the 2017-18 grant, which will have a three year option of delivery.

### **Forums**

Northampton Borough Council won the National Award for Hate Crime. Holocaust Memorial Event will be held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January in the Great Hall at 6pm. Full programme arranged of performances, speakers and readings to Mark the day. A civic service will be held in the Guildhall Courtyard on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January at 12pm.

### **Events**

The events programme for 2017 is starting to take shape with event application forms being received from numerous event organisers.

The first community event will be Chinese New Year on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February (change of date from the 5<sup>th</sup>). Other forthcoming events include a Food Festival, Beer Festival, Carnival, Music Festival and Race for Life.

### **Culture & Heritage**

December saw The Northampton Town & County Art Society Annual Show open at Northampton Museum & Art Gallery. This was the 103<sup>rd</sup> exhibition of this long established and prestigious Art Society and features over 200 pieces of work from the top professionals and amateurs in the county, the majority of which are for sale.

Complementing the exhibition 'Experienced Hands – the Art of the Shoemaker' the first of a series of talks took place in December and looked at the Factory Life in the Boot and Shoe Industry and attracted an audience of 18.

The Shoe Resources Officer and Virtually Shoes Officer both spoke at the 'Dress and Textile Conference in Edinburgh'. Later in the month, the Shoe Resources officer was invited to speak at the University of Northampton's 'Art of Punk' conference

During November, a hire agreement was made with a paranormal organisation for regular events at Abington Park Museum in 2017.

Redecoration work planned at Abington Park Museum is due to start in early February 2017.

### **Museum Expansion Project**

Following the approval of the cost plan meetings with the main contractor, Wates, have been underway to begin work on developing the detailed project plan and agree the schedule of expenditure. It has been formally announced that the main museum will close on February 19<sup>th</sup> 2017 to allow for the packing and decant of objects in the museum displays in advance of invasive survey work beginning in April 2017.

### **Customer Services**

Following on from the Transformation workshop it was identified that staff wanted to understand the support available to help us all balance our busy lives. In November's full team meeting our Partners, 'First for Wellbeing', presented to the Customer Service Team, an overview of the services they offer and the support available. The national statistics confirm that 1 in 5 people suffer from anxiety or mental health issues. They are an OSS Partner who offers a drop in service every Friday morning within the OSS available to both staff and Customers.

Feedback from staff was extremely positive and we are currently investigating bespoke resilience training for all front line staff.

### **Community Safety**

The community safety team continues to lead and/or support a wide range of projects and initiatives to support the Police and other partners to make Northampton safer. The increase in crime has started to slow down, although overall still showing an increase compared to last year. The Killing with Kindness event was held in the Grosvenor Centre in partnership with the Police. The event was well attended by public with good engagement. The opportunity was also taken to provide seasonal crime prevention advice. Bridge Street closures were put in place for 23 December, Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve from 11pm until 4.30am, making a positive contribution to the public's enjoyment of the night time economy over the festive period. Work to identify priority locations for 2017/18 for Community Safety Partnership 'Weeks of Action' is underway. Final decision on locations will be made by the Community Safety Partnership at their March board meeting.

**Councillor Anna King**

**Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Community Safety**