



Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement & Community Safety

Northampton Borough Council

22 January 2017

Councillor Community Fund

Since the beginning of April 2015, a total of £287,238.13 has been spent on delivering 657 community projects that have been supported through the Cllr Community Fund.

Partnership Support

Partnership Grant has opened for applications for 2018-19.

Partnership showcase event planned for next week, training will be delivered for next year's grant and the 32 organisations funded in 2017-18 will be given the opportunity to showcase what they have been doing over the last 12 months.

Forums

Hate crime training delivered to the community safety and engagement team. To enable third party reporting through the forums.

Nominations for Inspirational Woman award to support International Women's Day are open.

Plans are finalised for Holocaust Memorial Day, which will take place this week, 24 January. A small civic service will be held in the Courtyard at Midday, followed by an evening of performances and speakers in the Great Hall, starting at 6.30pm.

Events

This year's Remembrance Parade on Sunday 11th November was watched by thousands of visitors who gathered around All Saints Church and along the route to watch the armed forces parade by.

The annual Christmas Light switch-on service was held on Saturday 18th November and attracted thousands of families into the town centre. There was entertainment including the panto stars from the Royal & Derngate, Royal Theatre, Deco and other acts performing on stage all afternoon. The Christmas lights were switched-on by the Northamptonshire young sportswomen of the year, Emily Williams (Athlete) and the Northamptonshire Sportswomen of the Year, Susan Corless (GB National Squad Archer).

The Frost Fair including a Christmas Parade with Santa on Sunday 3rd December attracted thousands into the town centre and with the entertainment on the market square and the opening of the Igloo Cinema the day was enjoyed by many families. The Igloo Cinema attracted many families to the shows over the 21 days in December the cinema operated, with over 8000 people visiting the igloo dome.

The Saturday stage entertainment on the market square and Christmas food offer on Saturdays and Sundays in Abington Street completed the Christmas Season offer and made the town feel more festive throughout Christmas. The 40' Christmas trees, the

cross street Christmas Lights and the 200+ business Christmas trees made the town feel very festive over the Christmas period.

Culture & Heritage

Events at Abington Park Museum continue to be very well supported and the lead up to Christmas saw a wide choice of festive events. A Christmas Pudding workshop led by Italian cook and author Carmela Sereno Hayes sold out to 20 attendees. A weekend Christmas Fair at the end of the month attracted over 4,000 visitors over the two days. Stallholder feedback was very positive and the 2018 Christmas Fair will remain a two day event. A Christmas Wreath Making workshops attracted 30 adults and was very well received. To round off the festive season, local actor James Hornsby returned to Abington Park Museum to perform 'A Christmas Carol', a one-man play with a host of Charles Dickens' wonderful characters all brought to life in the style of Dickens' own legendary public readings. The events were very popular and sold out.

A Victorian Christmas Celebration was very popular with families and included a visit to Father Christmas, carol singing and Christmas crafts along with festive treats including mince pies, mulled wine a hog roast and gingerbread men.

The first Dementia Café took place in November and was attended by 10 people. The aim of this session was to provide a social opportunity and look to positively engage people with dementia and their carers in creative activities to stimulate and inspire. Following this pilot, NMAG is looking at how activities for people with dementia can be further developed and integrated into our public programme going forward, with a focus on developing the new museum as a dementia friendly museum.

Two wedding preview events took place in November and Abington Park Museum was hired out for private receptions by Character Wines and Northampton Voluntary Impact.

Events in January include an event in partnership with Northamptonshire Film Archive Trust who will be presenting a new selection of archive film which is expected to sell out. Abington Park Museum will be celebrating Burns Night with bagpipe music, poetry and dancing along with Scottish inspired canapes.

The museum service provided support to the Hunsbury Hillfort HLF project with a volunteer and evaluation framework to help the organisation manage and develop their project.

At the end of November a large donation of approximately 120 pairs of shoes was made to the shoe collection from the estate of Shelagh Lovett Turner. They include a good range of late 19th century and 20th century shoes including Victorian boy's boots, World War Two Utility footwear and a silver pair of Gucci court shoes.

Museum Expansion Project

The architect, exhibition designer, Mechanical & Electrical Contractor and Structural Engineers continue on the detailed work to provide the technical definition of the project for the production of tender documents for the museum expansion. Following the first stage report from the Audience Agency developing the audience segmentation model, more in depth focus group work is being conducted with identified target audience segments to help inform and shape the exhibitions and events programme and how the museum can best engage with audiences. We are hoping to have artists' impressions available for councillors and the public to view at the end of January.

Community Safety

Community clear up and engagement event held at Blackthorn Community Centre on Saturday 9 December.

Worked with the police to deliver a day of action on Friday 15 December at the Racecourse.

Multi-agency approach adopted to tackle the anti-social behaviour and community safety issues taking place at McDonalds, Balestra and the Grosvenor Centre roof.

Nights Out campaign continues, with a focus over the festive period, Bridge Street closures to be in place on 23, 24 and 31 December.

Councillor Anna King

Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Community Safety