



## Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement & Community Safety

Northampton Borough Council

12 March 2018

### **Councillor Community Fund**

During this financial year, 2017-2018, a total of 241 councillor community fund applications have been supported. This equates to a total of £108,967.19

### **Partnership Support**

29 January – Partnership showcase event held at the Guildhall. More than 25 organisations that we have funded this year in attendance, to showcase to Cllrs and the public what outcomes they have achieved. Training also delivered during the event for this year's process which opened in the first week in January 2018 and will close today, Friday 2 March.

### **Forums**

24 January - Holocaust Memorial Day Event held at the Guildhall. Civic ceremony in the daytime and then a commemoration event in the evening, including key note speakers, dance, drama, and poetry and music performances on the stage.

8 February – Digital Eagles training session delivered to ten of our residents associations, to support them with using social media to improve the reach to their communities.

10 March – International Women's Day held at the Guildhall, theme for this year covered the celebration of 100 years of women's right to vote. The event involved a jammed-packed programme of talks, performances, workshops and family-friendly activities.

Andrea Leadsom MP, led the commemoration of the first female cabinet minister, Margaret Bondfield, by unveiling a bronze statue.

The Stories of Resilience book, worked on in partnership with Northampton University was launched and attendees were able to take part in fun activities and workshops including knitting, a crime mystery activity, self-defence and yoga. Finally, after receiving numerous entries, the Inspirational Woman Award winner was announced.

### **Events**

Spring time as usual has been quiet in terms of events but planning for the summer and beyond has already commenced with discussions already taking place for the Armed Forces Day, Beer Festival, Carnival, Diwali, Northampton Festival, Pretty Muddy and Race for Life.

HMS Laforey Parade is planned for the 25 March in the town centre followed by the Terry Wire Harley Davidson Ride at the beginning of April.

The council's Bands in the Park season commences on the 1st April in Abington Park with the season's first fair on Kingsthorpe Rec moving onto the Racecourse and Abington Park.

Early June sees Pretty Muddy and Race for Life taking place in Abington Park.

### **Culture & Heritage**

Events at Abington Park Museum continue to be very well supported. All six dates in a series of Over 60s talks have sold out and will be attended by an audience of 70 on each event. A series of five tours of Abington Park Museum are booked during January to April and will be led

by a museum volunteer. A new series of Art History Lectures take place in February and March and will be focussing on exploring glass as a medium, a carrier and a subject in art

Half term workshops for children are planned for February and are themed on Valentine's Day and the Chinese New Year.

The interest in the wedding offer at Abington Park Museum is very brisk - we have had nine enquiries in the second half of January. The museum has been hired by wedding fair organiser 'Events in a Box' in early March and the first wedding at the museum takes place on 18 March.

Macmillan Cancer Support have hired the museum for a reception in March.

As part of the decant process at the Guildhall Road site, all cases from the Life and Sole Gallery have been recycled and shared with nine museums and heritage Centres in Northamptonshire.

Six pairs of 1920s-1940s shoes have been lent to the Bulldog Trust for their exhibition in conjunction with the Art Society at Two Temple Place in London. The exhibition is titled *Rhythm & Reaction – The Age of Jazz in Britain* and will be open until the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2018. The exhibition has received excellent reviews with our shoes often being commented on.

### **Museum Expansion Project**

Following a design freeze at the end of January, work has progressed on finalising drawings and specifications for the tender documents. Detailed design work continues for the Shoe Gallery, temporary exhibitions gallery and a Great Hall. The Audience Agency completed the second round of focus groups, working with four specific audience segments. Results of these focus groups will help the development of the exhibitions and events programme for the new museum.

### **Customer Services**

Following a review of the Customer Service risk assessments, bespoke Customer Service training was delivered to all front line staff. This was specifically around how to deal with, resolve and cope with aggressive behaviour. The trainer spent some time in the Contact Centre and OSS before he delivered the training and was able to give techniques to support realistic scenarios. Feedback from the Team was extremely positive and this training, together with the Personal Safety training which took place earlier in the year, has helped equip staff with valuable techniques to deal with and remain resilient through these difficult situations

We implemented the first two stages of the EDRM (Electronic Records Management) project for NPH where we are scanning Right to Buy, Leasehold, Rent account and Housing Application documentation. We are confident that once this has bedded in we will see a reduction of the transactions times and appointments where proof of identification is required across a number of services.

### **Community Safety**

Marble Arch PSPO – gates installed, works completed.

6 February – Keeping Safe Online event held at the Deco theatre. More than 500 young people across 11 of our schools attended the learning event.

Working with partners, including EMAS (ambulance service), Police, Youth Offending Service, Free to talk and Northampton University to develop a programme to raise awareness with young people, to help tackle knife crime.

**Councillor Anna King**

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